Fifty members enjoyed a gruelling but spectacular tour of ancient Rome and its environs last September, and unwittingly walked past the excavations at the base of the Palatine, where the amazing imperial standards were discovered (see Bryn Walter’s article on page 16). Apart from innumerable sites in the city, carefully selected by Mike Stone, the tour also included a visit to Hadrian’s villa at Tivoli (where Bryn expounded the cultural virtues of Hadrian and the enigmatic Antinous) and a day visiting the city port of Ostia.

The photograph shows a short break in the afternoon heat in the theatre at Ostia Antica.
EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 19th issue of ARA NEWS – we are only a couple of weeks late on this issue, so are getting better!

Once again we have some very sad news, with a number of long-standing members passing on. A particular shock to me was the loss of Beth Bishop, our Assistant Editor, who has done sterling work on the grammar in past issues. The Obituaries are towards the back of the issue.

We have a very interesting article, from member Dr. Pat Witts, on The Lost Mosaics of Bramdean. The only record we now have appears to be two watercolour paintings by John Lickman, both in the care of The National Trust at Stourhead. Our itinerant traveller has begun a series of articles on Cyprus. The instalment in this issue sets the scene – future articles will feature specific sites. If any members have been to sites, have comments or photographs, and would like to contribute, please send them to the Editor and we will endeavour to incorporate them. A number of other well-travelled members have sent in contributions and pictures, which have been incorporated as appropriate.

The Roman Settlement at Crab Farm is an important site. We have a short ‘taster’ in this issue and a more comprehensive article will follow in the next Bulletin.

There are Booking Forms for the excursions and tours which have been placed in the centre of the issue for easy removal without defacing the rest of the issue. Of course, photocopy forms are acceptable, if members don’t want to remove any pages, but get your forms back soon, as these excursions are always very popular.

The Crossword Solution, for the puzzle in the last issue, is on page 21 and the outside back cover has an excellent Members’ Offer for a rather interesting game called Pots!

Advance notice for the AGM. It is to be in the usual venue at The British Museum and will be on Saturday, 3rd November, 2007. Put it in your diary now – Booking Forms will be sent out later.

It has just come to the notice of your Editor that John Smith, our Roman military re-enactment specialist, has been appointed the new Curator at Bignor Roman Villa. I am sure we all wish him every success in his new post.

There is something for everyone in this issue, but remember, it is YOUR magazine, so please continue to send in your very welcome contributions!

David Gollins,
Editor.
THE LOST MOSAICS OF BRAMDEAN

Part of the fascination of visiting a grand house lies in imagining its former inhabitants and speculating about what treasures may lurk forgotten in hidden corners. In the case of Stourhead, near Warminster in Wiltshire, most visitors are drawn by the outstanding eighteenth century landscape garden with its classical temples reflected in the placid lake. For those interested in archaeology, however, the house itself is paramount as it was formerly owned by Sir Richard Colt Hoare (1758-1838), a notable antiquarian with an interest in Roman mosaics.

Hoare's passion for antiquity followed a personal tragedy. His wife died in August 1785 after only two years of marriage. To distract himself from his grief he set off for Italy the following month on a journey that would last nearly two years. Another extended journey soon followed when he again spent time in Rome and Naples. He was an assiduous artist, recording what he saw in some 900 drawings.

When the French Revolution curtailed European travel, Hoare concentrated his attention at home, producing the Ancient History of North and South Wiltshire published in two volumes between 1812 and 1821. Part 2 of the second volume focused upon the Roman era and included a discussion of the mosaic pavements of Wiltshire. Following the discovery of the figured pavement at Pitney in Somerset, in 1828, Hoare published a slim, well-illustrated volume about it in 1832.

Today, Hoare's personal archive is held in the County Record Office in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, but when I first visited Stourhead and stood in his library, I wondered whether any items might still remain there. Correspondence with the National Trust, the current owners of the property, established that the library holds several illustrations of mosaics.

The outstanding items in this small collection are two original watercolours by John Lickman of the ‘Days of the Week’ and the ‘Hercules and Antaeus’ mosaics from Bramdean, near Winchester, Hampshire. Although undated, it is thought that Lickman painted them shortly after discovery as the areas of tessellation are shown in a more complete state than on other illustrations.

The collection also contains hand-coloured engravings, two by Lickman of the Bacchus mosaic from Thruxton, Hampshire, and two by William Fowler, respectively of the lost Micklelegate Bar mosaic from York and of an antique marble tabletop at Castle Howard, Yorkshire.

Lickman’s record of the Bramdean mosaics is all the more valuable because of the sorry fate that befell them. They came to light in 1823 when a courtyard villa thought to date from the late third- or early-fourth century AD was discovered near this small village. They had already begun to deteriorate when a cover building was erected over them within a year of discovery. Records in Winchester Museum suggest that they were lifted some time before 1853, but disintegrated and were eventually used as hard core for a road.

Until recently, the only record of these mosaics were the coloured engravings by an anonymous artist included by John Duthy in a rare book, Sketches of Hampshire, published in the mid-nineteenth century. Somewhat fanciful versions of both mosaics in the Picture Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, were probably derived from these engravings. The ‘Hercules and Antaeus’ mosaic was also recorded in an embroidery acquired by Winchester Museum in 1956.

These items give an impression of crude workmanship that, with the discovery of the Lickman watercolours, we now know is incorrect. Lickman’s skill and accuracy is reliable as can be judged by comparing his engravings of the Bacchus mosaic from Thruxton with the surviving fragments of that mosaic in the British Museum.

The ‘Days of the Week’ mosaic (Fig. 1) covered the floor of a room measuring 6.10 m. × 4.88 m in the centre of the north wing of the villa. It had a simple scheme of a central octagon containing the head of Medusa, surrounded by the planetary deities each in an individual compartment.

