extra-mural occupation has been excavated to date. The three phases of stone fort which occupy a smaller area but partly overlie the timber forts, start late in Hadrian's reign or soon afterwards. Just outside the south-west corner of the stone fort there is over 4 m of occupation material, although elsewhere the total depth is little more than 2 m. The third- and fourth-century stone fort, the base of the fourth Cohort of Gauls, part-mounted and 500 strong, is the eighth fort on the site. The tour of its defences, with often over 2 m of standing wall surviving, included the angle turrets, latrines, principia, and the commandant's house. An important feature was an apsed building in the courtyard of the commandant's house, dated to the fifth century. This has been interpreted as a possible church. To the west in the vicus, an extensive range of stone buildings has been excavated and consolidated, including houses of various sizes, shops, store buildings and a bath-house. On the south side of the main east-west road through the settlement many of the late buildings have now been removed in order to examine and display some Severan military structures. The largest of these appears to be a commandant's house with a small bath suite at the south end. The Severan complex was surrounded by a massive clay rampart and deep ditch. Excavation of a 15 m section of the ditch in 2004 produced a huge array of leather footwear and animal bones. Under the later stone fort, this Severan occupation consists of rows of small stone-built round houses, whose function is still unclear. The Severan buildings had been constructed over the remains of a mid-second-century fort, with an ornate principia under the later one. Of the five early timber forts only the huge military bath-house, situated south of the stone fort, can be seen. It was built by the thousand-strong Batavian Cohort around AD 100. It was excavated in 2000, and was probably the structure where 18 builders were sent to work some time before 100, as recorded in one of the writing tablets. The hypocaust of the hot rooms is extremely well preserved and on a large scale.

Another noteworthy feature of the site is the Romano-Celtic temple, the most northerly of the usual double-square type to be found in Britain. It has now been consolidated for public display.

The tour of the current excavations was led by Justin Blake of the Vindolanda Trust (Fig. 14), who concentrated on the work currently taking place in the west area of the extensive vicus. Most of the stone structural remains dated from the third century, the main features being two small shrines and quite a number of sculpted stones. There was also a series of timber posts which had survived under waterlogged conditions in this area, possibly relating to one of the earlier timber forts, the sites of which stretch west beneath and beyond the stone fort. Justin Blake led the group to another area of current excavation on the outside edge of the west side of the later fort stone defences. Here also, site supervisor Alex Mayer (Fig. 14) explained the techniques being used to excavate the complicated stratigraphy of waterlogged deposits containing large amounts of organic remains and artefacts, as well as the usual finds of pottery, metalwork and bones. This work was being carried out with some difficulty due to the well-preserved structure of the fort wall over-riding the softer deposits (Fig. 13). After the tour, members visited the full-scale reconstructions of fort defences and the Vindolanda Museum with its newly re-organised display of spectacularly well preserved artefacts (Fig. 15). The ARA are grateful to Justin Blake, Alex Mayer, Andrew Birley and other members of the Birley family who made the visit such a success.

Fig. 14. Vindolanda fort: Justin Blake (left) and Alex Mayer (right), site directors. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 13. Vindolanda fort: Excavations on the outside of the west wall of the stone fort. The fort wall is at the top, with collapsed upper part of the wall visible on the right. Waterlogged organic deposits being excavated in the foreground. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.

Fig. 15. Vindolanda fort: Roman leather shoes probably belonging to the household of the commandant Flavius Centalis, c. AD 105. Vindolanda Museum. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.
The final day of the tour took members to Hexham Abbey to view the Anglo-Saxon Crypt constructed of re-used Roman masonry from Corbridge, and the fascinating pieces of sculpture and inscriptions in the nave of the present abbey church. The original church was founded as a monastery dedicated to St. Andrew by St. Wilfrid, Bishop of York, in 674. Wilfrid housed relics of St. Andrew in the Crypt which he and Acca had brought from Rome. After the Norman Conquest in 1113, Thomas, Archbishop of York refounded the church at Hexham as an Augustinian priory. After the Reformation the nave, with the ancient Crypt under its floor, went out of use and the Crypt was not rediscovered until 1725. The Crypt closely resembles that at Wilfrid’s other church (now cathedral) at Ripon, and that of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. It has a barrel-vaulted main chamber, a small ante-chamber, with tunnel-vault and ventilation shaft, and passages on the north and south sides. The walls of the Crypt are made entirely of Roman-worked stones, some of enormous size. Several show ornamental sculpture such as the olive-leaf and berry cornices. Others bear Roman inscriptions (Fig. 16), and some have original lewis holes for lifting. The north passage incorporates a Roman altar to Mabon’s Apollo, cut to form an arch-head in the roof. In its roof, where the north passage turns left, there is part of a broken inscribed slab (Fig. 16). Its other part was discovered a century ago built into the north wall of the present nave. It refers to the building of a granary, probably at Corbridge, by the Emperor Septimius Severus and his sons Caracalla and Geta. When Septimius Severus died and both sons inherited the succession, Caracalla caused Geta to be murdered and had his name erased from every inscription. This is a good example of such an inscription. Archaeologists from the Tyne and Wear Museums’ Corbridge Bridge Project completed their survey of the Crypt masonry in the summer of 2006. It seems very likely that Wilfrid’s masons took the Crypt stone blocks from the Roman bridge which must have collapsed by 674 (Fig. 11). Over 500 blocks in the Crypt were recorded. Some stones may have come from a monumental arch associated with the bridge and other huge buildings within the main town area of Corbridge such as the Severan granary. A number of other sculptured stones are also to be found in the present nave of the abbey, which was mainly rebuilt in 1907-8. Some are Saxon work from the original monastery but others are Roman. The most famous is the tombstone of Flavinus, a signifier in Candidus’s troop of the ala Petriana. An uninscribed altar stands nearby. Other Roman sculptures are built into the nave walls, such as part of the Geta stone, another showing a male figure in relief, another is a decorated olive-leaf cornice and another a panel depicting a rosette – a controversial piece. The tour was led by Grahame Soffe with help from the staff of Hexham Abbey, particularly John Loader, to whom the ARA is grateful.

