IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE DIRECTOR
CHANGES IN THE ASSOCIATION’S PUBLICATION PROCEDURES

You will be wondering why you have not received a copy of the usual summer edition of ARA. The reason for this is that your Board has, for some time, felt that improvements should be made to create a closer relationship with members. Whilst the intellectual level of the Bulletin ARA was of a high standard, we felt that we should also be paying more attention to the membership in general. Our main channel in this approach must be the Members' Newsletter ARA NEWS. Consequently, this issue is the first of what we hope is going to be an improved publication service to the membership.

The Board felt that there was a need to expand the Newsletter and make it more of a vehicle for members to communicate, rather than continue with it as the rather basic information manual which it has been previously. Therefore, ARA NEWS has been expanded with more pages, including some in colour, and the intention is to incorporate members' contributions in the way of articles relating to their experiences, whether on tours, home or abroad, archaeological field work or any aspect of interest relating to a Roman event that they have been involved in – and which may be of interest and benefit to other members.

In order to achieve this we need your involvement.

We know that many of our members have a particular interest in specific subjects relating to Roman culture, but possibly these do not fall into the highly academic category, which we would incorporate into the main Bulletin. Our Treasurer Don Flear, for example, is going to contribute a small article in the next issue, recording his visit he has made to Bainbridge Roman Fort in the Yorkshire Dales. This is a privately owned site and accordingly not visited by a great number of people. We hope this article will act as a model for members to write similar contributions. We also have contributions by our Membership Secretary, Sue Jones, on the 2004 Annual Dinner at Fishbourne Roman Palace and a Book Signing event by Lindsey Davis of Marcus Didius Falco fame.

Whilst we appreciate that this issue is somewhat ‘monopolised’ by the Board, it is simply a measure to get the new system off the ground. And we sincerely hope to see in the next, and future issues, a major input from members...namely, yourselves!

We now hope that there will be a flow of contributions, some of which we may not be able to publish in full, but which will go to creating a library of indexed informative articles; to build up a computerised store of members’ experiences. David Rider has kindly offered to maintain this computer library and will send copies out to members upon request. Further information on this service will be published in a future issue.

For decisions on the Newsletter content we rely on the editor of ARA NEWS, (currently David Gollins), who will also reserve the right to amend articles as appropriate. (Remember, the Editor's decision is final – Ed.). As now, no responsibility can be taken by the Association for the accuracy or the content of such articles.

What should the articles be about?

Our initial thoughts include - details of visits to particular sites, especially when abroad; one or two photographs (to be reproduced in either colour or black and white); good places to stay; any travel difficulties which were encountered to reach the sites; what archaeological remains survive and any other interesting experiences.

As an example, one of our members recently visited Assisi and was completely unaware of the excavated Roman Forum under the town square. The remains were not mentioned in his guide book and he came across the entrance quite by

A number of members on the Hadrian’s Wall Tour earlier this year – nice weather, pleasant company and able to assimilate some interesting facts if they so wish!

Photo: © Bryn Walters.
chance and then had a most enjoyable hour visiting the remains. A short item on this would be filed under; ITALY – Assisi, and listed and publicized within the computer library once a year in the Newsletter. Members could then request a copy of the Assisi article from David Rider should they be travelling to that area and would like to visit the Assisi Forum.

Please address all correspondence regarding the Newsletter to: Mr. David Gollins, The Editor ARA NEWS, 65 Jacklyns Lane, NEW ALRESFORD, Hampshire, SO24 9LF.

The deadline for articles, illustrations and letters for the next edition is 28th February, 2005, but before if possible. Any recent Roman archaeology experiences, at home or abroad, which you may have encountered, we would like to hear about and pass on to the membership in general. Don’t be shy, it’s your newsletter.

THE BULLETIN

Now, what about our Bulletin – ARA? This has gained a notable reputation within archaeological circles. It does however, take considerable effort to produce twice yearly. There is no doubt that its production would prove easier and more efficient for the voluntary workers if we produced a larger issue just once a year, as is the case with many other archaeological journals. The next issue is therefore intended to be published early in the new year (like our old winter edition). It will contain more pages and appear annually in the future, with the intention of maintaining the same high standard as previously, but will concentrate strictly on archaeological matters. Other features and news will be kept for the expanded ARA NEWS.