Clockwise from the top, they were: Sol, wearing a radiate crown, with a whip; Luna, wearing a crescent-shaped headdress, probably with a now lost torch; Mars, wearing a helmet, with a spear; Mercury, wearing a pair of wings, with his caduceus; Jupiter, bare-headed, with a thunderbolt shaped like a trident; and Venus, wearing a necklace, with
a mirror. Comparison with similar mosaics from other provinces suggests that the fragmentary figure next to Venus was Saturn. The identity of the missing eighth figure is speculative.

The second mosaic came from a room measuring 5.79 m. × 5.79 m. that lay near the north-western corner of the villa and protruded into the courtyard. It showed Hercules, with his club, bow, quiver and lion skin behind him, wrestling with Antaeus in a pose that came to be used in conventional athletic scenes (Fig. 2).

The identity of the seated female figure on the left of Hercules and Antaeus has been the subject of much scholarly debate. In the myth, his mentor Minerva encouraged Hercules and she is often represented urging him to defeat his adversary. Another female figure that often appears in the scene is Terra Mater or Tellus, the earth goddess and mother of Antaeus. As Antaeus could recover his strength by touching the earth, Hercules lifted him off the ground and was thus able to weaken and overcome him.

Before the discovery of the Lickman watercolours, it was difficult to deduce which female figure was intended on the mosaic. Ancient literary sources indicated that Tellus was more important to the story. This identity for the Bramdean figure was indicated by her seated pose: Minerva is invariably shown standing or rushing to aid Hercules whereas Tellus is usually depicted in a seated or reclining position. On the other hand, the figure shown on the engraving in Duthy’s book looked more like Minerva.

In Lickman’s careful portrayal, ears of corn – an attribute of Tellus – are discernible in the figure’s head-dress. Antaeus looks directly at her and she returns his gaze and reaches out to touch him: she is linked with Antaeus and not with Hercules, and must therefore be Tellus. The Lickman watercolours have settled an academic debate that has lasted for nearly two hundred years.

If one puzzle has been solved, another still remains, namely the identity of the four busts surrounding the central figured scene. They lack attributes by which they can be identified and there are only slight differences between them. Those at top left and bottom right are draped while those at top right and bottom left appear naked and have thicker necks. The hairstyles of all four figures are virtually identical but the hair on the draped busts is slightly longer near the nape of the neck. These differences suggest that the draped figures were female and the naked figures male, a suggestion reinforced by the way the pairs look at one another, linking them together as couples. Their identity remains elusive.

Among the minor details of the mosaic, the two half-octagons at the top and bottom held flat-bottomed canthari and these, together with the bowl-shaped canthari in two of the corners, may allude to the god Bacchus or may simply be filling motifs. They would be especially appropriate as convivial decoration if this room was used for dining.

As well as their value as illustrations of the figured scenes, the watercolours carefully set the mosaics into context. Lickman did not confine himself to the decorated areas but showed the mosaics in their entirety, including the broad red outer borders and, in the case of the Hercules and Antaeus room, the flues around the edge of the room for conveying warm air from the hypocaust.

We can immediately see how the decorated areas fitted into the rooms and can assess how those rooms may have functioned. The wider borders on three sides of the Hercules and Antaeus mosaic show that this room would have been suitable for the triclinium. A different use is indicated by the central placement of the figured panel with the ‘Days of the Week’. The line of pale coloured tesserae running across one end of this room may have served to differentiate the space occupied by the owner if this was the floor of an audience chamber.

Little is known of John Lickman himself. He was born in 1775 and was a schoolmaster at Hatherden School near Andover in Hampshire. His work as a mosaic illustrator received praise at the time, particularly for his drawings and engravings of the Bacchus mosaic from Thruxton, but he seems to have slipped into obscurity, as did the Bramdean villa itself.

The Bramdean mosaics are the only known examples of their subjects in this medium from Roman Britain and are also subjects that are not commonly found on mosaics from other provinces. The appearance of these two mosaics together in one villa suggests a high degree of classical education on the part of the villa owner.

Fortunately, thanks to a combination of a schoolmaster’s meticulous...
TALES FROM AN ITINERANT TRAVELLER –
ROMAN CYPRUS

Funny things natural disasters like volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis: in the short term they are absolutely horrific, as we all know; in the long term, for archaeology, they can produce numerous long-term benefits for intellectual study. You only have to look at Pompeii and Herculaneum in AD 79 for proof of this and there are obviously many more examples over history.

Take Cyprus – if you ignore the current political instability, one could say it is a near perfect island with much to offer – perfect climate, coastline and mountains. However, during the Roman times, the cities of Cyprus suffered repeatedly from earthquakes. A seismic epicentre about 32 km off the south coast, opposite Kourion and Petra tou Romiou (birthplace of Aphrodite) appears responsible for those earthquakes affecting, especially, the Paphos area. The largest of these seems to have been on July 21st AD 365 when a horrific earthquake caused untold damage to Roman life on the island, bringing down buildings on a large scale and killing the inhabitants of these towns with virtually no warning (Fig. 1).

Disaster though it was however, it helped to safeguard some amazing treasures and archaeology for posterity. Some very impressive Roman remains can be found at three sites in particular (Paphos, Kourion, Amathus), on the south coast – more than can be looked at in this short paper. I propose, therefore, to look at these major sites in some detail in future issues of the Newsletter. The paper on Amathus will be complemented by an item from Ken Holt, a member from Colne, in Lancashire, showing impressive photographs of Greek columns on the site, together with covering text. These, hollowed out, were re-used quite extensively as water pipes in Roman Amathus, which really does show that nothing at all was wasted in their town construction. Anthony Beeson will end the series with a paper on Salamis – currently the main Roman site in the northern sector.

This initial paper, however, is a simple overview, looking at the history of Cyprus in general, with a Roman emphasis in particular, thereby setting the scene for future issues.

Paphos Overview
During Hellenistic times Paphos must have experienced considerable commercial activity, as well as being a place for pilgrims to stop on their way to the Temple of Aphrodite at Kouklia some 14 km to the east. Strabo refers to Paphos as ‘the principal port of western Cyprus’ and this role was maintained into Byzantine times.

