An artist's impression of the porticus and shrine of the temple complex at Gosbecks, Colchester
Illustrator: Peter Frieze
 Courtesy of Colchester Borough Council
Your Editor writes...

I was very sorry to have missed the successful launch, dinner and lecture at Newport in April as I had been looking forward to discussing ARA, our new Bulletin with those attending that event. Nevertheless, allow me to welcome you to the bumper first issue. It is slightly later than I would have liked, but we have compensated by including some excellent articles and letters, together with a Gazetteer of Venues - both free and discounted - which we hope you will support fully. Our launch issue is also partially in full colour as we had some excellent pictures which we were loath to reproduce in black and white. However, we shall generally publish in two colours with possibly the occasional colour 'splurge' for special articles.

The Editorial Committee hope you find this issue of interest and we would welcome any comments you might have. Don't forget - it is the Members' publication and we would like to hear from you!

Your Chairman writes...

After the Friend's Committee's two years of strenuous activity we now have a revitalized organization and I feel honoured to be contributing to it. It has also been an inspiration to witness the loyal support from so many former Friends, as well as the magnificent response from sites and museums all over the country in joining our list of venues. It is now up to all of us to show our appreciation and help these venues in the years ahead. Our new Constitution has been finalised and it is now going through its final stages of registration as a charitable company limited by guarantee. Much of its content, as well as our future role in advancing interest and knowledge of Roman Britain will, I am sure, form the background of discussion at our Oxford ABM this September. The cost of this meeting is much lower than in past years and I hope this will encourage as many members as possible to join us for what should be a stimulating occasion.

Your Director writes...

Members will notice that there is a predominance of news and features on Colchester in this issue and it is planned that in forthcoming editions we will spotlight a specific venue as a promotional feature. We have also introduced a 'Letters' section and the Committee will be pleased to select contributions forwarded from the membership which might include news of Roman discoveries in their home areas. These can be gleaned from local press cuttings, but please include name and date of publication or its source. There are also some promotional offers with this issue; a video on Hadrian's Wall (also reviewed by me in this issue), and a special discount on the CBA publication of the 1991 conference papers Architecture in Roman Britain. Many members attended this very successful archaeological gathering in the Museum of London and will value this record of the event which is very well produced and lavishly illustrated.

Your Treasurer writes...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for the support which they have given to the fledgling ARA. I have tried to write to all those who have given us donations to express both my own and your Committee's appreciation but I believe some may have slipped through my net, for which I apologise. To you all, on behalf of your Committee, many thanks. These donations have been most timely and have meant that we have been able to produce and pay for a provisional enrolment and promotional leaflet, the initial response from which is most encouraging and reflects the Director's dramatic increase in the number of venues from 20 to 42. A full colour leaflet is being planned for the future which should improve the response even further. Nonetheless we have got off to a resounding start, thanks largely to your support.

It came as a complete surprise at the Newport Dinner when our Chairman announced that I had been elected as the first Honorary Life Member of the Association. I would like to express my thanks for this honour which really does mean so much to me. Above all, I have come to know many of you as good friends through our organization, which is thanks in itself.
NEWS FROM BATH

Conversion of the Empire hotel has involved the creation of an underground car park which has enabled the Bath Archaeological Trust to undertake extensive examination of archaeological remains. These incorporated a substantial section across the town defences. The fragmented remains of three phases of the perimeter wall were identified, one probably Roman. An added bonus was gained through the cutting of a new lift shaft for the hotel which led to the discovery of a massive ditch with near-vertical sides which turned out to be part of the Roman defences, long sought for but never proven.

The East Baths Scheme, designed to improve the presentation and display, has led to several pieces of archaeological work. Limited excavation was undertaken between the Baths and the Abbey. This revealed substantial deposits ranging from Saxon burials to substantial Roman buildings.

In the Roman Baths Museum the wooden model of the Temple and Baths complex has been an important exhibit for many years, helping visitors to understand this impressive complex of ritual buildings. To up-date the presentation, an animated computer reconstruction on video monitors has been installed, taking visitors on a two minute fly-past and walk through of the site as it stood in the Roman period. The video is viewed directly over the model to assist in the interpretation.

(Members will now be able to enjoy this new exhibit free of charge between October and March).


AN UPDATE ON DORCHESTER

David Ashford has sent in news regarding plans for extending the presentation and accessibility of Dorchester's Roman heritage.

Dorchester town council has vowed that the Roman Baths which at present lie beneath a car park in the town will be uncovered whatever the cost. In response to a circular about the redevelopment of the town centre, citizens were resoundingly in favour of opening the baths to the public. Although reservations were expressed on account of the cost the general feeling was that 'vision' was necessary when it came to Dorchester's Roman Baths and that financial considerations should not stand in the way of allowing the public to see them.

Source: Dorchester Guardian, 14.02.96.

COLLITON PARK

The Roman town house in Colliton Park, at present the only complete urban dwelling of the late 3rd and 4th centuries on show in Britain is to receive a major overhaul. (see RR News 6, 1993). The policy and resources committee of Dorset County Council have agreed a grant of £100,000 and hope this will encourage further National Heritage or lottery funding. County officials have suggested that matched funding from the Millennium Commission or English Heritage could pave the way for an ambitious redevelopment including a visitor centre.