QUESTIONNAIRE

You will find incorporated within the centre pages of your ARA NEWS a detailed questionnaire, which we would ask you to take a little time to complete. This will help us to assess the direction in which the Association is moving, what thoughts you have and whether we are providing the service you want. We will then try to take your views into account when formulating future policy and developments. The Board is aware that the questionnaire will take a little time to complete, but it is important for us to know your views. To encourage members to complete the questionnaire and return it as soon as possible, we intend to hold a draw. There will be a prize (two year free subscription to the ARA) for each of the first three names ‘out of the hat’. Replies should be in our office by Friday 7th January, 2005 using the supplied reply-paid envelope.

A second questionnaire will be sent out later in the year to those members who did not renew their membership in 2004. The aim is to establish why they did not renew. It has been some seven years since our last review, when no direct reason could be discerned.

E-MAIL

The Association is setting up two new e-mail addresses in the new year, to be administered by trustees Mike Stone and Sue Jones. We hope this will give us more efficient communication with those members who are happy for us to hold their e-mail details. We can then directly communicate with you about specific events or news. Once you are advised the system is in place, please e-mail Mike and Sue if you are agreeable to being contacted by the ARA via this method. This will then give us your e-mail address for our Address Book without the laborious task of inputting some 2,000 e-mail addresses.

To conclude – your Board hope that the above measures will help us to be more aware of what you expect from this Association and provide services that will be of substantial use to members. Remember, all the work behind the scenes is totally voluntary and we cannot be ‘all things to all people’. We are trying to be positive and constructive, and the time you spend on the questionnaire will be greatly appreciated. We hope the response will be sufficiently large to result in our providing an efficient and much more focused service.

Bryn Walters,
Director

for his Egyptian friends – Bryn’s signature in Arabic! Ed.

MEMBERS’ DAY VISIT TO SILCESTER

On 1st August, a very hot Sunday, 80 members descended on the excavations at Calleva Atrebatum. We divided into two groups; the first viewed some of the significant artefacts found this season, whilst the second was conducted around the excavation site. The roles were then reversed.

These very important seasonal excavations, being conducted by Professor Michael Fulford of Reading University, are going to have a major impact on our future understanding of the development of Roman towns, but unquestionably, of Calleva in particular.

An important aspect of the project is the discovery of the early development of a planned town during the later first- and early second-centuries, but on an alignment respecting the earthworks of the Iron Age native oppidum, and not the later well-known gridded insulae of the third- and fourth-century walled city.

Members who attended the day wished all success to Professor Fulford’s project and the Association has made a substantial £500.00 grant towards the excavation fund.

A more detailed report will be in the next edition of ARA NEWS.

A few intrepid members at the North Gate entrance to Calleva Atrebatum in August.

Photo: © Bryn Walters.
EDITORIAL

Welcome, at long last, to your ‘new look’ ARA NEWS. The changes are not too radical and I think that they will continue to evolve over the forthcoming issues. The two main changes incorporated into this issue are the introduction of colour and a change of the text typeface to a sans serif version.

I hope to continue as Editor of ARA NEWS for the next two years, but the time will come when I will want to ‘hang up my red pen and spend more time travelling’, thus making way for younger talent.

I have relinquished the Editorship of the ARA Bulletin – this mantle being taken over by our Chairman, Mr. Grahame Soffe. The change will, I think, not be too great, for Grahame did much to guide the content from its inception. I wish him every success.

As indicated in the lead article, ARA NEWS is hoping to include many more contributions from the membership. We have two ‘guide articles’ in this issue from Sue Jones, our Membership List Secretary and now a Trustee. It is hoped that Don Flear will produce two items for the next issue. Two members approached me after the AGM and offered contributions, so I have great hopes!