**FRILFORD – MARCHAM, OXFORDSHIRE**

On 24th July, National Archaeology Day, over 100 members visited the fifth season of excavations at the large Romano-British site at Marcham and Frilford, Oxfordshire. This excavation is part of Oxford University’s School of Archaeology and Department for Continuing Education’s Vale and Ridgeway Project, and is used as a training exercise for students. On this occasion the excavations were also being filmed by Channel 4 TV’s *Time Team* (Fig. 17). The ARA gave a small grant towards the funding of the project. One of the main aims is to study the effects of Romanisation on the late Iron Age settlement pattern in the Vale of the White Horse and compare it with evidence already collected from a series of excavations on the neighbouring Berkshire Downs. Before work started on this site it was already well-known for its extensive Roman cemetery discovered in the late nineteenth century and the Romano-Celtic temple complex, excavated in the 1930s. Members were guided around a number of trenches starting with the remains of a series of buildings attached to the outside of the wall on the east side of the temple temenos, associated with a number of finds (Fig. 18). These seem to have served the needs of visitors to the temple between the late first and early fourth centuries. East of this area a building of late fourth-century date, 35m long and orientated east-west, has produced a large spread of low-value coins. After being damaged in a fire it was used for meat processing before being abandoned in the early fifth century.
mosaic from Woodchester and the Roman ‘villa’ at Great Witcombe. The tour was led by Bryn Walters assisted by Janet Senior. Those attending were provided with an ARA tour guidebook. Bryn Walters described the history of the development of the Roman town including the enigmatic military phase and the Leaholme fort (c. AD 45/50–75), the site of which lies near the centre of the later town. He went on to detail the development of the street plan, public buildings, houses and shops together with the town defences and gates and the extra-mural cemeteries and the amphitheatre. The tour included visits to the surviving upstanding remains, especially the town walls running north from the Verulamium Gate, and the Amphitheatre and stone quarries outside the Bath Gate. The sites of the forum and basilica, marked out on the ground, and the wealthy town house with fine mosaics found in 1849 beneath Dyer Street in insula XVII were also visited.

A major feature of the tour was the visit to the Roman galleries at the Corinium Museum. The museum had reopened in September 2004 after a two-year refurbishment. This was the first opportunity the ARA had had to visit the ‘new’ museum and take in the new displays of one of the finest collections of Roman material in the country and a reflection of the status of Cirencester as one of the largest and most important urban centres in Roman Britain. Overall, the museum has provided 50 per cent more space, partially through the insertion of a mezzanine gallery for further exhibits, which also now supplies an opportunity to have an ‘aerial’ view of some of the famous exhibits such as the Barton Farm Villa Orpheus mosaic, now rid of its metal frame. Many of the fine

Fig. 18. Excavations at Frilford / Marcham. Two early Roman brooches from the excavations: an enamelled star with silver stripes, a rare Ad Locutio repoussé type with Celtic horsemans and Roman soldiers.

Photo: Ian Cartwright, © Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford.

The most spectacular feature of the site is the circular amphitheatre lying east of the late building. This was first recognised from the air as a cropmark and published by Dr. Richard Hingley in 1985, after he had carried out fieldwork and a trial excavation. Continued excavation has now shown it to be a multi-phased structure built around a natural hollow which appears to have been waterlogged in its earliest phases. The central area or arena, was surrounded by a stone wall and seating bank which was later modified for the insertion of a substantial stone drain, later capped with successive layers of gravel. Also in a later phase, a large stone walled rectangular chamber was built onto the outside of the arena wall on its south side, cutting into the bank (Fig. 19). A number of late graves were found in the bank. Within the religious context of the Roman settlement, the function of the amphitheatre or ‘circular structure’ as the excavators prefer to call it, particularly in its earliest phases, remains a subject of some debate. It has been suggested that ritual activity associated with a natural watery location took place (see ‘Frilford, A Romano-British ritual pool in Oxfordshire?’ by C. Gosden and G. Lock, Current Archaeology, 184 (2003), 156–9). On the other hand, the 2005 excavations produced some evidence for a probable stage structure on the east side of the arena. Lindsey Smith and Martin Henig have therefore pointed out the fascinating possibility that the circular structure functioned as a

ROMAN CIRENCESTER, WOODCHESTER AND GREAT WITCOMBE

On 14th August, 98 members attended a tour of Roman Cirencester (Corinium Dobunnorum) and the Corinium Museum. They also visited the reconstruction of the great

Fig. 19. Excavations at Frilford / Marcham. Oblique aerial view of the stone rectangular structure, attached to the amphitheatre arena wall, under excavation.

Photo: Sheila Raven © Oxford University Department of Continuing Education.
	heatre-amphitheatre. We thank the excavation directors Professors Gary Lock and Chris Gosden, (Fig. 20), supervisors Megan Price, (Fig. 17), Patrick Daly and Steve Yeates, and the landowners and farmers, Will and Janey Cumber, for their help.
features, such as the display of the 'hare' mosaic from the Beeches Road town house (Fig. 21) remain much as they were, but new exhibits include the spectacular wall-painting from the Kingscote site and well-known pieces of stone sculpture which have been hidden away in storage for many years. These include the stone columns decorated with imbricated leaves interpreted as 'Jupiter columns.' The great Corinthian capital inhabited by four Bacchic figures (Fig. 22) now forms an even more prominent feature of the museum in that it is now standing on a full scale (modern) imbricated column of enormous size in the middle of the gallery so it can now be viewed from the side only from the mezzanine and at a distance. However, this is a daring reconstruction of a monument which may well have stood in the Roman forum and may have been surmounted by a statue of Jupiter. It will give visitors to the museum a vivid impression of its scale and magnificence.