To the west of the harbour in Paphos, since 1980 we now have the World Heritage Site with its beautiful mosaics and remains of several large Roman villas, Agora, Odeon and other public buildings. Further south the twelfth century castle of ‘Saranta Kolones’ (forty columns) dominated the harbour from a low hill. This was a substantial construction, with a square keep surrounded by a curtain wall and rock cut ditch. The walls were strengthened by granite columns from destroyed Roman public buildings – hence its name. These are now lying about in profusion on the site like ‘matchsticks of the gods’ (Fig. 2.).

However, in 1222 this castle was destroyed by an earthquake and the Lusignans constructed a more modest structure on the western Roman harbour mole. Substantial rebuilding since then has produced the small castle we see today (Fig. 3.).

To the north west of Paphos is a large necropolis known as the ‘Tombs of the Kings’, dating back to the fourth century BC. At one time there were hundreds of tombs but even now the number remaining are most impressive. They are all carved out of solid rock, some being decorated with Doric columns (Fig. 4.).
Kourion Overview
This is one of the most spectacular archaeological sites on the island. The magnificent Graeco-Romano Theatre (see Fig. 5) dates back, originally, to the second century BC, and nearby, the House of Eustolios with its bathing complex containing impressive fifth century mosaics are only part of the full remains. Some 500 metres away there is the Roman Forum with a massive bathing complex and Nymphaeum. The Forum had a 16 column, 65 metre long colonnaded portico (Stoa) on the east. The nearby House of Achilles and the House of the Gladiators, with their important mosaics, are truly 'icing on the cake'. As if this was not enough, 1 km to the west there is a Stadium and 3 km to the west we have the Sanctuary of Apollo Ylatis – where the cult of Apollo was celebrated from the eighth century BC to the fourth century AD.

Amathus Overview
One of the ancient City Kingdoms of Cyprus situated 7 miles east of Limassol. Excavations here have revealed part of the Acropolis and Temple of Aphrodite, the Agora (market-place) (Fig. 6), as well as parts of the upper and lower city. A Roman harbour lies off the shore; its shape can be distinguished under the water on a good day. The lower remains include a Hellenistic bathing complex, the remains of a substantial portico and a fountain in the centre of the paved square. Although much of the site is 'off limits', it is still well worth visiting both the upper part of the site - atop the nearby hill to the East, as well as the lower complex. Water obviously played an important role in the civic life of this town, with the remains of its substantial Nymphaeum and reservoirs. It is this site where Ken Holt has noted the use of hollowed out Greek columns for water pipes, running in various directions, through the central complex of the city.

Salamis
Now in the Turkish sector.
The town was built around a natural harbour on a large bay in Eastern Cyprus at the mouth of the Pedaios River. Until recently, it was very difficult to visit the remains of this substantial city from the south, but I now understand that access is feasible by bus from Paphos, although time is limited on the site. Remains include a theatre, gymnasium, amphitheatre and stadium.

Potted history
The most ancient phase of life in Cyprus is the Neolithic – around 5800 BC – land was cultivated and animals tamed and family units developed. Choirokoitia Neolithic village (32 km from Larnaka) shows the development of a family environment at this early stage.

By 3900 BC we enter the Chalcolithic Period, where the first Bronze tools were found at Erimi: Human sculpture developed strongly in this period.

By 2500 BC – Early Bronze Age. Tools, weapons and other utensils were now made of copper and even
exported, making Cyprus a commercial centre. A visit to the Museum of Cyprus in Nicosia emphasises the advanced development on this island in comparison with Britain at the same period.

By 1600 BC – Late Bronze Age. We now see the effect of outside influences. Around 1050 BC the Phoenicians are noted, especially in Kiton (near Limassol), where the construction of a splendid temple of Astarte was built on the ruins of a great Mycenaean temple. Trade now develops with the Near East, Egypt and the Aegean, where Cyprus is known as Alasia.

325 – 50 BC – Hellenistic. The Cypriots welcome the appearance of the Greeks in the Eastern Mediterranean and actually helped Alexander the Great in his capture of Tyre. They provided him with 120 ships for this purpose and, as a result, he awarded them absolute autonomy.

The untimely death of Alexander caused political upheaval. Ptolemy, King of Egypt, became Master of Cyprus and ejected the Phoenicians, destroying Kition and the Mycenaean links in the process.

This is where ‘our’ story really starts!

Roman – 50 BC to mid-fourth century

58 BC Conflict with the Ptolemy weakened the state and Caesar’s follower, Claudius Pulcherius, assigned Cato to capture Cyprus. It became part of the province of Cilicia, but Roman occupation was, in effect, pure exploitation auctioning, as it did, the Royal Treasury and supplying Rome with slaves. Interest rates rose as high as 48% per annum and the entire administration was oppressive.

47 BC Caesar ceded Cyprus to the Ptolemy but after the battle of Actium, in 30 BC it again fell into the hands of the Romans.

15 BC Augustus rebuilt the Temple of Aphrodite at Old Paphos and restored many public buildings which had collapsed in another earthquake.

AD 45 Paul and Barnabas travelled from Salamis to Paphos and preached Christianity. Most successfully, the proconsul, Sergius Paulus was converted in Paphos in AD 46.

Marcellinus, who describes the quake with terrifying detail.

"Just after dawn there were frequent flashes of lightning and the rumbling of thunder. Then the firm and stable mass of the earth trembled and shook ... the sea withdrew ... the seafloor was exposed. Boats were left stranded".

"But then the sea returned with an angry vengeance ... dashing through every open space and levelling countless buildings ... the great mass of waters, returning when it was least expected, killed many thousands of men by drowning. Great ships were landed on top of buildings and some were driven almost two miles inland".

Indeed, this traumatic date is now defined as one of the turning points in the development of history. The disaster that destroyed Kourion and other sites in the vicinity marks the end of antiquity and the beginning of the middle ages. Pagan temples were not rebuilt – rather Christian Basilicas were built out of the rubble.