Source: Western Gazette, 6.02.96.
RECENT DISCOVERIES CONCERNING THE ‘1827’ MOSAIC FROM WROXETER

Readers of the March edition of the *Gentleman’s Magazine* in 1828 were informed of the discovery of an elegant mosaic pavement at Wroxeter in Shropshire late in 1827. The floor was uncovered in a stack-yard and had adorned a room some fifteen feet square, but was destroyed within days by souvenir hunters from Shrewsbury. After a detailed description of its design, the article stated that an accurate drawing had been made of it, from which a coloured etching had been published, and that a series of plates concerning the antiquities of Wroxeter was also soon to be issued.

Until recently it was thought that these recordings were lost or survived in the form of the bizarre drawing in a manuscript volume by T. F. Dukes entitled ‘Uriconium’ in the library of the Society of Antiquaries. However a water-colour of the mosaic has now been found, water-stained and folded into four in a storeroom at Stoke City Museum by Debbie Ford of the archaeology department, and after being accessioned (K41993) is now on permanent loan to Rowley House Museum, Shrewsbury. The drawing, presumably that mentioned in the Gentleman’s Magazine, had belonged to the antiquary Llewellyn Jewitt, best known nowadays for his volume “The Ceramic art of Great Britain”, and folded inside it was a letter from the excavator of Wroxeter, Thomas Wright.

14 Sydney Street,
Brompton,
London, S.W.
January 8, 1863.

My Dear Jewitt,

I should think the inclosed well worth your buying, if you could get it reasonably. The pavement was found in the garden of a cottage, was uncovered on a Saturday, and left open on the Sunday, when the people from Shrewsbury (came) in crowds to see it, and broke it entirely up in carrying away the tessellae as curiosities. I have always been assured that there was no drawing ever made of it and this is quite a catch, for it is really a pretty pavement. If you get it I will write you a short notice of it.

In haste, Yours very faithfully,
Thomas Wright.

What is very strange is that by 1872 Wright should state in his book *Viriconium* that the mosaic had been torn to pieces by visitors ‘before any drawing could be made of it’. Even if unaware of the article in the Gentleman’s Magazine, he can surely not have forgotten the drawing that he had written to Jewitt about. By 1897 an article by George Fox entitled ‘Uriconium’ in the Archaeological Journal again mentioned a sketch having been made but illustrated the Dukes’ drawing, which was a garbled interpretation based on one corner of the floor.

Recently the author was sorting through the British section of the Wollaston Collection of mosaic drawings and engravings in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. This collection had been forgotten by the academic world until the author happened upon a reference to it by chance in the Art Journal of 1868. This recorded the gift of the collection to the museum by Wollaston’s widow. Intrigued, the author contacted the museum and located the collection. Dr. Robert Wollaston, FRCS, MRCP had made a study of Roman mosaics and baths, and had amassed a collection of mosaic recordings and even some examples of ancient mosaics. He had been Physician to the hospital at Scutari during the Crimean War and had travelled to Turkey studying baths and antiquities. In the process of checking and relabelling the recordings the author was delighted to discover a beautiful water-colour of the 1827 mosaic restored by Hillary Davies of Shrewsbury and dated 1864, (Wollaston Cat. 55, 5613, C139). This drawing, entitled “Geometric rectangle, Shropshire” was probably commissioned by Wollaston from Davies, who was a draughtsman working for Wright, to accompany his book ‘A short description of the Thermae Romano-Britannicae, or the Roman Baths found in Italy, Britain and France . . .’ which was published, but without plates, in the same year.

In his book Wollaston enthused over the mosaic but was convinced that it had paved the great baths at Wroxeter. Davies obviously based his drawing on an earlier recording, and recently the author has located copies of the 1827 engravings.
Dr Martin Henig has written to the Director with an interesting historical comparison to recent events.

Dear Bryn,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the final edition of Roman Research News. I see that the Friends are, at last, taking the running of their organisation into their own hands. You will remember that it was precisely the lack of constitution and direct control of its own policies and finances which led to my public resignation following my lecture delivered at the AGM in September 1993. At that time the Trust was pursuing a policy with which I fervently disagreed, and it seemed that there was no way in which I or any other group of Friends could challenge decisions taken by the Trust.

A century and a half ago there was an acrimonious split within the British Archaeological Association. As a result, my forebear as editor of the Archaeological Journal was forced to relinquish his new baby and to found in its place the Journal of the British Archaeological Association. That famous quarrel, which Friends may find instructive to read about, is charted by David Wetherall in 'From Canterbury to Winchester: The Foundation of the Institute', in Blaise Vyner (ed.), Building on the Past (Royal Archaeological Institute 1994, pp. 8-21). This led to there being two national archaeological societies, The Royal Archaeological Institute, as well as The British Archaeological Association, and on balance, archaeological research has benefited from the diversity.

Let us hope that in the year 2140 Roman archaeology will have put what has happened in the past few years into some kind of historical perspective and will be thankful both to the Association for Roman Archaeology and The Roman Research Trust, in exactly the same way as we applaud both the BAA and the RAI.