Indeed, most of the important collection of stone sculpture is now on display and a number of very interesting tombstones (Fig. 23), nicely supplement the more famous military equestrian memorials of Sextus Valerius Genialis, Dainicus and Rufus Sita. The interactive displays, particularly those designed for children and the ubiquitous school groups, have multiplied, but do not seem too intrusive to the more contemplative visitor, and these are supplemented by some very fine reconstructive pictures and helpful maps, plans and charts. The life-size reconstructions of furnished rooms, the equestrian Roman soldier and the lead-in to the gallery through the Iron Age have fortunately been retained together with the audiovisual room. It was felt that the enlarged shop could have included a wider range of archaeological literature for the intelligent adult, such as the published material on Roman Cirencester and a better selection of postcards illustrating exhibits, to supplement the array of juvenilia. All those involved in the new museum must be congratulated for creating one of most important windows into Roman Britain.

The party then went on to Prinknash Abbey, near Gloucester, where Bob and John Woodward's remarkable full scale replica of the great Orpheus mosaic pavement from Woodchester is at last on 'permanent' public display, where it occupies the old pottery. Members will remember the ARA's previous visit to the mosaic when it was housed at Ebley Mill, Stroud in 2000 (see ARA 10, 2001 p. 14, fig. 2). The reconstruction, completed in 1983 and displayed at Wotton and Bristol, had been in storage since 1992. After 2000 it had sadly gone into storage again. The original mosaic, forming the main surviving feature of the great hall of the great palatial villa at Woodchester excavated by Samuel Lysons (Fig. 24), has been covered over since being 'opened' in 1973 and many now assume that they will never see it in their lifetime (Fig. 25). This situation highlights one of the strange dichotomies of the British attitude to our own heritage, in that an outstanding internationally important archaeological, historical and artistic monument is well known to specialists, but no attempt has been made to investigate it or display it in modern times. The site today
lies hidden beneath a village and churchyard. Many feel that the palace at Woodchester encapsulates the essence of a significant phase in British history – a resurgence of prosperity and stability, accompanied by cultural achievement and important religious regeneration and diversity. This occurred in the Constantinian period of the early fourth century. Apart from the architectural magnificence and historical importance of the Woodchester complex – it probably served as the palace of the governor of Britannia Prima whose capital was at Corinium – the mosaic is the finest known example of a group depicting Orpheus, created by the local 'Corinian School' of mosaicists. This school, the largest in Britain and one of the most important of its time in the western Empire, is represented by over 40 mosaics. The school appears to have invented a distinctive and exclusive type of Orpheus mosaic consisting of concentric circles with Orpheus normally placed in the central medallion with animals and birds occupying the surrounding zones. There must also have been close links with the continent as the outer square frame of the Woodchester mosaic consists of 24 richly ornamented geometric panels which contain elements paralleled at Trier, the capital of Constantine's Western Empire.

Finally, the group visited the Roman 'villa' situated on a steep hillside at Great Witcombe, where a number of springs rise to the surface (Fig. 26). Stone walls and other remains of this site have been laid out to public view and are in the care of English Heritage. But these are a pale reflection of the more substantial remains excavated after the site was discovered in 1818, with walls over 2 m high, painted wall plaster and mosaics. As Sir Ian Richmond once said, 'the Latin word villa means a farm. It is primarily an economic term, indicating that the place so designated is an agricultural establishment'. The location and architectural form make it clear that, like the 'villa' at Chedworth, this was not a villa in the normal sense of the word. As eloquently demonstrated by Bryn Walters, the structures forming the east range are clearly the remains of a huge entrance hall leading into a smaller square hall – the entrance lobby – originally dated to the first period, the mid third century. From here one would have ascended a large flight of steps along the central axis in order to reach the upper terrace and main ceremonial chambers of a rural shrine. A prolific spring rises immediately behind the building and flows beneath the central room, suggesting that the shrine was associated with a water deity. The main central corridor or terraced porticus and the central octagonal room were originally floored with polished opus sectile. A large raised central podium extended from the front of the building in the fashion of a classical temple. The whole length of the porticus carried a row of columns along its frontage, found collapsed into the forward courtyard. The baths at the south end of the west range form a complicated arrangement, incorporating many alterations (Fig. 27). They resemble the communal ritual bathing complexes found at other rural shrines.
Excavations were conducted in 1938-9 by Elsie Clifford and in the 1960s by Ernest Greenfield, with a team including Bryn Walters. The latter were published in 1998 by Peter Leech.

2005 AGM AND SYMPOSIUM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

The 2005 AGM and Symposium was held at the British Museum on 12th November and was reported on in the last issue of ARA (17, pp. 52-4).

EXCAVATIONS IN ROMAN LEICESTER

The first event of 2006 took place on Sunday 21st May with a visit to the major area excavations in the centre of Roman civitas capital at Leicester (Ratae Corieltaugorum) being conducted by University of Leicester Archaeological Services, directed by Richard Buckley. It was attended by 100 members. Despite wet weather, the excavations were shown and described by members of the site team. Richard Buckley has provided a synthesis of the work as a separate article in this issue. Following the success of his tour of the Roman city for the ARA in 2001 (see ARA 12, p. 18), Stuart Bailey again led a tour which made its way from the Vine Street excavations to the north gate, then along Highcross Street to the sites of macellum and forum basilica. The tour then made its way to the south gate and to view re-used Roman building materials in the medieval castle, ending at the Jewry Wall Baths complex and the magnificent display of Roman material in the Jewry Wall Museum of Archaeology. The ARA thank the Friends of Jewry Wall Museum for their hospitality and the tea they provided on this occasion. The Friends were set up in September 2004 in response to drastic cuts in this famous museum’s opening hours and to keep the museum open to the public and reverse the then policy of the city council. Further information on the Friends can be obtained from Stuart Bailey (48 Meadow Avenue, Loughborough, Leics., LE11 1JT).