Moreover, following archaeological excavation at Kourion in the mid-1980s, these historical records could be backed up for the first time by physical proof of this traumatic event.

Holiday comments

I have spent many weeks over the past five years, generally in Paphos, and have travelled extensively in the south of the island and can definitely recommend it as a holiday location. A holiday in Cyprus with an emphasis on archaeology is, as I am sure many of you know, a marvellous experience. I would recommend Paphos as a base. Its World Heritage Site villas and mosaics near the harbour are a never to be forgotten treat and if you stay in the vicinity you can visit them several times during your stay. Believe me, in this large site there is enough to keep you occupied for several visits. Take plenty of bottled water when you go in, and just within the main entrance is the only toilet on the site. You can go outside on your day ticket for a meal, but wandering around the site can take you a long way from the entrance and its facilities.

Hotels are a very personal thing but I have never had any problems with
the company ‘Mercury’ where their winter offers of ‘three weeks for the price of two’, sometimes with no single supplement, have for me always been comfortable and good value. I obviously take no responsibility for this comment, especially as hotels seem to change hands with remarkable regularity these days.

You would find a car very useful. Bus tours are relatively expensive and generally inadequate for the purposes of visiting Roman sites with any thoroughness. Car hire, however, is no problem and relatively cheap. There are many car hire companies in Paphos. They drive on the left, as in the UK and you know the ‘locals’ as they have black number plates, and they know the tourists as they have red number plates. I am never sure who really benefits from this colour coding! Still, once out on the road it is quite straightforward. The motorway from Paphos towards Larnaka is quite an experience. There is usually so little traffic away from the towns that it must be like the Preston by-pass – the first stretch of English motorway – used to be in the early 1960s.

Despite an overriding interest in Roman Archaeology, you cannot remain wedded to the Romans all the time in Cyprus. There is such a marvellous mix of archaeology and legend here. In addition to the main Roman sites, to list just a few, you have Kouklia (some 14 km from Paphos) with the remains of its large Temple to Aphrodite – the oldest remains going back to the twelfth century BC – together with Roman remains close by, the Petra tou Romiou, where Aphrodite came out of the ocean, the hill above Amathus where Greek and Roman remains were overlaid with Christian elements, and the supposed tomb of Ariadne.

The museums are quite localised, apart from the Museum of Nicosia (Fig. 8), which is obviously the flagship. A visit is well recommended.

Situated in the southern sector of Nicosia, this well laid out museum provides a vital insight into all the archaeology on the island with, more recently, a greater emphasis on the southern sector.

Other museums well worth visiting include those at Paphos, Limassol, Larnaka and Kourion. This latter is small, and in a private house, but very relevant to the site a few miles away.

In conclusion
The next issue of the Newsletter will include a more detailed article on Paphos, with its villas and mosaics, together with details of other Roman remains in the ‘immediate area’. In this way, over several issues, we should be able to cover all the main Roman sites in Cyprus. However, I would make the comment, on behalf of the editor, that if any members wish to add an article on Roman Cyprus they should get in touch with David Gollins, so we keep things in sequence.

With the editor’s approval, any member’s article can be inserted to highlight more detail; I certainly don’t claim to be an archaeologist in these matters. I do feel, however, that the more thoroughly we can ‘overview’ these sites in the Newsletter the more helpful it is to members who may visit in the future. It is very easy to lose two days of a one-week holiday working out the archaeological situation and local logistics and it is always helpful to have some other member’s comment with you to make your visits more interesting and efficient.

Don Flear.

continued from page 4 . . .

paintings, the patronage of Colt Hoare in acquiring them, and the care of the National Trust in preserving them at Stourhead, the lost mosaics of Bramdean can once again be appreciated and enjoyed.

Patricia Witts


A more detailed version of this article appears in La Mosaique Gréco-Romaine IX, ed. Hélène Morlier (L’Ecole Française de Rome 2005).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
I am grateful to the National Trust for allowing me access to the Hoare collection and for permission to publish the Lickman watercolours. Winchester Museums Service kindly provided information from its archive.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY


ONE OF THE COLCHESTER CIRCUS’ METAE IS FOUND
One of the most iconic pieces of Roman circus architecture, a meta or turning post, has been found in a dig in Circular Road North. The central ornamental spina of a circus was finished off at either end with three tall tapering posts around which the chariots turned at the halfway stage of each lap. These posts could often be highly decorated with applied bronze reliefs. The Colchester spina has been ruthlessly robbed out for stone over the centuries and only the ghost of its shape remains in the area uncovered, so the collapsed remains of one of the five metre high metae is a wonderful chance survival. The post faced the starting gates at the west end of the circus and what remains of it will be retrieved for eventual display.

(Colchester) Evening Gazette, 30.01.2007
THE ROMAN SETTLEMENT AT CRAB FARM
NEAR BADBURY RINGS, DORSET

Members who where on the Roman Dorset Tour in September 2003, may recall the lunch stop we made below the Iron Age multi-vallate hillfort of Badbury Rings. We had a brief discussion about the settlement which lay in the area nearby on Crab Farm at Shapwick, about a mile to the south-west and which had been discovered in 1990 when Roman building material and probable tessellated flooring was identified in the plough soil. This work followed the discovery, by aerial reconnaissance, of a possible Roman fort at the site. It was in the year following our tour, 2004, that more extensive work took place on this intriguing site. I have recently been discussing the site with the project Director, Martin Papworth, and this has stimulated me to provide a brief outline of the discovery for the Newsletter.

Following the fieldwork in the early 1990s, geophysical surveys and trial trenching subsequently took place to estimate the damage caused by ploughing. Trial trenches revealed evidence that the Roman settlement had its origin in the Iron Age and that the latest period of construction for the Badbury to Dorchester Roman road overlay backfilled ditches of a possible two-and-a-half hectare Roman fortification. A fluxgate gradiometer survey over an area of 750 m x 500 m revealed a settlement which covered at least 25 hectares; occupied from the middle of the Iron Age to the end of the Roman period. The survey also showed that the street system of the settlement ignored the alignment of the main Roman road. A report by Martin Papworth of the National Trust, in Britannia 1997, detailed the findings of this work with a suggestion that the settlement might be the Vindocladia of the Antonine Itinerary.