I have pleasure in rejoining the new and re-invigorated Friends.

Martin Henig,
Visiting Lecturer in Roman Art,
Institute of Archaeology, Oxford.

The ever expanding computer entertainment technology has, inevitably, now engulfed the Roman world, and enthusiasts of this growing form of relaxation might like to know of this recent addition to the micro-chip fun revolution (if you have not picked it up already). This short (tongue in cheek) contribution has been sent to the Editor by Mac' McLellan of DART which featured on the front page of the last RR News.

BUILD YOUR OWN ROME

This may be of interest for computer owners/buffs amongst us. I have recently purchased a strategy simulation software package produced by Sierra On-Line Inc. The name of this simulation is, Caesar II.

You begin this simulation as the Governor of a Roman province. Your province at this stage is empty, but full of potential if you govern wisely! Your treasury will start with plenty of Denarii which will enable you to start building a new capital city for your province, founding industry and trade within the province and also for trade with neighbouring provinces in the known Roman world, as far as your progression within this world allows you that knowledge.

Whilst building your city there are many things you must consider if you wish to be successful! You must have adequate water supplies and road systems within your city. You can build reservoirs, aqueducts, fountains and roads. Remember, of course, this all takes Denarii from your treasury. You can then go on to build houses for your population.

From this stage things become increasingly more complicated. The initial houses you build will be primitive huts. If you wish your city to grow and expand your populace needs to be supplied with industry for work and trade. Security also features highly. You would be wise to build a city wall, a barracks and a few Praefectures, which send out vigiles to patrol your streets. The vigiles help to prevent fires and riots, if you are an unjust or unfortunate governor.

You have to build markets as an outlet for your industry. These markets are also supplied from your farms, mines, ports and trading posts which you have set up within your province.

Continued on page 8
THE OPENING OF THE GOSBECKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

By PHILIP CRUMMY – Director, Colchester Archaeological Trust

The opening of the Gosbecks Archaeological Park on the outskirts of Colchester brings new possibilities for public access to archaeology.

August 7th 1995 was an historic day for Colchester, when years of planning finally paid off. The ownership of 163 acres of farmland was formally handed over to the Colchester Borough Council, and the Mayor, Councillor Mary Fairhead, declared the Gosbecks Archaeological Park officially open.

The land had been farmed for many years but was transferred into public ownership as part of a package involving the residential development of a less-sensitive archaeological area on the edge of the farm. The move has been widely welcomed since it has the effect of taking the site out of cultivation. In 1994 the park was set down to grass and the sites of the two major Roman monuments – the theatre and the temple complex – were marked out on the ground with miles of white lines.

THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The residential development which made the park possible was only given planning consent once it was shown that it would not lead to unacceptable levels of damage to archaeological remains. The housing development is on the northern edge of the archaeological site, and evaluation trenches showed that there would only be a need for full archaeological recording at its west end. Most of the area turned out to have been covered with pits and ditches and there were few traces of buildings. The ditches formed part of a pattern of field and land boundaries, and the pits show that there had probably been at least one house in the area although remains of its floors and walls must have largely been destroyed by ploughing. Occupation was almost entirely Iron Age.

Although Roman remains were limited, one feature turned out to be of particular interest. It was the remains of a wooden water main, which had conducted water under pressure, apparently from the stream in the middle of the Gosbecks site to some unknown building north of the Maldon road. Each pipe was a section of tree-trunk with a narrow hole bored down the centre. The walls of the pipes were thick and the bands were simply hammered into them thereby making the junctions watertight. The main is straight and appears to aim for a spot just north of the temple portico where there is a concentration of rubble in the plough soil, indicating a good site for either a water tower or a bath-house.

Section across temple and ditch.

PARK EXCAVATIONS

Two excavations were mounted last summer, to improve the understanding of the site so that it can be displayed and interpreted more effectively, as any interpretation of the park will involve modelling the temple and its portico.

The trench across the temple showed that as far as could be seen nothing of the building survives; there were no floors and no foundations as far as the excavators had dug them up for building material in the 19th century. However, informative fragments of the temple are still on site. What is a poorly preserved building has turned out to be quite exceptional.

The temple stood in a corner of a large ditched enclosure which seems to have been sacred since the days before the Roman invasion. The enclosure ditch was deep (eleven feet), and parts of the temple were thrown down into it as the feature was backfilled. The ditch therefore contains priceless clues to the missing superstructure of the temple, including pieces of collapsed column. Buildings like the Gosbecks temple were confined to the Celtic provinces of western Europe which is why they are known as 'Romano-Celtic'. Their distinctive plan consists of a central room or inner sanctuary called the \textit{cela} surrounded by a corridor (ambulatory or \textit{portico}). The \textit{cela} was usually square in plan with a uniform ambulatory. Despite the simplicity of their plans there are considerable problems in deciding what these buildings would have looked like.

No doubt the Romano-Celts embraced many more forms than their deceptively simple plans suggest. More work is needed at Gosbecks but the initial findings in 1995 point to a building which was designed not as a Celtic hybrid, but as a full-blown product of the architectural conventions of the classical Roman world. This looks as if it should make an important contribution to our understanding of this intriguing group of buildings.