At the risk of repeating the Director, there is a four-page Questionnaire in this issue together with a Reply Paid envelope (and prizes are offered). Please take time over the Christmas break to give the Board your thoughts on the Association. We do occasionally get feedback from members, especially at the AGM, but this is limited to the few who attend – the bulk of you never get a say. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY – PLEASE TAKE IT. The centre spread can be removed with care without detriment to the remainder of the Newsletter. All other Booking Forms, etc., can be photocopied if members do not wish to damage their publication – these will be perfectly acceptable to the Director.

It would be useful to cultivate a ‘Correspondence’ section in due course – but it won’t happen unless you write or e-mail; see the ‘Contacts’ box on this page for the address. The primary e-mail contacts for the Association will be Mike Stone and Sue Jones, both of whom are in the process of setting up their sites – contact addresses should be finalised in the New Year and details will be available with the next edition of the Bulletin.

In the meantime, enjoy this issue, and let’s have the feedback.

David Gollins, Editor.
ANNUAL DINNER – FISHBOURNE

Approximately 60 members were present at this year’s annual dinner which was held at Fishbourne Roman Palace on Saturday 19th June. Those attending who were resident at Bishop Otter College, Chichester, were conveyed by coach to the Palace amidst a torrential downpour which had been preceded by thunder and lightning – an omen from the Gods, perhaps?

Fortunately the adverse weather did not dampen the spirit of the occasion which, this year, was a costumed event. The variety of styles and colours, from head-dresses to footwear and everything in between, illustrated how inventive members were when reflecting fashion à la Rome.

Pre-dinner drinks were served while the company awaited the presence of the guest of honour. Shortly, and looking very grand as befits an Emperor, Augustus Trajanus accompanied by Empress Plotina arrived together with a military escort.

A sumptuous dinner was then enjoyed, consisting of crab followed by a main course of pork with a selection of vegetables and pulses and finishing with a dessert of pears in a red wine and honey sauce. This typical Roman meal was served with bread, which could be dipped in olive oil, with of course, table wines.

After dinner most members relaxed with a visit to the gardens, but due to the inclement weather soon retired inside again. The evening ended at approximately 10.30 pm.

The following morning commenced with a visit to the Guildhall Museum, under the expert guidance of both Bryn Walters and Grahame Soffe. A discussion with Anthony Beeson, centred round a particular piece of stone carving, which was thought to be part of a Jupiter column. Members then proceeded to Chichester Museum where, of particular interest, was a life size bronze arm from a statue of a young male, and also a reproduction gladius. Following this, members observed, at the Assembly Rooms, an inscription tablet referring to Tiberius Claudius Cogidubnus (now Togidubnus). The party then moved onwards to the Cathedral to see the remains of a mosaic floor and finally to the earthen banks of the amphitheatre.

In the afternoon the group went to Butser Ancient Farm, where a reconstruction has been produced of the house/farm that was discovered at Sparsholt. This reconstruction has been subject to controversial criticism by academics. However, it certainly does give you a good representation of how it could have looked and functioned.

Sue Jones
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUND-UP

ROMAN BAKERY FOUND AT BROADSTAIRS

A team of archaeologists from the Trust for Thanet Archaeology have identified the remains of a Roman bakery whilst excavating Roman buildings in Stone Road, in the Foreland area of Broadstairs, Kent.

Clues for the building's use are suggested by three grinding querns of volcanic lava, probably imports from Germany, and a large millstone which would have been animal driven. There are also small clay-lined pits set into the floor which would have formed part of the process for preparing the grain for grinding.

Isle of Thanet Gazette – 21.05.2004

ROMAN WATER PIPES WORKING AFTER NEARLY TWO THOUSAND YEARS

Archaeologists working on the site of what is believed to be a military hospital at the fort of Vindolanda, near Hadrian's Wall, have discovered a 100 foot stretch of a Roman wooden water main that is still functioning after almost two thousand years. The main was laid beneath the floor of the building in the reign of the emperor Trajan and was working so efficiently that it persistently flooded the excavation trench.

The two-inch bore pipes were created by drilling out large alder trunks, which retain their bark, and then tapering the ends which were then secured to one another with oak blocks and without the use of iron or lead. They brought water from a nearby spring and are said to be free of leaks. It is thought that the main was part of a network of pipes that supplied other buildings and facilities within the fort.