The more recent excavations in 2004, along the Roman road towards Shapwick, cut a trench where the gradiometer indicated the main road crossed one of the settlement boundary enclosure ditches. Roman features were found to survive at approximately 0.30 m below the plough soil. The property boundary had been recut at least once and contained first to second century pottery sherds. Above the ditch a black soil horizon contained fragments of Dorset Black Burnished Ware and Samian pottery indicating later occupation overlying the ditch.

A pit-like feature, 1.5 m in diameter, at the end of the trench was excavated to a depth of 4 m and probing at the bottom indicated that it continued for at least a further metre in depth. Having vertical sides it was interpreted as a well, the fill, containing many fragments of pottery, including New Forest and Oxford wares, also included coins of mid-fourth century date. The well was located on the line of the Roman road and analysis of the stratification and pottery from the surrounding area indicated that the earlier fortification ditches were finally backfilled as late as the fourth century, their depressions probably being utilized as a midden.

Alignments of linear features, of at least three phases, formed an enclosure in the south-east corner of the main fortification. This enclosure contained building anomalies and structural debris on the surface, covering an area 50 metres square, indicating a building of some pretension. It is also tentatively suggested that a mansio, an official lodging and staging post for government officers and couriers, should exist nearby. As the site lies almost midway between the towns of Sordiodunum (Salisbury) to the north-east and Durnovaria (Dorchester) to the south-west, and Vindocladia is mentioned in the Antonine Itinerary, a mansio should be sited somewhere within the main fortification.

The origin of the Crab Farm settlement was found to predate the Roman road and the fortification and it is thought that the stimulus for the growth of the settlement pre-dated the Roman conquest. Lying so close to the Badbury Hillfort this is very likely.

The excavations have confirmed that the early Roman road to Dorchester branched west from the fortress site at Lake Farm 5 km south-east of Badbury and was only re-aligned from Badbury across the already established Crab Farm settlement some time after the later second century. This newly defined road probably upgraded an already established route originating from the late prehistoric period, which had linked the Badbury Hillfort with the Iron Age settlement at Crab Farm.

This article, prepared by Bryn Walters, is a much condensed adaptation from more extensive reports by Martin Papworth of the National Trust to whom we are very grateful for the information.

Bryn Walters

STOP PRESS

A more detailed and illustrated report by Martin Papworth will appear in the next issue of ARA Bulletin.

![Location of the Shapwick Roman settlement in relationship to Badbury Rings Hillfort](image-url)
TIM DODD’S BRIGANTIA WEEKEND DIARY

Up at 5.00 am to start my journey to York (which is a long way from Eastbourne) and it’s the ARA Annual Dinner and Summer tour weekend. I have not been to York before so this was to be something special. Arrived early just before mid-day and was not due to meet-up with other members coming in by train until around 4.00 in the afternoon. So first stop was to find a Guinness bar for mid-day refreshments; ouch! what a price, much cheaper back home.

Met up with everyone in the station hall later, most of whom wondered what shocking Hawaiian shirts I might have this year. We bundled into the pick-up buses and headed out into the country to Queen Ethelburga’s College for dinner and first evening lecture. After such a tiring day I’m ashamed to say I nodded off during the lecture.

Saturday morning and after breakfast, off on the first tour – fabulous. Binchester Fort first stop (Fig. 1.), with its amazingly well preserved baths, the most complete I have ever seen so far, so took rather a lot of photographs before moving on to Piercebridge (Figs. 3 and 4.), to see part of the fort and the massive tumbled blocks of the Roman bridge; quite amazing. Not as much Roman structure to see at Aldborough as I thought, a couple of mosaics and a nice little museum but did find one Roman building badly overgrown with ivy and brambles which was breaking down the wall; thought this was a great shame as it was not being looked after properly. Enjoyed an excellent Annual Dinner in the evening.

Sunday, and a long drive in coaches to Hull, but definitely well worth it. Excellent museum with several mosaics and a lot of well displayed material, definitely a museum not to be missed; it certainly took my breath away. Finally into Roman York for the afternoon. Visited the Constantine Exhibition with its wonderful display of finds from all over the Roman Empire including lots of wonderful glass vessels. Then a walk with our Director through the streets along the line of the riverfront wall of the Roman fortress, before going down into the Minster Undercroft to visit part of the Fortress Headquarters Building. An excellent day.

Monday morning and Malton Museum, a really first class collection for such a small museum, a lot of very interesting finds very well displayed; drove past the site of the fort earthworks as we journeyed on to Beadlam villa – excellent remains in a beautiful site. What made it even more interesting for everyone was that due to the long spell of hot weather, the land surface had dried and shrunk, exposing parts of other buried Roman buildings including the main villa house baths.

It had been a fabulous weekend tour but come the afternoon it was time to head back home. Having time to wait for our train, a few of us headed for the ‘Roman Bath Pub’ for a few pints of Guinness and a look at the remains inside the building. Ah well! Time ticks on, as the train is about due and Eastbourne beckons.

Tim Dodd.
AN OVERVIEW OF ROMAN ESSEX

The Annual Dinner Weekend this year is being held in Colchester, so the Director thought it would be appropriate to include some information on discoveries from the Essex area sent in to the Editor by Shirley Evans from Saffron Walden. The evidence provided by these discoveries clearly shows the extent and sophistication achieved in Roman Essex; which some may think contrasts considerably with the current secular and Philistine image of Essex Man or Essex Woman, as projected by the media.