Hundreds of Loose tesserae show that the building had mosaic floors which were predominantly black and white. The walls were plastered and there were fragments of polished stone sheeting showing that the lower parts of the walls of the cells had been sheathed in wall veneric (to give the impression that the walls were of solid marble). The columns were made of curved tiles and mortar with surfaces plastered and painted with stippling to give a marbled effect.

The outer corridor would have suited processions around the inner sanctuary, where access may have been limited to priests. Indeed, the great \textit{portico} at Gosbecks and the ditched enclosure probably mirrored an arrangement of this kind on a grand scale. The \textit{portico} would have been the corridor for processions, and the ditched enclosure was an open air version of the inner sanctuary where access was limited because the ditch stopped people walking out of the portico into the sacred area.

Section drawing through porticus.

THE RECONSTRUCTION

Knowledge of the plan of the temple and its portico comes mainly from aerial photographs. Although these reveal much about its plan they are not very helpful when it comes to dimensions. The recent trench across the temple however not only provided some measurements for the plan but also building debris provided information about its superstructure.
Copies of the Roman architect Vitruvius' handbook, written about 50 or so years before the Claudian invasion of Britain still survives. In it he explains that the various elements making up a building should be in proportion with each other. He gives what he considers are the appropriate proportions of one element to another using the column diameter as the unit around which the building should be designed. Unfortunately Vitruvius does not describe Romano-Celtic temples, but he does give details for porticoes and his rules can be applied not only to the main temple: portico, but also to the portico or ambulatory forming the outer part of the temple at Gosbecks.

The Gosbecks temple would probably not have followed them to the letter but, in the absence of anything better, Vitruvius is a powerful tool which allows us to come to a good approximation as to what the building may have originally looked like. If the portico had been built according to Vitruvian principles, then floor to ceiling would have measured 19.25 Roman feet (the Roman foot was slightly shorter than our own) with external columns of about 2.25 Roman feet in diameter at the base, and internal columns of about 2 Roman feet. The columns would have been spaced at 6.2 Roman feet intervals. Regardless of how closely it followed Vitruvian principles, it is clear that the building must have been a very impressive sight indeed.

Reconstructing the temple itself is much more problematic. The relationship between the cella and the ambulatory is obscure. The foundation of the cella is substantial and indicates a wall which was about 3.5 Roman feet wide. This is much wider than is found in domestic buildings and is consistent with the idea that the cella was tall and extended above the roof of the ambulatory. On the other hand, the column fragments from the ditch point to columns 18.75 Roman feet high. This is tall – so tall in fact that they suggest a building with a single roof over the cella and ambulatory of the same height. In truth we cannot yet tell what form the temple took but it would seem that, like the portico, it was a grand and substantial building – much more so than the empty foundation trenches might suggest.

The size of the columns suggests that the temple and portico were really designed as parts of the same scheme and architecturally were much more main stream classical than hitherto supposed.

We hope to continue the excavation this year to improve our ground plan of the temple, and to find more fragments of collapsed superstructure in the ditch, particularly the upper parts such as the tops of the columns and the mouldings which in theory ought to have framed the building just below roof level.

**MARS VERSUS MERCURY**

The excavation also produced a semi-precious gemstone, probably garnet, set in an iron finger-ring with the figure of Mars cut into it. Many of the Celtic gods had Roman equivalents. Mars eventually became equated as the Roman god of war and was equivalent to the Celtic god Camulos. The ancient name for Colchester was Camulodunum, meaning stronghold of Camulos, the Celtic god of war. Gosbecks was the centre of Camulodunum where the Celtic kings lived. There would have been several sacred places inside Camulodunum but the one at Gosbecks would have probably been the most important. It would thus have been very appropriate that the war-god was worshipped there.

It may be that the presence of Mars at Gosbecks also owes something to the fact that he started off as a rustic god who protected agriculture (and also soldiers in battle). In general he was a god who found favour in situations outside the walled parts of towns, just as at Camulodunum. His functions as a god of war only came later, as a result of his protective role of soldiers.

This leaves us with the problem of the famous statuette of Mercury. The figure was not found on the site of the temple at Gosbecks but somewhere close by. Mercury could have been worshipped alongside Mars, and indeed as sometimes occurs, the two gods may have been conflated. Equally, there could be an as yet undiscovered temple of Mercury somewhere else on the site. However, there is the possibility that the statuette was scrap – a victim of the victory of Christianity over paganism in the 4th century. Its arms had already been torn off and the rest was due to be melted down for re-use. It had been buried in a shallow pit for safe-keeping – just like coin and metalwork hoards. If this explanation is correct, then Mercury at Gosbecks need imply no more than that a coppersmith lived there in the 4th century.

*See front cover illustration.*
As I have said, this all costs Denarii, lots of Denarii, to set up. Your treasury will also make money as your economy grows. You can set personal and industrial tax rates to fill your coffers, often in my case very low on funds.

So far I have just given you a very basic outline on a very complex and absorbing simulation. What do you actually see on screen?