Daily Mirror – 07.02.2004
Express – 07.02.2004
LINDSEY DAVIS AT RICHBOROUGH

Over the weekend of 24th and 25th July 2004, English Heritage staged one of their Roman Festival weekends at the Saxon shore fort of Richborough.

There were three re-enactment groups performing, The Troop who are a mounted group, ERA Arthur’s Allies, who put on combat displays, and Britannia who performed late period Roman drills and tactics.

As well as the military displays, there were living history demonstrations, including cooking, carpentry, leatherwork and surgery, all of the late Roman period. This was enjoyed by everyone, particularly the children, who thought it was great when the surgeon had to perform an operation on one of the wounded soldiers and proceeded to remove the poor fellows internal organs!

The author, Lindsey Davis was present, signing copies of her latest book, Scandal Takes a Holiday, which, as her fans will know, is about the adventures of Marcus Didius Falco, an informer, sometimes employed by Vespasian to investigate the more seedy crimes. I asked Lindsey if she was a member of the ARA, and she confessed that she was not, so I gave her a membership application form. We hope she will join our august ranks!

Also present at the Festival, was Sally Grainger, who co-wrote the book entitled The Classical Cookbook; Sally was demonstrating the art of Roman cooking, samples of which were enjoyed by many of those present.

The finale of the Festival was the appearance of King Arthur, accompanied by a dragon standard. These howling Draco standards were used by the Roman cavalry in the late period, and when the wind blows through them, they produce a howling noise. However, the one being demonstrated only produced a faint whistle, so not at all intimidating!

Sue Jones

The Dragon standard, supposed to produce a frightening howling sound – unlike this one, which just whimpered!

Photo: Sue Jones.

The surgeon operating on a wounded soldier: I don’t think they played to the crowd quite like this one appears to be doing!

Photo: Sue Jones.

FRIENDS OF THE JEWRY WALL MUSEUM

Leicester City Museums have now closed the Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester for all but one day per week. Direct action by concerned local people contacting English Heritage has obliged the Roman Baths site to remain open.

A Friends organisation has been formed to promote the museum and to campaign for improved opening hours.

Your support is needed.
For details, contact: Hon. Treasurer, Friends of Jewry Wall Museum, 48 Meadow Avenue, LOUGHBOROUGH, LE11 1JT.
MALTON MUSEUM

TWO GODDESSES UNVEILED AT MALTON MUSEUM

A small masterpiece of Roman wall painting went on show in Malton Museum on 16th July 2004. 1600 years ago it adorned the walls of a town house in the Roman town of Malton. The painting shows the head of a female figure, with a circular nimbus (halo), possibly indicating that she is a goddess. The painting has been carefully restored in the conservation laboratories at the University of Durham.

The new display was unveiled by Annie Mauger, Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Museums Libraries and Archives Council, before an invited audience at Malton museum on the evening of 16th July. It was available for museum visitors to see from 17th July, National Archaeology Day, and will become part of the permanent display at the Museum.

To celebrate the return of the Malton goddess after so long, local brewers Suddabys Ltd of 12 Wheelgate, Malton, launched their new ale, Malton Goddess. This light flavour-some golden ale is a particularly appropriate way of marking the goddess' return. Next to the house in which she was found were five Roman malt kilns, raising the possibility that the building was connected with the Roman brewing industry, perhaps Yorkshire's oldest brewery so far discovered. Guests at the launch party for the new museum exhibit were invited to sample the new ale.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The story behind the new display is an interesting one. The fragments of plaster were excavated over 50 years ago by a Durham University student, Derek Smith, in a rescue dig before firemen's houses were built just outside Malton's Roman fort. They were never fully studied at the time, and were kept in store in fragments. Meanwhile Derek Smith followed a career as an Anglican clergyman. On his retirement in 1993 he resumed his interest in the plaster and began reconstructing it. The results of his work were published in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal (vol. 72, 2000, 7-15). They showed that the plaster, found in the room containing Malton's famous Four Seasons mosaic, included at least two figures, one male and one female, and there were floral patterns and a pillar in the design.

Subsequent to the Reverend Smith's work, the head of the female figure - the Malton Goddess, was chosen as a student conservation project in the laboratories of the Department of Archaeology, University of Durham.