Shirley specifically points out that there are many sites surrounding her home in the Saffron Walden area, Great Chesterford in particular, where recent geophysical prospecting, carried out by the archaeological field unit of Essex County Council, has revealed the extent and plan of this walled Roman town. Within Essex, this is second in size to Colchester itself. Based on the geophysical results, one of the country’s leading archaeological artists, Peter Frost, has produced a graphic painting of how the town may have appeared during the fourth century (Fig. 1). Peter was quoted as saying:

“It has been a long process and I am glad that I have finally finished it after two years of research. Hopefully, it will allow future generations to see how the area once looked and I am sure that one day someone will be able to add to my picture when more excavations are carried out”.

Maria Medlycott, research archaeologist for Essex County Council, has spent two years collating the scattered information from almost two centuries of sporadic activity on the site, to build up a picture of life at Roman Great Chesterford. Its walls were torn down for stone in the seventeenth century and the whole site has been invisible beneath the fields ever since. Finds from the area are displayed in Saffron Walden Museum as well as the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the latter including a significant hoard of iron artefacts discarded down a well, and a silver face mask of a horned god from a temple outside Great Chesterford.

Essex is covered with Roman sites, which should not be surprising, considering the significance of the area surrounding Colchester (Camulodunum), being immediately north of Londinium, and its proximity from the mainland of the Western Empire, just across the channel. A few examples include the substantial mansio and baths at Chelmsford, the enigmatic courtyard building at Chignall St. James, the temple at Harlow, the Gaulish-style villa at Rivenhall and the extensive settlement at Heybridge. More recently local enthusiasts have been recovering and collating material
**IMPERIAL EMBLEMS FOUND IN ROME**

The only imperial sceptre to have been held by a Roman emperor has been found at the foot of the Palatine Hill in Rome and has now been put on public display in the National Museum of Rome. The sceptre, which is topped by a blue orb, representing the earth, was discovered at the end of 2006 and is believed to have been held by the Emperor Maxentius, who built the great basilica in the Forum Romanum and ruled from AD 306 to 312.

Maxentius was defeated by his brother-in-law Constantine, in the famous battle of the Milvian Bridge, where Constantine claimed to have had a vision of the Christian Chi-Rho in the heavens prior to the battle and commanded his troops to paint the symbol on their shields. It is currently believed that the sceptre was hidden by loyal supporters of Maxentius in Rome on hearing of his defeat, and to prevent it falling into the hands of Constantine. It had been wrapped in silk and linen cloths and placed in a wooden box. Alongside it were other wooden containers concealing two imperial battle standards and ceremonial lance heads.

Roman emperors are often depicted on coins, paintings and sculptures holding a sceptre, but no example of the real thing has ever been found until last year. Clementia Panella, the archaeologist who made the find, said the grip of the sceptre was made of Orichalcum, the gold-coloured brass alloy which legend relates that parts of the lost city of Atlantis had been forged from. “These objects clearly belonged to Maxentius, the sceptre is very elaborate”, she said. The depth and stratified position of the deposit indicates that its burial occurred at the time of Maxentius. Such sceptres, which would be ivory rods between two and three feet in length topped by a golden eagle or globe, would have been carried by an emperor in his chariot during celebrations following a military victory. By concealing these highly symbolic pieces, the defeated emperor’s followers were denying the victorious Constantine the pleasure of flaunting his predecessor’s trophies in public.

Bryn Walters.

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Active Essex.
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**evidence around the villages of Great and Little Stamford where yet another Roman villa is now suspected. Shirley reports that there are thriving societies in a dozen villages and historical recorders in more than thirty others. Interest in Roman ‘Essex Man’ (and Woman), is alive and thriving.

Bryn Walters.**

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**Fig. 3. Roman Essex: After Drury and Rodwell 1980, in The Archaeology of Essex, 1993.**
SPECTACULAR ROMAN SITES
AROUND LAKE GARDA, ITALY

Geoff and Glenis Long recently holidayed on Lake Garda in Italy and have sent in some notes on the Roman sites in the area. They tracked down the sumptuous patrician villa at Desenzano on the lakeside, which is hidden away down the narrow side streets of the town but the accompanying plan will assist other members on holiday at Garda to find the site. The villa is enclosed in a large cover building near the edge of the lake. Be warned, however, that if you are touring by car, none are allowed in the town centre.

The villa at Desenzano developed over the centuries from an initial complex dating to the first century AD. The later spectacular building incorporated elaborate architectural designs and many mosaics. The complete villa has not been exposed; much more lies under the present town. Being sited on the slopes above Lake Garda indicates that the villa was intended as a pleasure mansion as well as being subsidised by agricultural activity, and undoubtedly belonged to a very wealthy patrician family.

On the opposite side of the lake is the huge villa complex at Sirmione which also has a very good museum. Regular ferries cross the lake, linking the small lakeside towns and villages, so reaching the archaeological sites is not difficult. At Brescia, just below the castle, there can be seen many mosaic floors still in-situ belonging to the Roman town on the site. There is also a superb museum with lots of antiquities from the town and a very good café if you need to take a break whilst exploring the other extensive Roman remains in the town, which includes a theatre and a large temple built by Vespasian. Parking here is free and the museum goes under the name of Casa Julietta and is well signposted.

Geoff and Glenis Long.

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Fig. 1. Location plan for Desenzano Roman villa. Drawing: © Bryn Walters.

Fig. 2. Plan of Desenzano Roman villa. Photo: © Geoff Long.

Fig. 3. Mosaics at Desenzano Roman villa. Photo: © Geoff Long.

Fig. 4. Mosaics at Desenzano Roman villa. Photo: © Geoff Long.
MEMBERS’ VISIT TO NORTHERN FRANCE

Members Geoff and Glenis Long visited two major Gallo-Roman sites when touring in Normandy last year, and recommend that any members visiting the area will not be disappointed by the displays. The first site is Vieux-la-Romaine where extensive remains are preserved in landscaped grounds and there is a fine modern site museum. Vieux-la-Romaine lies just south-west of Caen and entry charge to the complex is 4 Euros.