TOUR OF ROMAN BRIGANTIA AND ANNUAL DINNER

The Tour of Roman Brigantia took place from Friday 4th to Monday 7th August, 2006, and was based, as in 1998 (see ARA 6, p. 15), at Queen Ethelburga’s College, Thorpe Underwood Hall, Little Ouseburn, near York. It was attended by 110 members. The Annual Dinner also took place at the college on 5th August and the ARA is grateful to Dewi Lewis and his staff for their help (Fig. 28). The first evening’s illustrated lectures were given by Professor Martin Henig, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford, on Constantine the Great at York to coincide with the visit to the Constantine Exhibition (see below); and by Andrew Baxter (Civil Engineer and ARA member) on Roman Civil Engineering and Bridge-Building. The second lecture was accompanied by a demonstration of models, and led to interesting discussions of the bridges over the Tyne at Chesterfield and Corbridge, and the well preserved aqueducts of the Pont-du-Gard near Nimes, Els Ferreres, near Tarragona, Los Milagros near Mérida and Segovia. On the evening of the Annual Dinner, Dr. Patrick Ottaway of PJO Archaeology and recently retired Head of Fieldwork at the York Archaeological Trust, gave an illustrated lecture on Recent Work in Roman York. He gave a general survey of the great Roman legionary fortress and civilian town of York (Eboracum), and went on to highlight some of the more important developments in excavation and research over recent years. One surprising point was the suggestion that re-evaluation of the dating evidence (two coins and a mortarium sherd) for the rebuilding of the fortress defences in stone on the south-west side, replacing the earlier earth and timber rampart of the late first century, had dated the walls and towers to the time of the reign of the emperor Septimius Severus (193-211) who died at York. This is in contrast to the previously accepted dating to the late third or early fourth century, which is also suggested by the architectural style of the corner and interval towers. One of the main and most productive themes of the Archaeological Trust’s work in the 1970s and 80s was a coherent research project to study the Roman civilian settlements on the opposite bank of the River Ouse to
the fortress, through the excavation of major redevelopment sites at Bishophill Senior, Skeldergate, the General Accident site, Wellington Row and 1-9 Micklegate. This work has helped to establish a chronology for the topography of the area in the Roman period through the discovery of several timber buildings and waterlogged structures providing well preserved environmental evidence and a substantial stone bathing establishment. Since the beginning of the 1990s and the introduction of developer funding and PPG legislation, no large-scale excavation projects have taken place, because developers have been encouraged to minimise damage to remains if at all possible. In the city centre this has usually meant building on thin piles driven through the archaeology. Nevertheless, in the modern suburban areas numerous small windows of exploration have been opened up, particularly on cemetery sites. Since 1995 however, the current arrangements have led the way for a proliferation of archaeological organisations working in York with no co-ordinated approach or communication, leading to difficulties in delivering effective research into York’s past. This was illustrated by the example of cemeteries and the study of the famous late (usually fourth-century) wealthy Christian burials where the deceased were embalmed and encased in gypsum, usually within a stone or lead coffin. Much of what was presented by Patrick Ottaway is reviewed in his highly recommended second edition of Roman York, published by Tempus in 2004. Both Dr Ottaway and Elizabeth Hartley (Keeper of Archaeology at the Yorkshire Museum and Curator of the Constantine Exhibition) attended the Annual Dinner as guests of the ARA (Fig. 28).

On the final evening Dr. Peter Wilson, Senior Archaeologist and Head of Research Policy (Roman Archaeology) at English Heritage, gave an illustrated presentation of Roman Catterick, Forty Years of Rescue, Forty Years of Research. In this report he summarised many years of excavations carried out on the remarkable walled ‘small’ town of Cataractonium, with its extensive suburbs situated on Dere Street, the main Roman road which runs north from York to Corbridge and beyond, where it crosses the River Swale. Much of this work was originally initiated by the proposal and later construction in 1958-60 of the Great North Road (A1) bypass which cut a great swathe through the entire site showing the suburbs to stretch for at least three miles north-south. It has involved many years of intermittent excavation, supplemented by aerial and geophysical survey. The town developed from a (town) to the fort and later incorporated the huge military mansio and associated bath-house. The remarkable preservation of this structure, excavated by Professor John Wacher, and found to be built into sloping ground, was described in detail, as were the subsequent excavations over a long period of years, of the suburban buildings – mainly shops and workshops – by English Heritage and others. There was some evidence of tanning and copper-smelting. The site clearly had a long and complicated history with a late military presence in the Theodosian period and the construction of stone defences in the early fourth century. Altars and other evidence suggest the presence of at least two temples and in 2002 a cemetery excavation in the southern suburb revealed a male inhumation with a jet necklace and other items of adornment. Its interpretation as that of a, a castrated priest of Cybele, was given much publicity at the time. Peter Wilson’s lecture ended with an illustration of the Catterick Vulcan discussed by Martin Hengin in his article on figurines and statuettes in this issue of ARA. For the publication of this work see Cataractonium: Roman Catterick and its hinterland: excavations and research, 1958-1997. Edited by Peter Wilson, 2 volumes, CBA Research Reports 128 and 129, 2002. £32.00 each.

The Tours were led by Bryn Walters, with Martin Hengin and Grahame Soffe. On the first day, members were taken to the Roman fort at Bichinster (Vinovia), where they were met by Dr. David Mason (County Archaeologist, Durham County Council and Manager of the Bichinster Roman Fort Visitor Centre), who gave a talk on the history of excavations on the site, initially in 1878-80 and the 1930s, and then from 1976-81 since when excavations have been carried out directed by Rick Jones and Iain Ferris for Durham County Council and the Bowes Museum. Further excavations were carried out from 1986-91 by Bradford University. All this work will shortly be fully published by the Birmingham University Archaeology Field Unit. The substantial fort was built in the late first century to command the point where Dere Street crosses the River Wear. Excavations have concentrated on the substantial remains of the fourth-century bath suite attached to the commandant’s house (praetorium) and on part of the residential range of the house, of which a large area is now open to the public, including a stone-flagged courtyard and a length of street. This is one of the best preserved and most instructive Roman baths and hypocausts in Britain (Fig. 29). Earlier deposits have revealed large-scale industrial production in the second century, but more significant have been the complex late and sub-Roman sequences, some of the most

Fig. 29. Bichinster: Fire arch and hypocaust with pilae under caldarium of the fourth-century commandant’s baths. Scale 2 m. Photo: © Grahame Soffe.
important for this period on the frontier system. The *terminus post quem* of the commandant’s house in the mid fourth century is only the beginning of a long stratigraphical sequence. During this period the building was continuously modified by the addition of the baths, with subsequent extensions, followed by a period when cattle butchery and metalworking took place, continuing into the fifth century. Graves were then being dug into the ruins by the mid-sixth century. The huge finds assemblages include some interesting evidence, such as a fourth-century inscribed brick listing the names of Roman soldiers, two with Celtic names, Cunovendus and Catugnavus.

