Dear Member,

Welcome to the fifteenth edition of the ARA Newsletter. The exciting news is that we have expanded our Free Entry Scheme specifically to include two military sites – see the announcement below.

We have the Booking Form for the AGM and Symposium, again at the British Museum, but a fortnight later than usual. The Symposium promises to be of great interest with two well-respected speakers on very varied subjects – something, therefore, for all. The lunch break has been reduced by half an hour to enable the Symposium to finish earlier, allowing time for discussion and to clear the Museum by closing time, without the usual rush.

Our Trustees have been busy and have produced provisional details of the 2004 Central Sector Tour of Hadrian's Wall. Some details, including price, have still to be finalised, but breaking news as we go to press confirms that Dr. Brian Dobson will indeed deliver the Friday evening lecture. Book early to avoid disappointment.

There are some interesting ‘Snippets’ and the regular offer of Notelets. The latter are now nearing exhaustion and there are no plans to reprint – so possibly you should order yours before they run out.

Included within the Newsletter is your form for election of new Trustees and enclosed are various advertising leaflets, together with your Proxy Voting Card for use by those Members who are unable to attend the AGM in person.

Yorkshire Post. 28.05.2003

Marching camps outside York

The York Archaeological Trust has been examining two Roman marching camps on the outskirts of York at Monks Cross. The excavations commenced fourteen months ago after the site was identified on aerial photographs taken by English Heritage.

Yorkshire Post. 31.05.2003

CADW and Segedunum Join the Association Venues

Welsh Historic Monuments, CADW, has joined the Association’s promotion scheme. Members can now gain FREE ENTRY to the Legionary Baths at Caerleon, which has always been separate from the Legionary Museum managed by The National Museum of Wales. This now provides free entry to all the attractions of Roman Caerleon. Members can adjust their current Membership Cards by deleting the word NOT against the entry for the Legionary Baths.

Segedunum Fort and Museum have also joined our Free Entry Scheme, which now gives us two new military sites this year. There is a new observation tower and an excellent on-site museum themed on a reconstructed principia (headquarters building), together with a simulation of the full military bath house from Chesters (see ARA Issue 10, page 12, for reconstruction picture).
a parent around her shoulder. Part of the tripod banqueting table and the foot of a servant also survive, but it is thought that the rest of the sculpture and the identifying inscription were either thrown into the river or carted off when the tombs were violated.

*Chester Chronicle*, 30.08.2002

**ROMAN BARGE EXCAVATED INTACT**

A 25 metre long by 2.7 metre wide Roman barge has been discovered and is in the course of excavation near Utrecht in the Netherlands. The vessel seems to have been sunk as a result of an accident and it and its contents have been preserved by the mud at the bottom of the Heldammer Stroom, an offshoot of the Rhine. It is different from the other barges previously found in being longer and narrower, and far better preserved. The bow seems to have been open for loading either livestock, supplies or men, and at the stern there was a roofed cabin and kitchen with the entire contents intact. The cabin was furnished with a small cupboard, a carved chest, a couch and a stool of walnut decorated with spiral grooves. Keys to the chest and cupboard have also been found in the mud. The oak from which the barge was constructed was not local to the area and it is thought that it (or the vessel) probably originated in France or Germany. Amongst the other items discovered so far are hobnailed shoes, planes, a paddle with traces of blue paint still surviving and a piece of wood with Roman numerals. The masthead survives as do the iron nails used in construction. It has been suggested that the vessel was used by a military paymaster visiting the military bases and watch towers up the Rhine.

In post-Roman times the course of the Rhine changed and this area must have been subject to periodic flooding as the wreck was entombed beneath a thick layer of mud and sand and thus prevented from rotting. The wreck is being lifted and, after immersion in a tank filled with a wood preservative, will be displayed. Archaeologists from Nisa, the Dutch Institute of Maritime Archaeology under Andre van Holk, have conducted the excavation.

*BBC News*, 10.06.2003

**IVORY WOODWORKING PLANE DISCOVERED AT GOODMANHAM**

A remarkable 330 mm long ivory and iron woodworking plane has been discovered at Goodmanham on the Yorkshire Wolds in a dig on the site of the BP Chemicals Teeside to Saltend Ethylene Pipeline. The find is being heralded as one of great importance for the history of woodworking tools. Evidence of Roman occupation on the site dated from the first century through to the late fourth century AD. Several settlement enclosures defined by ditches were discovered, each enclosing at least one timber building.

*Yorkshire Post (Leeds)*, 02.08.2002

**FRAGMENT OF A FUNERARY SCULPTURE FOUND IN CHESTER**

Part of a family’s funerary sculptural relief has been found at Heronbridge, off Eaton Road, between Handbridge and Eccleston on the banks of the River Dee. All that remains from the vandalised relief is the head and torso of a little girl and the hand and arm of
RECEIPT FOR A SLAVE GIRL FOUND IN LONDON

A wooden tablet excavated on a London building site seven years ago has been translated by Roger Tomlin. The remarkable document is the first Roman Deed of Sale for a slave to be found in Britain. Originally the $14 \times 11.4$ cm tablet of silver fir had been recessed to hold wax and the document had been inscribed onto this. Fortunately, the inscriber was very heavy-handed and left an imprint on the soft wood of the tablet with his stylus. Although the wax has long since vanished, modern techniques enabled the remaining scratches to be enhanced and then read. The document is believed to date from about AD 80 to AD 120 and records the purchase of a girl from a tribe living on the borders of Normandy and Britain for a sum equivalent to two years’ salary for a Roman soldier. Remarkably, the purchaser was another slave, who himself belonged to yet a third slave, who was himself owned by the emperor. Part of the Deed of Sale reads “Vegetus, assistant slave of Montanus, the slave of the August Emperor, has bought the girl Fortunata, by nationality a Diablintian, for 600 denarii. She is warranted healthy and not liable to run away....” The deed also states that should someone have a better claim on Fortunata, then Vegetus would be reimbursed. It is believed that both Vegetus and his master, Montanus, were officials in Londinium. In theory slaves were not allowed to own property, but in practice, Fortunata would have been regarded as a personal possession and was possibly his concubine.

Times. 22.03.2003

Telegraph. 22.03.2003

SOUTHWELL VILLA UNDER THREAT FROM HOUSING PLANS

Southwell Partnership Group have launched a campaign to save the site of a luxuriously appointed Roman villa from being seriously damaged by a projected housing development. Part of the threatened site should have protection as a scheduled ancient monument and yet there are plans to drive piles through the site of the bath house and to build over it. Over 200 burials have been recently found on the site suggesting that like many other villas, the building became a centre for Christianity in the late and sub-Roman period. Southwell Minster lies adjacent to the site of the villa and is likely to have been a grand replacement of the early villa church. Top quality mural paintings featuring fish and a cupid may be seen on display in the Minster and were found on the site in the last century.

Mansfield and Ashfield Observer. 02.03.2003

PLANS TO REDEVELOP THE ST. BOTOLPH’S QUARTER OF COLCHESTER

A plan to regenerate a quarter of Colchester, known as St. Botolph’s, may have to be re-thought after preliminary tests by Oxford Archaeotechnics Ltd. suggest that the area has not been built on since Roman times, and is potentially unique within a living and walled Roman town. A previously unknown stretch of Roman road was traced on land east of the bus station and behind East Hill House but at such a depth that it suggests that covering soil deposits have never been disturbed since Roman times. Part of the site proposed for redevelopment is already a scheduled ancient monument, as the famous sea-beasts mosaic was found there in 1923. This mosaic may now be seen in the castle wellhouse.

Essex County Standard. 02.05.2003