The second site is Gisacum, which lies east of Caen along the A13 Highway to Rouen and Paris. Before Rouen, leave the A13 to join Highway N13 through Évreux, straight on through the Rouen overpass towards Paris. At the next roundabout turn off to Le Viel-Evreux. The site, Gisacum Archaeological Park is on the south-west corner of the town. In some respects Gisacum is similar to our Aqua Sulis (Bath), in as much that it consists of an extensive religious complex surrounded by its own urban development. Gisacum was the religious centre for the Gaulish tribe, Aulerici Eburovices and covers some 250 hectares. The modern interpretation centre contains displays on the religious role of the site along with its public buildings, monuments, aqueduct, baths, theatre and forum. The site is open from 1st March to the middle of November daily from 10 am to 6 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm on Saturdays. Admission free.

Geoff and Glenis Long.

RARE FIND IN LEICESTER

Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of an ancient wall which could help re-write the history of Roman Leicester.

Experts working on the site of the £350 million Shires shopping centre extension have found a rare third-century Roman exterior wall. It is the first of its kind discovered in Leicester and one of only a handful so far found in the UK. They believe it could have once been part of a macellum – a large market building.

Archaeologist Richard Buckley said: “In Leicester, like other Roman towns, it’s incredibly rare to find out what buildings actually looked like. We find lots of foundations, but no walls. This is the first time we’ve seen a Roman superstructure in the city aside from the Jewry Wall, which is still standing.

“We think this is a market building. There was a forum closer to the centre of town, but Leicester would have been the centre for a large farming territory and needed more than one market.”

The wall, which stood more than 24 feet high and was more than 35 feet long, collapsed on to an old Roman road in the fifth century.

Mr. Buckley, co-director of the University of Leicester Archaeological Services, which is excavating the site at the corner of Freeschool Lane and Highcross Street, said the wall would be excavated over the next few days. Archaeologists hoped to see how the exterior face was decorated.

Colleague Patrick Clay, co-director of the archaeology service said: “The discovery is fantastic. We can examine it and see how they built it. Taken with the number of recent discoveries in Leicester about trading conditions and the lives of the people, we’re re-writing the history of Roman life.”

The Shires development marks the first time a large area of Leicester has been analysed at once. Recent finds have included a medieval burial ground containing more than 1,100 skeletons.

Earlier in the dig, experts found the ruins of medieval homes backing on to Freeschool Lane above tenth-century rubble.

Analysis will be carried out on some 400 child skeletons found in a medieval burial ground near St. Peter’s Lane. Experts said they hoped the analysis could throw light on the lives and deaths of medieval children.

It could also give an idea of the number of victims of the Black Death as it swept through fourteenth-century Leicester.

This item reproduced from an article by Tom Bennett in the Leicester Mercury of 08.08.2006 and contributed by ARA member Stuart Bailey.

A ROMAN CHEESE PRESS DISCOVERED AT STILTON

By remarkable coincidence a rare Roman cheese press has been discovered near the famous cheesemaking village of Stilton in Cambridgeshire. The ceramic press was discovered by a local potter and keen field walker, Richard Landy, washed out from the side of a two metre ditch. This same ditch has yielded many finds of Roman pottery in the past. The press, which is ornamented internally with concentric circles has been dated to the third century and would have been used to make cheese from goats or sheep milk.

NEW ROMAN SETTLEMENT DISCOVERED AT SILBURTY HILL

A new Roman settlement described by English Heritage as being equivalent in area to 24 football pitches has been discovered clustering around the foot of Silbury Hill, in Wiltshire, by geophysicists through the use of caesium magnetometers.

The 34 metre (112 foot) high pre-historic mound would have been 3,000 years old at the time of the Roman invasion and was no doubt a visited curiosity or religious site even in those days. The settlement lies where the main road crossed the Winterbourne river and may have been a staging post on the way to Bath, or indeed a pilgrimage centre. It was laid out in a typical Roman ladder system with the buildings and minor roads placed at right angles to the main thoroughfare. The existence of a Roman presence by the hill had been suspected for some time but it came as a complete surprise to find such a large settlement. A small village 300 metres to the west of Silbury on Waden Hill was already known. Silbury Hill lies close to the Swallowhead Springs and the Winterbourne river and may well have been connected with the worship of water deities in the Roman mind.

LEICESTER VINE STREET EXCAVATIONS

An interesting up-date, especially for members who attended the day tour to Leicester on 21st May.

The Excavation Director, Richard Buckley, has communicated that since our visit, two very interesting finds have been made. One find was what might be a possible lead curse tablet, fortunately unfolded, which is commonplace with these pieces. Much of the inscription is clearly visible. The tablet is being translated by Dr. Roger Tomlin at Oxford. Also located is a possible rarely infant foundation burial in a wooden casket; the remains had been clad in embossed pewter foil which is reasonably well preserved.

Following our visit to the excavations, the ARA made a donation of £500 towards the project.

LANCASTER BATH HOUSE

Ron and Joan Prattley paid a brief visit to Lancaster last year and sent in this picture of part of a bath suite, excavated in 1973-74. It is attached to a courtyard house outside the Roman fort. Lancaster is a bit of a mystery as we have no Roman name for the site.

The fort itself was founded under Agricola’s governorship with further extensions in the early second century. There is a collection of artefacts in the Lancaster museum mostly from different sites in the surrounding area.

STATUE OF PRIAPUS

A splendidly endowed stone statue of the god Priapus has been uncovered at Vindolanda. Priapus was the son of a union between Venus and Mercury, although others give his father as Bacchus. He was a minor deity, a bringer of abundance, protector of gardens, livestock and male genitalia. His image was used as a guard against burglars whom he threatened with rape if they dared to abuse those whom he protected. His remarkably sized genitalia are shown in an erect state. The Vindolanda Priapus holds a purse in one hand and this equates with the famous mural painting of the god from the vestibule of the House of the Vettii in Pompeii where he weighs his phallos against a purse. Large penises in antiquity were considered beast-like and are generally the preserve of satyrs and half human creatures. Statues of heroes are generally meagrely endowed, by modern standards. The new sculpture joins a series of good luck phallices from Roman Britain and an inscription from Birrens to ‘The Phallus of Priapus’.