This is a full graphic simulation with on-screen command menus. The graphics are superb. There are full 3-D graphics and animations. It is also equipped with sound. As your city and province grow more plebs are needed for the public works. If you fail to pay for an adequate supply of plebs a voice will boom at you: “We need more plebs!” If you fail to recruit enough, your roads, water supplies etc. will begin to deteriorate, in turn affecting your economy.

Through the graphics, and if your strategy is right, you will see your city grow. If you have planned well you will see your initial primitive huts grow before your eyes into various types of Insula, Domus, Villa and if successful large palaces. It must be remembered, the greater the prosperity of your province the greater your tax revenue and the less toadying you have to do to the emperor!

You will also have to build and control legions to defend your province from invaders and barbarian raids. In the battle sequence you can control your legion in the field using the tactics you feel best suited to the situation. You choose your tactics, issue your orders and watch the battle unfold on screen, waiting anxiously for the outcome and praying for success!

This simulation also allows you, at any stage, access to historical notes about the various structures you have built within your province. You will find notes on most structures from theatres and fora to the grammaticus, rhetor and ports that you will build.

One of the objects of this simulation is to survive and progress to rule other provinces and indeed one day to become emperor! Failure will secure another fate. I have on occasion, I must admit, ended up as a galley slave! When you are plunged to these depths, an excellent 3-D animation sequence begins in which you see yourself in the dank bowels of a galley rowing for all you are worth to the rhythmic beat of the drum! I still dream of being emperor one day.

This is not a game that will take you 20 minutes to complete. It has the possibility of giving many hours of enjoyment. For those who are interested the minimum system requirements are as follows:

- MS DOS 5.0 or more, Win 3.1 or more, 486/25 or more, 8MB RAM, 6MB on Hard Drive, 2 × CD-ROM; VGA.
- Also supports DOS: Sound blaster & 100% compatibles, General Midi, Pro Audio. WINDOWS: Windows compatible sound card.

Rob McLeish (DART)

Bryn Walters has sent in this comment about a recent news report which must have been seen by many members earlier this year, but who may not be aware of the subsequent outcome which was not so widely covered by the press.

Last January there was considerable coverage in the national press that the Romans had in fact made an invasion of Northern Ireland. At first, when word of the news spread around the archaeological fraternity, a certain amount of intrigue resulted was generated, but very rapidly this dispelled to incredulity upon examination of the available evidence. The site at Drummanagh, 15 miles north of Dublin had been claimed to be a Roman coastal fort of up to 40 acres, supposedly constructed to act as an invasion beachhead to support military campaigns in the first and second centuries. The argument was based on the number of undoubted Roman artifacts and coins recovered from the area. However, the site more closely resembles a promontory hill fort, extending on its peninsula into the sea, and is far more likely to be an indigenous settlement of the native Irish, the artifacts themselves resulting from acquisition through trade, or even raiding. The story was the best piece of traditional journalistic Irish blarney for many a year. A more logical explanation has been forthcoming in the May issue of 'British Archaeology', which implies a small migration of Celtic Britons into Ireland taking Roman material with them.

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The following pages present all the sites which are offering privileged entry to all members of the Association. As many of you will see, this is more than double previous years! To maintain this good will for the future it is up to all of us to support these partner sites when we can, and this includes taking friends or relatives to visit - while you can come and go FREELY as a guide.

The brief descriptions and information are what was available at the time of going to press. Opening times are omitted as these are liable to changes.

- **ANDOVER:**
  MUSEUM OF THE IRON AGE
  6 Church Street, Andover, Hampshire.

Specially designed sequence of galleries relating the history and lifestyle of the inhabitants of the Danebury Hill Fort, based upon the 20 year programme of archaeological research. The exhibition incorporates didactic displays, audio visual unit, models and some impressive full size reconstructions.

- **BATH:**
  ROMAN BATHS MUSEUM
  The Pump Room, Stall Street, Bath.

The world-famous remains of the extensive baths associated with the Temple of Sulis Minerva which was built around the hot spring. The museum includes displays of artifacts found in and around the temple complex over the past 200 years. This venue is only available free to members between **1st October and March 31st**.

- **BIGNOR:**
  THE ROMAN VILLA
  Bignor, Pulborough, West Sussex.

One of the most extensive remains of a Roman villa in Britain. The chambers on show consist of the principal residential apartments of a rural mansion of the late 3rd and 4th centuries, in which are displayed the finest examples of mosaic flooring to have been discovered in Britain. The villa was uncovered early in the 19th century by Samuel Lysons, and has remained in the ownership of the Tupper family since that time. The site is now a private charitable trust.

The villa is currently the subject of renewed research excavations conducted each year by the Institute of Archaeology at University College London.