David Mason then accompanied the tour to the Roman fort and vicus at Piercebridge (*Morbium*) lying about 1.5 km south of Buncer. Where Dere Street crosses the River Tees. During Agricola’s northern campaigns it is likely that this river crossing was a major strategic point. Towards the end of the second century, the first bridge was replaced by another downstream to the east, and the line of Dere Street was diverted. The *vicus* was found near the second bridge in 1971 and excavated. The south bridge abutment and the remains of four of the stone cutwater piers were excavated during the following years and can now be seen on dry land, as the river has altered its course since the Roman period. The piers lie on top of a spillway made of flagstones. These impressive remains can now be compared with the bridges on Hadrian’s Wall and at Corbridge. Constructional details can be seen clearly, including iron cramps and slots for structural timbers. The masonry remains of parts of the fort were excavated in the 1970s by Peter Scott and a team from Durham University and the Manpower Services Commission. These structures were built c. 270 or soon after but abandoned by 300 and then re-occupied in the fourth century. The late fort was very large, containing much of the modern village within its defences. In 1973-4 the east gate and defences were excavated, facing onto Dere Street, with a thick stone wall, large ditches with ankle-breaker gullies at the bottom and *lilia* (pits containing sharpened wooden stakes) in a cobbled berm. Courtyard buildings excavated contained elaborate painted wall plaster and hypocaust heating systems. One of the *vicus* buildings may have been a temple to Jupiter Dolichenus.

Further south along Dere Street the group visited the site of the Roman civitas capital of the Brigantes, *Isurium Brigantium*, on the south bank of the River Ure, 20 km north-west of York, the site of which is now partially occupied by the village of Aldborough. Very little of this Roman town, probably founded in the early second century, can be seen today. The remains inspected included a stretch of the southern defensive wall west of the south gate with remains of interval towers on the inner face, and two mosaics belonging to a rich town house in the south-west quarter of the walled area in the care of English Heritage. The town seems to have superseded the Brigantian oppidum of Stanwick, visited on the last ARA tour of the area, and developed from the military activity in the area in the 70s. A fort at Roecliffe is known to lie to the west and there may have been a fort and *vicus* on the present site of the town. Bricks with the stamp of the Ninth Legion Hispiana based at the fortress at York, have been found on the site. The town itself developed in the second century with a street grid. The *forum-basilica* has been found to lie near the medieval church. The massive defensive walls date from c. 200, and bastions were added in the fourth century. In the site museum a remarkable fragment of a sophisticated mosaic from a rich town-house depicts Thalia (or possibly Polyhymnia), the Muse of pantomime, one of the nine Muses, accompanied by an inscription in Greek made of blue glass tesserae reading [Mount] *Helikon* (Fig. 30). This is a very small fragment of what was one of the most remarkable mosaics in Roman Britain. Not only are glass tesserae extremely rare in Britain but the subject of the design is unique. Formerly, other fragments of this mosaic survived, flooring the apse of a *triclinium*, and these show that Thalia held a scroll inscribed in Greek, and a theatrical mask; the other Muses were shown in adjacent panels. Another mosaic seen *in situ*, and possibly from the same house, has a central panel depicting a lion reclining under a tree. This mosaic was discussed by Dr. Patricia Witts, who had previously published the suggestion that it depicts the Nemean lion, the subject of the first Labour of Hercules. However, Martin Henig suggests the scene represents a pastoral landscape.

Another mosaic from the site, now in Leeds City Museum, depicts Romulus and Remus and the wolf, although this mosaic may have been heavily ‘restored’ after discovery in the nineteenth century. These are just three of no less than 23 mosaics known from Aldborough and discussed by David Neal and Stephen Cosh in volume I of their *Roman Mosaics of Britain* corpus (2002). Near Aldborough at Boroughbridge, the group visited the Devil’s Arrows, one of the finest prehistoric stone rows in northern Britain, 174 m long. Three out of at least four original monoliths survive,
rectangular in section, tapering to points at the top, the tallest being 6.9 m high. They were carved from millstone grit brought 15 km from the south.

The next day of the tour was devoted to visits to the Hull and East Riding Museum at Hull and the Yorkshire Museum at York. At Hull the tour concentrated on the well-known collection of fascinating mosaics from the villas at Rudston and Harpham on the southern edge of the Wolds and the villas at Brantingham and Horkstow on either side of the Humber Estuary near the Roman town of Petuaria (Brough, west of modern Hull). These include the famous Venus mosaic, Aquatic mosaic, Leopards panel and Charioteer mosaic from Rudston, the Tyche mosaic from Brantingham, and the Chariot Race mosaic, the ‘Painted Ceiling’ panel and the Orpheus panel from Horkstow. The museum contains a fine display of Roman artefacts from local sites and one of the most important collections of Iron Age material in Britain, including the chariot burials of the Wolds. The mosaics are fully described and illustrated in colour in the corpus mentioned previously and in Roman Mosaics at Hull by D. J. Smith (third ed. 2005). Before visiting the Yorkshire Museum, Martin Henig gave a short talk beside the Multangular Tower about the dating of the stone defences of the legionary fortress, particularly the south-west front, since their traditional dating has recently been questioned (see above). The traditional dating to the very late third or early fourth century (Constantinian dating) is strongly suggested by comparing the architectural design with other fortifications throughout the empire, particularly those of the recently revealed extraordinary complex at Gamzigrad in Dacia Repensis (Serbia). These arguments are discussed fully in Paul Bidwell’s chapter on Constantius and Constantine at York, in the Constantine Exhibition catalogue (see below). The afternoon was taken up with a tour of the Constantine Exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum introduced by Elizabeth Hartley, keeper and curator.