Gazette and Herald (Wiltshire) 15.03.2007
Guardian. 10.03.2007

ROMAN DOG FOUND AT NEWCHURCH

A delightful Roman copper alloy figure of a long-nosed hound has been found by metal detectorist and illustrator, Alan Rowe, at Newchurch on the Isle of Wight. The short-legged hunting dog is portrayed sitting up on its haunches with its ears alertly raised and its head turned to its right. There is a collar around its neck and the hairs of the body are clearly marked. The animal is sitting on a rectangular base that may represent a cushion. In all it is barely two inches (50mm) in height and is believed to date from the fourth century. Mr. Rowe found the dog in earth dis-

The remains of the excavated Lancaster bath suite.

Photo: © Ron and Joan Prattley.
Elizabeth Anne Tindell Bishop
4th March 1943 – 17th January 2007

The Association has lost one of its original founding Trustees and until her death on the 17th January, she was still acting as one of our publication editors. The death of Beth Bishop is an enormous loss to the management team of the Association. Always known to her family, friends and colleagues as Beth, she was the eldest of four children and spent her early years in Shropshire, not far from Shrewsbury, in the family home designed and built by her father. It was in this tranquil countryside that she developed the passionate interests which she would pursue single-mindedly for the rest of her life. Prominent among these was her love of wildlife. She adored wild animals and would go to great lengths to protect them and create what she saw as a creature’s rightful habitat – even as far as putting nuts down for mice nesting behind her bookshelves. Her father’s garden in Shropshire had been traditionally formal, but I recall only too well on my visits to her home in the lovely Cotswold village of Ampney Crucis in Gloucestershire, how Beth kept her garden as wild and as natural as possible to encourage anything and everything which might care to share its home with her.

During her teens Beth developed a special interest in photography and archaeology which would in time lead her to The Association for Roman Archaeology. She was hardly ever without a camera and her archaeology was stimulated by living so close to Roman Wroxeter. She had an amazing memory, being able to recall events and names easily. Many members who knew Beth would not have been aware that she was also a qualified silversmith and jewellery designer, being granted her own assay mark for her products. Beth eventually entered Birmingham University where she gained her Honours in English Literature, later joining the Welsh Office as a Civil Servant in the Land Registry. In the early 1970s, shortly after the death of her father, Beth was to meet her future husband, George Leighton Bishop, a well known Cotswold archaeologist, during a Birmingham University Archaeological training excavation, directed by our late President, Dr. Graham Webster. It was also through these excavations that Beth would form a life-long friendship with Graham. In April 1975 Beth and Leighton were married and set up home at Ampney Crucis, near Cirencester, which they shared until Leighton’s death in 1989. Her skills in editing were to prove invaluable to her husband as she devoted considerable energy in assisting him with the mammoth task of transcribing the parish records of Chipping Camden. In more recent years she was very busy correcting and editing the huge volume of text for the report on the excavations of the Roman villa at Frocester Court, in Gloucestershire, undertaken over thirty years by her friend Eddie Price. This project was one of the most significant Roman villa excavations ever undertaken in Britain.

It was during these later years that Beth became one of the Friends of the Roman Research Trust, and as one of its stalwart members, in the difficult time of transition from the Roman Research Trust, Beth willingly came aboard as a founding trustee to launch The Association for Roman Archaeology, eventually becoming Secretary and later Assistant Editor.

She participated on the excavations at Littlecote Park in its closing years, remaining a colleague of ours until her death. It was also at Littlecote that she would meet her furry companion ‘Siddeley’, a big black cat owned by the family of Peter de Savary when he owned Littlecote. When the estate was sold off, ‘Siddeley’ remained at Littlecote House with the butler, Mr. James Drummond, but the new owners forbad animals in the house, so James asked if ‘Siddeley’ could move in with Beth at Ampney Crucis.

It was my personal whim, that whenever I greeted Beth, it would be “Ah, morning Bishop” in deference to an unofficial ecclesiastical position as ‘The Bishop of Ampney Crucis’, an unwritten character in an unwritten novel, by the likes of Thomas Hardy, all of which was taken in the humour intended. Beth was to become a regular member of the various Roman excavations I directed in Wiltshire. After the close of the Littlecote project, the most notable excavation was on the sprawling complex of villas at Draycot Foliat, and latterly the probable Roman water sanctuary on Groundwell Ridge, where Beth was one of the two team members who extracted the complete, but crushed, fourth-century silver bowl, which was instrumental in saving this enigmatic site for posterity.

I remember the day well, as in the pouring rain, she lifted the muddy crumpled metal from the earth at the edge of the exploratory trench. Had we dug a few inches to one side it would not have been found. I also remember that I let out a vulgar expletive at the time, as I foresaw having to attend a coroner’s inquest to determine treasure trove. Handing the small pile of Roman treasure back to Beth I said, “You found it; you take it home and clean it up”! which she gladly did.

At the time I was unaware that Beth was an experienced silversmith. I could not have handed it over to anyone better. This showed a side of
Beth which many never knew. She was a very private person, despite her many friends, and she was not one to boast or to flaunt her talents, literally keeping her light under her bushel to the very end.

Bryn Walters

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE IN LAST EDITION

Solutions to Clues
Across:
12. Widens 13. Street
16. Thorny oyster 19. Indower

Down:
1. Rosa 2. Staired

9. Get into shape 12. Watling
14. Even out 15. Hoards
17. Ondit 18. Mare

References:
Stane gate, Stane Street, Watling Street and Ermine Street are all Roman roads in Britain. The answer to the heading is therefore 'Rome', proverbially.

7 D refers to The Lady is a Tramp. 
Mare Nostrum was what the Romans called the Mediterranean Sea (Our Sea).

Indow is the old form of endow.
Alph was the river that ran down to the sunless sea below Xanadu, Kubla Khan’s palace.