MUSEUM - REFRESHMENTS
BIRDOSWALD: BANNA ROMAN FORT HADRIAN’S WALL
Gilsland, Cumbria.
One of the best preserved forts on Hadrian’s Wall. Sections of its perimeter defences are the most extensive to have survived. Probably the most dramatically sited of all the major wall forts, lying on a plateau above the Irthing Gorge. Recent excavations have revealed two granaries and identified a Basilica-style exercise hall.
MUSEUM—SHOP—REFRESHERMENTS

BRADING: ROMAN VILLA
Brading, Isle of Wight.
The most extensive Roman site yet revealed on the island. Partially uncovered in the late 19th century. The well preserved main house, with cryptic figured mosaics, is displayed under a custom-built structure. Agricultural buildings on either side of the Roman courtyard have been mostly re-buried. The hill extends much further to the east of the known buildings but has never been fully excavated. This area has only recently been acquired by the Trustees of the site and further work may now be possible in the future.

BUTSER: ANCIENT FARM
Nr. Chalton, Waterlooville, Hampshire.
Located on the east side of the A3(T) Portsmouth to Petersfield road. Follow signs to Ancient Farm and Chalton. One of, if not the most, significant long term experimental archaeological projects in the country. Established to research the agricultural techniques of the late prehistoric to Roman eras, including full scale reconstructions of domestic buildings. The main Iron Age Round House is truly very impressive. A new extension, experimentally testing the structure of a Roman house, has recently started. This is a first class site for educational parties.

CARDIFF CASTLE: THE ROMAN SHORE FORT
Castle Street, Cardiff.
Impressive reconstruction, on the original foundations, of a 4th century coastal shore fort, built in the 19th century by the Marquess of Bute. The walls and gates form the perimeter to the castle itself. Part of the original wall is displayed in a subterranean passage to the right of the castle entrance. An essential visit for Roman enthusiasts when in the Cardiff area. (Members only have access to the fort walls. The main castle apartments are chargeable but well worth seeing).

CARMARTHEN MUSEUM
The Bishop’s Palace, Abercwmboi, Carmarthen.
Located on the A40 on the outskirts of Carmarthen at Abercwmboi.
The museum contains material recovered from the tribal capital of the Demetae, and the museum also contains finds from the mines at DOLACOTH. About a mile down the road to the west, on the northern side of the A40, is part of the excavated remains of the amphitheatre, the northern half of which, being partly cut from the hillside, survives to its original height.

CHEDWORTH: THE ROMAN VILLA
Yanworth.
Three miles north-west of Fossebridge off the A429. Well sign posted (N.T. Roman Villa). Possibly still the best known late Roman ‘villa’ in Britain owing to its having been open for more than a century since its discovery in 1864 whilst digging for rabbits. The site was acquired by the National Trust in 1924. The upper terrace courtyard, of residential suites and two sets of baths, is open to display as is an extending wing on the north side; its opposite partner on the other side of the lower court is still buried. There are good examples of Corinium figured mosaic work in the main Triclinium. A site museum contains material from the site. Chedworth is still the subject of scholarly debate as to whether it should be termed ‘villa’ in the agricultural sense as no farm buildings have yet been identified, and as there are a number of ritual buildings known to surround it, including a large temple to the southeast. Also there is an unusually large number of religious items recovered from the site itself, more than one would expect for a farming villa. Nonetheless, the site is truly very impressive – and enigmatic.

DOLACOTH: GOLD MINES
Pumpsaint, Llanwrda, Dyfed.
Route: A40 north from Llandeilo. Left at junction with A482 to Pumpsaint. Sign-posted on right outside Pumpsaint.
The only Roman gold mine known in Britain, consisting of a huge open cast pit and lateral galleries (of later date?) Aqueducts carried water for up to seven miles to wash the gold from the soft pyrites. A first class gallery, with fine illustrations, graphically depicts the harsh life suffered by the miners. A bath house is suspected to lie just outside the mine, which was protected by the fort at Pumpsaint. A large fragment of a timber water wheel is preserved at the National Museum in Cardiff.
N.T. SHOP—REFRESHERMENTS

DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM:
West High Street, Dorchester.
Extensive display of Roman material recovered from the city of DURNOVARA. Fine mosaics both on the walls and set into the floors of the galleries. This area of southern Roman Britain produces some of the finest mosaics in the country. Dorchester is a mecca for the archaeological buff as the town is surrounded by important and spectacular remains in the adjacent countryside, including Maiden Castle on the outskirts of the town (with a Roman temple inside the defences). The Cerne Abbas Giant lies only a few miles to the north and Hod Hill lies to the north-east with the Claudian fort set into the corner of the Hill Fort. In the town itself is a small amphitheatre converted from a prehistoric henge, and the only complete urban house on display in Britain lies in Colliton Park behind the County Hall. More than a single day’s visit.

DOVER: THE ROMAN PAINTED HOUSE
New Street, Dover.
Discovered in 1971, buried beneath the embankment of the later Saxon Shore Fort, were the remains of five rooms belonging to an extensive building, possibly a Mansio outside the earlier fort. The walls, almost nine feet high in places are covered with wall paintings – the most extensive in Britain – which depict figured work including Bacchic dancers. All the rooms had underfloor heating. On approaching the remains on the elevated gallery the site is very impressive indeed and makes an exciting change from the usual low walled foundations of most other sites in Britain. Other galleries display material found by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit in the Dover area. Definitely not to be missed before taking that ferry to the continent.