This major international exhibition was held to celebrate a seminal moment in European history, the day when Constantine was proclaimed Emperor in York on 25th July 306. The Exhibition is fully reviewed in the last issue of ARA, together with the fully illustrated catalogue Constantine the Great, York’s Roman Emperor, edited by Elizabeth Hartley, Jane Hawkes, Martin Henig and Frances Mee. The tour also included the Roman galleries of the museum (Figs. 31 and 32) and a visit to the remains of the legionary fortress principia on display in the crypt of York Minster, led by Bryn Walters.

Fig. 31. York: Tombstone of Lucius Duclius Rufinus (RIB 673) of the Voltinian voting tribe, from Vienne, standard-bearer of the Ninth Legion, aged 28. He holds a maniple standard and a case of writing tablets. Ht. 1.88 m. Found at Holy Trinity Priory, Micklegate, York, Yorkshire Museum. Photo: © Graham Soffe.

On the following day the group were taken north again to visit the Roman town, fort and museum at Malton (Derwentio) and the Roman villa at Beadlam. Malton lies on the River Derwent about 26 km north-east of York. It seems to have originated as a vexillation fortress built in the Flavian period, which held a cavalry garrison in the fourth century. The fort was rebuilt with stone defences in the Trajanic period and at the beginning of the third century the north-east gate was restored and other alterations made. It was again completely rebuilt in the late third or early fourth century. Excavations took place in 1927-30, 1949-52 and again, directed by Peter Wenham, in 1968-70. The fort had an extensive vicus and excavations have established the line of the defences, which can be seen as earthworks. The vicus appears to have developed into a prosperous town by the fourth century with one building, the ‘Town House’, producing a fine figured mosaic floor depicting the Four Seasons. Much of this must lie under the medieval and modern town. The number of richly appointed villas around the town is also exceptionally high, suggesting that Derwentio had, by the late Roman period, become a centre for civil administration. The museum contains a finely curated display of Roman material from Malton and the surrounding area, including, among other inscriptions, a dedicatory inscribed slab set up by the Ala Picentiana. There are also sherds of Roman pottery with representations of a smith’s tools in relief decoration, and examples of pottery from the local third-century kilns at Norton, excavated by Philip
Corder and Raymond Hayes. The museum also contains a fine prehistoric and medieval collection and members also viewed the special exhibition dedicated to the late Professor John Hurst, former Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and the leading authority on deserted medieval villages and medieval pottery. He was murdered in 2003. The remarkable villa at Beadlam is one of the most northerly in Britain and coins of Theodosius indicate late occupation. The site, with low walls visible for public view, lies on the east side of the River Riccal, east of Helmley, on the north edge of the Vale of Pickering, 19 km north-west of Malton. It consists of three ranges of buildings bounding a courtyard, the two on the north and west sides being winged-corridor houses. The site was discovered in 1964 and excavated by Dr. Ian Stead in 1969 with further excavations, of the east range, by Tony Pacitto in 1974. The north range house contains a fine mid-fourth-century geometric mosaic and hypocaust which later had a corn drying oven or malting kiln cut through it.

TOUR OF ROME

Fifty members attended the ARA’s Tenth Anniversary Tour of Rome, which took place between 9th and 17th September, 2006. This had been the proposal of the ARA’s late meetings secretary, Sue Jones. The tour was guided by Mike Stone and Bryn Walters. The main burden of the guiding was carried by Mike Stone with Bryn Walters providing additional material at specific sites. Bryn Walters has provided the following short summary:

The tour was based in the centre of the city at the Starhotel Metropole, with some members staying at the romantic converted monastery of Domus Romana. The Rome Metro was pressed into service frequently to transport members into the heart of the ancient city before setting off on strenuous walks around the sites, starting on the first afternoon with a tour of the Forum Romanum (Fig. 33). The next three days were taken up with an intensive study of the centre of the ancient city, led by Mike Stone. Bryn Walters explained in vivid detail the political reality behind the Great Fire and the Emperor Nero’s frustration at seeing his new palace above the Circus Maximus become one of the first structures consumed in the conflagration. The tour leaders showed the important parts of what can be seen of the exterior of the Domus Aurea, the vast palace Nero built to replace the earlier structure, but unfortunately the interiors were still closed for repair after recent flood damage. Other monuments visited and discussed included the Arches of Titus (Fig. 34) and Constantine, the Colosseum (Fig. 35), the Baths of Trajan and the Temple of Mithras beneath the Church of San Clemente. Also visited were the Fora of Julius Caesar, Augustus, Nerva (Fig. 36) and Trajan together with Trajan’s Column and the exterior of Trajan’s Market, the temples in the Campus Martius, the only visible part of the Curia of Pompey where Julius Caesar was assassinated, the Theatre of Marcellus, the Portico of Octavia, and beside the River Tiber, the
Temple of Portunus and Hercules (two of the so-called Republican Temples). High points of the tour were provided by the Mausoleum of Augustus and the new museum housing the Ara Pacis Augustae, after which members studied the side elevation of the Temple of Hadrian before moving on to the magnificent temple known as the Pantheon, the most impressive circular building in the history of world architecture, and the ancient Roman building which has survived in the best condition, partly because of its conversion to a church. It was rebuilt during Hadrian’s reign, retaining the portico built with eight granite columns originally constructed by Agrippa. At the Piazza Nuova, built over the Stadium of Domitian, this part of the tour was concluded, followed by more informal activities and an opportunity to explore the city at night.

On the fourth day the tour travelled by coach to the wonderful city of Ostia Antica, the port of Rome (see the photo of the group in the theatre on the front cover ARA News 19) and the tour was completed despite very hot weather. The following day saw another coach drive to the Via Appia Antica and the Porta San Sebastiano and then led on to the Catacombe di San Callisto, before the group walked along the Appian Way to the astoundingly well preserved Circus of Maxentius. This was followed by a short visit to the Tomb of Cecilia Metella before driving to the amazing Villa of the Quintilii (Fig. 37), which had been commandeered by Commodus as his country palace. On the following day a coach took the party to the Villa Adriana near Tivoli, Hadrian’s palatial retreat away from the capital, where Bryn Walters expounded on the cultural virtues of that emperor and the story of the enigmatic Antinous who may have been buried in the vicinity of Hadrian’s Serapeum (Figs. 38 and 39 and see Review of Antinous exhibition in this issue). Time was also taken to explore the Roman and medieval remains in the town of Tivoli.