The face was restored and missing parts repainted by students Felicity Woolf and Kim Borrowman under project supervisor Clare Huckleby and course director, Dr. Chris Caple.

Announcing the new display, Frank Wiggle, Chairman of the Museum Trustees, said: "We are delighted to welcome this very beautiful young lady to Malton Museum. She will be an important addition to the already rich displays on Roman Malton and should delight visitors to the museum for years to come."

Said brewery director Neil Suddaby: "As Malton's local brewers we are amazed to find we are part of a 1600-year long brewing tradition in the town. This new ale was the least we could do to celebrate, and also to mark this marvellous find. We hope it helps to bring lots of visitors to Malton's gem of a museum."

Malton Museum
Malton Museum, Old Town Hall, Market Place, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 7LP.
Tel. 01653 695136.
The museum is open Easter until October 30th annually, Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm.
Admission: Adults £1.50.
Children and over 60s £1.00.
Family (2+2) £4.00.
Registered Charity No. 508224.

Malton Brewery
Suddaby's Ltd, the Malton Brewery, 12 Wheelgate, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 7HP.
Brewers of Malton Goddess ale.
Tel. 01653 697580 or www.suddabys.co.uk

PICTURE ROUND-UP. Members at the Annual Dinner at Fishbourne Palace earlier this year. Most chose to arrive in Roman costume - some authentic, some not so authentic, but all very colourful. I think it can be said that a great time was had by all.

PICTURE ROUND-UP. Members on the Hadrian's Wall Tour, 2004. Visit to Pottosk Burn (Milecastle 48); its walls were built in the broad gauge, whilst the main Roman Wall on each side was on the narrow gauge, joining the wing walls of the milecastle at about twelve feet from each corner.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUND-UP

MARCUS FAVONIUS FACILIS IS RE-UNITED WITH HIS GRAVESTONE

One of the finest gravestones from Roman Britain is that of the first century centurion of the Twentieth Legion, Marcus Favonius Facilis, who died at Colchester in the mid 40s AD. The finely sculpted stone shows Marcus in full armour and holding his centurial vine staff. The inscription below it reads “Marcus Favonius Facilis, son of Marcus of the Pellijan Tribe, centurion of the twentieth legion. Vericundus and Novius, his freed men set this up. Here he lies”. The stone was pushed over and subsequently lost during the Boudican destruction of the city in 60 AD, and only discovered again in Lexden in 1868. At the same time, and not far from the stone of Facilis, a lead casket containing cremated bones was discovered. As this was buried not more than three feet from the stone it was assumed to be the remains of Marcus but after recent studies at the Museum of London Specialist Services department it is now more or less confirmed. The remains were found to be from one man in his early 30s. He had lost at least one tooth in life and his spine showed the onset of arthritis. Green staining on the left shoulder blade suggested that the bone had been in contact with a copper alloy item at some time. It is quite likely that Marcus took part in the invasion and saw Claudius’ triumphal entry into the Celtic Camulodunum in 43 AD. It is satisfying to know that both casket and tombstone can now be re-united with something approaching certainty.

Essex County Standard – 25.06.2004

A BACCHIC CUP FROM ABERGAVENNY ON DISPLAY

The successful exhibition Buried Treasure – finding our past has moved from the British Museum to the National Museum and Gallery, Cardiff where it ran until 5th September.

It illustrates how important the public have become in finding antiquities and demonstrates how chance discoveries have revolutionised our understanding of the past. Although basically the same exhibition seen in London, it also included some of Wales’ most significant finds. One of the most exciting was a Roman bronze cup or tankard discovered near Abergavenny in 2002 with its handle in the shape of a leopard, a symbol of the wine god Bacchus. The leopard’s spots are made of inlaid silver and his eyes are of amber. The cup had been placed upside down in a burial pit in what is believed to have been a road-side cemetery.

Western Mail – 13.05.2004

PICTURE ROUND-UP: Two more members who attended the Annual Dinner at Fishbourne, Anthony Beeson and Patricia Witts, braving the inclement weather. No apologies – it really was a most enjoyable evening! Photo: © Graeme Soile.