FISHBOURNE: THE ROMAN PALACE
Salthill Road, Fishbourne, Chichester.
Located just off the A27. Sign-posted Roman Palace.
The largest residence of the Roman period ever discovered in Britain, and indeed in northern Europe. Arguably the palace of the Rex Legatus Cogidubnus. The present remains currently on display are only a fraction of the entire massive complex, a coastal palace of the late 1st century AD. There are more mosaics displayed here, still in their original rooms, than on any other site in northern Europe. There is a rich mosaehological display with models and an audio visual theatre. Fishbourne gets top marks for disabled access. Carefully designed ramps over the whole site enable wheelchairs to reach all the mosaic viewing galleries.
SHOP—REFRESHERMENTS

LITTLECOTE: THE ROMAN VILLA
In the Parkland of Littlecote House, two miles west of Hungerford, Berkshire.
The only complete Roman villa laid out in Britain. Extensively excavated over the period 1978-1990 and the genesis of The Roman Research Trust and the A.R.A. Displayed in the grounds are the foundations of a conventional winged-portico house with hypocausts and bath suite and barns converted to pseudo-residential or ritual use in the late Roman
GAZETTEER OF VENUES (continued)

An extensive stable block is attached to the most impressive Gate-House yet located on a Roman villa in this country. The site is best known for its exotic, though now restored, mosaic depicting mythological figures appropriate to the legends of Dionysus-Bacchus and his origin as a saviour God of late antiquity. The mosaic floors the only tri-conchal (triple-apsed) room in Britain, which is more reminiscent of the architectural style of Byzantine churches of two centuries later.

The site is at present closed due to change of ownership and redevelopment, but is planned to re-open to visitors in due course.

THE LUNT ROMAN FORT:
Bagitton, Coventry.
Take the minor road off the (A45) to Coventry airport, south-east of the city.

One of the most educationally instructive Roman sites in Britain. A very fine series of reconstructions of a late 1st century timber fort. The reconstructed gate is most impressive to stand beneath. The reconstructed granary houses the well appointed museum with a large model of the fort as it would have appeared. The fort is unique in that it contains a Gyrus, (also reconstructed) a circular walled training ground for horses, which is enclosed within the fort walls.

OPEN MAY TO SEPTEMBER.

NEWPORT I.O.W: ROMAN VILLA
Avondale Road, Newport, Isle of Wight.

Discovered and uncovered between 1956-27 is a series of quite well preserved rooms of a winged-portico house incorporating a good bath suite with fragments of mosaics. An adjacent tesselated room contains one of the best examples of a late fireplace in a Roman house in Britain. Unfortunately very little is known about the Newport villa owing to its rather hurried uncovering and the construction of the surrounding streets of houses. Nonetheless, fragments of walls and parts of a hypocaust to the north-east would indicate that the villa was quite extensive and probably resembled the layout of the Brading villa at the eastern end of the island. There is a good graphic display incorporated in the cover building.

OPEN EASTER TO SEPTEMBER.

ORPINGTON: ROMAN VILLA
Opposite the Main line rail station in the grounds of the Civic Hall.

The remains of the Crofton Roman villa comprise part of the main villa house. The greater part of the villa was destroyed when the railway was under construction and later houses were built in the area. The present remains were saved for public exhibition in the late 1980s by the Kent Archaeological Unit who persuaded Bromley Borough Council to change their plans for a car park and conserve the site. The Kent unit then covered the site with a custom built structure which opened in 1992. There is a small bath suite at Provost Road in Bromley, access to which must first be obtained from the Priory Museum. There is also a Roman collection in the Priory Museum, which together with the physical remains, creates quite a lot to see in the area.

PIDDINGTON: ROMAN VILLA MUSEUM

Work is still in progress developing this site, which is being funded by public subscription. The eventual plan is to house the complete archive and display artifacts in a visual gallery associated with the excavation of the large villa just outside the village (not on permanent display). Notice of developments will be circulated in due course.

RIBCHESTER: THE FORT OF BREMETENNACUM VETERANORUM
Preston, Lancashire.

Located at the southern end of modern Ribchester and partly cut by the River Ribble which has eroded away the south-east corner of the fort. A small but full museum is sited in the centre of the fort and contains memorials and some fine pieces of architecture, testing to the elaboration of some of the former principal military buildings. A small bath suite lies outside the fort to the east. The most famous artifact from here is the elaborate masked equestrian parade helmet now in the British Museum. The fort was garrisoned by Sarmatian cavalrymen in the 3rd century.

ROCKBOURN: ROMAN VILLA
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.
Three miles north-west of Fordingbridge. Take B3078 off the A38 Bournemouth - Salisbury road.

Only parts of this extensive farming villa are at present on display, including an interesting bath house with mosaics, a residential mosaic floored room, possibly a triclinium and a small hypocaust. The rest of the very well preserved remains are currently being reburied to protect them, hopefully for display in the future, as the site is the best example of a large 4th century courtyard farming villa in Britain. It also contains the only true Summer Triclinium on a villa in this country (reburbied). The buried walls are marked out in the grass with stone slabs. There is an excellent on-site museum containing many of the finds from the site. This is a first class site for schools.

ROWLEY’S HOUSE MUSEUM:
Barker Street, Shrewsbury.