The eighth day was taken up with a walking tour in the city centre, including a strenuous walk around part of the Walls of Aurelian, defending the ancient city, which incorporated the Porta Maggiore and the Pyramid of Cestius. Members found that the pièce de résistance were the wonderful houses preserved under the Church of SS Giovanni e Paolo. Before flying back to Britain on the final day, members made the short walk to study the Baths of Diocletian, large parts of which stand today incorporated within a later church, and made a final visit to the National
Museum, where they studied some of the most famous sculptures and other antiquities from the city. This tour was so successful that we hope to repeat it before too long.

**TOUR OF ROMAN BATH**

On Sunday 15th October, 130 members were taken on a tour of Roman Bath by Peter Davenport (of Oxford Archaeology and former Director of the Bath Archaeological Trust [BAT]), Marek Lewcun (Consultant Archaeologist and formerly of BAT) and Mike Stone (ARA). The tour concentrated on sites and discoveries investigated over the past 30 years or so, which have done so much to expand our knowledge of the nature and topography of Roman Bath. Not only have we learnt so much more about the whole complex of the Sacred Hot Spring, the great Temple of Sulis Minerva and the famous Thermal Baths, but also about the history and development of other sites within the walled area – some containing monumental buildings – and the more commercial settlement, roads and cemeteries to the north of the walled area.

Starting with the walled area of Roman Bath, there was an interesting discussion of the evidence for the defences and their purpose in the light of the steady increase in evidence for the character of occupation. The best evidence comes from the site at Upper Borough Walls where a stone wall of late third- or early fourth-century date was preceded by a second-century rampart. Attention then moved to the south-west quadrant of the walled area, where a number of sites have been investigated. At the Cross Bath it was established in 1987 that the hot spring, previously associated with altars and the Aesculapius sculpture, had been surrounded by a large oval walled enclosure with a well-built drain, 40 m long, leading southwards to the Roman Hot Baths complex, recorded by James Irvine in the 1860s. Immediately to the east of this, the site of the Beau Street swimming baths built by Decimus Burton in 1830 has recently been developed over a protracted period as the new spa known as the New Royal Bath. Extensive archaeological excavations undertaken in advance of this in 1986, 1989 and 1998-9 exposed a complex sequence. Peter Davenport had showed the excavation to the ARA on our previous tour of Bath in March 1999 (see ARA 8, 15) and the full report has now been published (2007, see below). After the second century the area contained a substantial mansion and possibly public building with hypocaust heating and an apsidal room under Bath Street at the north end of a long range. Again, after the end of the second century a large building has been noted to have stood on previously open ground immediately west of the temple precinct (Bath Street Excavations). Further to the west at Citizen House, a whole sequence of houses was found in excavations from 1964 onwards, first of timber in the late first century and then of masonry in the second century, with painted plastered walls. In the late second century a new stone building was erected and by the third and fourth centuries this building was being used for iron forging. How this building relates to the large fourth-century building with its row of small rooms (possibly a mansio) found beneath St. Michael's Passage just to the east, remains to be seen. Also in 1964-5, at 30-31 Stall Street south of the temple precinct, an area of timber buildings was again found to be built over by an important large masonry building in the late second or early third century. In 1998-9 to the south-west of this site under Bellott's Hospital, another multi-phased masonry building complex was found which was used for iron smithing towards the end of its life. The final report on this site has just been published (see below).

The tour continued beyond the walled area, where extensive ribbon development during the Roman period extended along the road leading north from the Northgate and running along a terrace, overlooking the River Avon flowing to the east (Fig. 40). This roughly follows the line of the present Walcot Street for several hundred metres to an area centred on Walcot. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries a number of important discoveries of substantial stone buildings, dating no earlier than the second century, were found at Old Orchard Lane, Guinea Lane and the Paragon. The area was clearly intensively inhabited. Just north of Northgate in 1971 the building of the Beaufort (now Bath Hilton) Hotel, a multi-storey car park and a supermarket, exposed stone buildings and a large Roman well dug into the clay. This latter containing remains of at least 80 leather shoes, leather offcuts and iron tools preserved in waterlogged conditions, indicating the presence of a cobbler’s workshop of late second-century date. Further north, a series of trial excavations have been carried out since 1987 on development sites between the London Road (continuing the line of Walcot Street), the River Avon just south of the Cleveland Bridge, and the ford which acted as a crossing point for all the major Roman roads approaching Bath (Fig. 40). One of the richest sites was at Hat and Feathers Yard where buildings were terraced along the hillside and 3 m of stratigraphy survives. Excavations in the 1990s revealed five strip-buildings dating from the second to the fourth centuries, initially built of timber but later rebuilt in stone. Here evidence of a blacksmith’s workshop and other hot processes was found. At the nearby Beehive Yard deep deposits revealed occupation from the late first to the early fifth century, again with timber shops and workshops being replaced by masonry ones. Many of these buildings are divided by side-streets running off the main north-south road, down the slope towards the river. At St. Swithin’s Yard a well preserved late stone building lost its roof in the fourth century but its walls were then used to enclose a productive brick and tile-klin. One side street had been cut into by two fourth-century inhumations. One, a male in a lead coffin, has been shown to have been of Middle Eastern or North African origin and was featured in a *Meet the Ancestors* TV production. The other burial, of a woman aged about 50 years, was in a wooden coffin aligned.
east-west and possibly Christian.

After the tour had visited the sites described above it made its way west along the line of the east-west Roman road, an area better known for early cremation and late inhumation cemeteries and the discovery of the monumental sculpted heads of a late first-century woman and a theatrical mask now in the Roman Baths Museum. Here in the 1860s, James Irvine recorded the road running under the former church which stood north of the Royal Crescent. On the south side of the road, buildings associated with samian and a chip-carved stone table have been investigated. Further to the south on the south side of the Royal Crescent, an area was investigated recently with the help of Channel 4 TV's Time Team. Two trenches revealed yet another road with burials in the side ditches. Further west along the main road simple clay-floored buildings with hearths – probably shops – have again been found. It was therefore possible to display for the tour the topographical layout of Roman Bath with its two main foci: firstly Walcot, the major crossing point for the Fosse Way and other major routes.
such as the road north-west to the Seamills port, with roads lined with commercial buildings and cemeteries converging upon it; and secondly the walled area of hot springs on the lower land to the south in the bend of the river, with ribbon development along the north-south road between them. Despite speculation about the possible site of an early fort on the Foss Way frontier at Bath, its site has not been located.

When the tour was completed, the rest of the day was spent on a visit to the remains of the Sacred Hot Spring, the Great Thermal Baths, the Temple Precinct under the Pump Room, and the Roman Baths Museum (Fig. 41). The best recent


2006 AGM AND SYMPOSIUM AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Over 100 members attended the AGM in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, Clere Education Centre, at the British Museum, London on 11th November 2006. After Sam Moorhead had welcomed members to the British Museum, and the whole museum had observed a minute’s silence in recognition of Armistice Day, the Chairman, Grahame Soke, welcomed members and gave an illustrated review of the year’s events. This was followed by Mike Stone’s illustrated presentation of the Rome Tour. The Chairman thanked Board members, Bryn Walters, Don Flear (now Don Greenwood), Anthony Beeson, Mike Stone, Sam Moorhead and Dr. David Evans for their efforts over the year. He also thanked David Gollins and Beth Bishop (Editor and Assistant Editor of ARA News) and Professor Martin Henig (Research Advisor). It should be noted here that Beth Bishop has since died and a full obituary by Bryn Walters has appeared in issue 19 of ARA News.

As ARA Bulletin Editor, Grahame Soffe confirmed that issue number 17 had been published after the delay referred to last year and he hoped that all members had received their copies. In response to this there was a vote of appreciation of this latest issue from the members present.

The next issue of ARA News was planned to be published in the spring of 2007 and the next ARA Bulletin in the autumn. Bryn Walters (Director and Secretary) and Dr. David Evans (Treasurer), gave their reports. Bryn Walters gave details of archaeological projects which the ARA had grant supported over the year and described events planned for the coming year, including the proposal to discuss the funding of a single major project of archaeological fieldwork and research over which the ARA would have more direct control than in the case of previously funded projects. Don Flear (Membership Secretary) gave his report and discussed the continued problem of recruiting and retaining new members. He also gave notice to members that he was changing his name to Greenwood. David Evans (Treasurer) gave an illustrated report on the audited accounts for 2005-6, which were agreed by the members, and reported on trends in income and expenditure and his assessment of future developments. He also reported on the progress of the ARA website. Grahame Soffe and Don Flear were unanimously re-elected to the Board and Banks (Chartered Accountants) were re-elected as Auditors. The Chairman then thanked Sam Moorhead and his colleagues at the British Museum for their help in organising and running the meeting, together with Janet Senior (ARA) for supervising the reception of members.

After lunch, the Symposium was devoted to two illustrated lectures. The first was given by Richard Abdy, Curator in the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum, on: From Carausius to Constantine—Usurpation and Renewal in Late Roman Britain as shown in the Beaurains Treasure. The second lecture was by Dr. Ken Dark, Director of the Research Centre for Late Antique and Byzantine Studies, Reading University, on: Late Roman Britain and the World of Late Roman Antiquity (Fig. 42). The lectures were chosen to coincide with the anniversary of Constantine’s accession. Richard Abdy told the story of the discovery in 1922, of the treasure of Roman jewellery, silver ware and hundreds of gold and silver coins and medallions at Beaureins (Arras), France, its subsequent theft, and the partial recovery of many of the objects (Fig. 43). Now scattered in various museums and private collections, Bastien and Metzger’s great achievement has been to catalogue and interpret the material. The British Museum has acquired a good sample of the objects, many of which were included in the Constantine Exhibition at York. Most of the gold coins and medallions date from the
Roman Sussex
by Miles Russell
Tempus Publishing, Stroud, 2006
ISBN 0 7524 3601 5
Paperback £19.99
319 pp., 119 figures and 28 colour plates

Review by Grahame Sothe

The reviewer was very much looking forward to the publication of this book and readers will recognise the author from his appearances as a prehistorian on TV’s Time Team. At first sight, this contribution to Tempus’s recent series of Roman county archaeologies seems a substantial and well illustrated survey following in the tradition of E. Cecil Curwen’s Archaeology of Sussex (1937) and Barry Cunliffe’s The Regni (1973). Indeed, there are well reproduced black-and-white and line illustrations, mostly reprinted from a range of published excavation reports, and there are good maps and photographs by the author. There is also a splendid clutch of colour plates concentrating on the mosaics of Fishbourne palace and the Bignor villa, which supplement the author’s own watercolour on the less, but more evidence for Roman culture than in the fourth century. This evidence ranges from cemeteries, Latin inscriptions, imported goods from the Mediterranean, to evidence of Christianity. Settlement sites such as Tintagel and Trethurgo Round in Cornwall and Bantham in Devon, show that the Romano-British civitas of the Dumnonii remained visible into the sixth century. The situation in Dumnonia can now be extrapolated across Wales, where new excavations are producing evidence, such as an imported Byzantine intaglio from Cefn Cwmwd, and beyond to Ireland and Britain north of Hadrian’s Wall. The sixth and seventh-century Irish evidence shows a well-organised episcopal and monastic Church, Roman-style cemeteries, inscribed tombstones, Latin literacy, manuscript production, and ‘Roman’ technology – all imported from fifth- and sixth-century Britain. Similar evidence comes from Whithorn, north of the Wall. All this supports the view that Roman or ‘Late Antique’ culture was far more widespread across what had been the west of Roman Britain in 500 than in 400.