Housed in a fine 16th century timber-framed building many of the finest artifacts recovered from Uriconium are displayed here, including the famous Wroxeter mirror. There are also some prehistoric timber canoes.

SENHOUSE MUSEUM: ALAUNA
The Battery, Sea Brows, Maryport, Cumbria.

There can be few sites as dramatic as this, sited on the edge of the cliffs looking out across the Solway Firth into Scotland. The fort itself, ALAUNA, though still buried, is one of the most impressive in Britain. The Senhouse collection, housed in the Old Battery, is one of the oldest in the country, being started in the mid-16th century. It is centred around an extremely fine group of dated altars which had been ceremonially buried. There is also a reconstructed shrine in the museum based on that in the Headquarters building of the fort. An absolute must if holidaying in the Lake District or Cumbria.

TRIMONTUM: ORMISTON INSTITUTE
Melrose.

Although there is nothing to see on the actual site, Trimontium is one of the most significant military sites in Britain and was probably the base for the Roman assault on Scotland. Many fine artifacts from the site are now in the National Museum in Edinburgh. However the Trimontium Trust has established a permanent exhibition at Melrose with artifacts, models, aerial photographs, replicas and an audio-visual room.

OPEN EVERY DAY EASTER TO OCTOBER.

YORKSHIRE MUSEUM:
Museum Gardens, York.

The Roman galleries contain material found from EBURACUM, the northern capital of Roman Britain and the surrounding area, including wall paintings from Catterick, fragments of mosaic, (among the most northerly in the Roman Empire) and a life size statue of Mars.

ENGLISH HERITAGE SITES

ALDBOROUGH: ISURIAM BRIGANTUM
North Yorkshire.
Three-quarters of a mile south-east of Boroughbridge on a minor road off the B1265.

The Civitas capital of the Brigantes, the largest celtic tribe in Roman Britain. The visible remains include parts of the circuit defences and two mosaics. The museum displays finds from the site.

CHESTER:\nTHE ROMAN FORT CILVRNUM
One and a half miles west of Chollerford on the B6318.

One of the best examples of a Roman fort on display in Britain, lying close to the River Tyne. The four gates, the
headquarters building, the Commandant’s House and some barracks are exposed. Steps lead down into the fort’s treasury, the Thesaurus. One of the most extensive built in Britain, with large changing rooms, lies between the fort and the river. The museum is packed with material from the site including many important sculptures. Across the river, on line with Hadrian’s wall, is the very fine abutment from which sprang the multi-arched bridge carrying the wall over the Tyne. Essential viewing. SHOP – REFRESHMENTS

**CHYSAUSTE:**
ROMAN-CELTIC VILLAGE
Cornwall.
Two and a half miles north-west of Guvnal off the B3311. Grid Ref. SW 473 350.
The exceptionally well preserved remains of a native village consisting of a street of eight houses with rooms around a central court and walls standing to full height.

**CORBRIDGE:**
ROMAN TOWN AND FORT
Half a mile north-west of Corbridge on a minor road sign-posted Corbridge Roman Site.
Straddling the early Stanegate, Corbridge unfortunately is one of the least visited monuments in the wall area, despite the fact it contains more remains than most of the sites and includes a magnificent museum. It certainly deserves more recognition. The two large Granaries are the best in the country and the public fountain with adjacent columns is reminiscent of the great Roman sites abroad.

**LULLINGSTONE:**
ROMAN VILLA
Half mile south-west of Eynsford, Kent, off the A225. Grid Ref. TQ 529 651
Discovered in 1939 in the Darenth Valley. The main structures consist of a ‘villa’ house of unusual form in its final phases. A number of small chambers are ranged around a bi-partite mosaic floored hall laid on the central axis of the building. Half of the hall forms a large raised apse and is generally referred to as a Triclinium. There is a large baths complex at one end and a deep ‘cub’ chamber at the other. The central mosaic contains simple but very well executed figures of Europa and the Bull and Bellerophon riding Pegasus slaying the Chimera. The finest marble portrait busts to be found in Britain were discovered in the subterranean ‘cub’ room and are now in the British Museum. A room for Christian devotions was eventually constructed over the ‘cub’ room after it was blocked up in the 4th century. Behind the ‘villa’ on the hillside was a temple tomb containing rich burials.

**PEVENSEY:**
ANDERIDA
Located on the edge of the town. Grid Ref. TQ 645 048
The outer perimeter of the later medieval castle are the walls of the Saxon Shore fort, originally well off-shore at the end of a causeway. There is an impressive west gate surviving with twin drum towered bastions.

**PORCHESTER CASTLE:**
PORTUS ADURNI
On the south side of Porchester against the harbour. Off the A27, Grid Ref. SU 625 046.
The perimeter walls of the fort are the most extensive of any Roman fort in Europe. Certainly one of the most spectacular and impressive of Britain’s Roman remains.

**RICHBOROUGH CASTLE:**
RUTUPIA
One and a half miles north of Sandwich in Kent. Off the A257.
The site of the Claudian landings in AD 43. Though most of the 1st century entrenchments have been lost to sea erosion, there is a considerable number of later structures surviving. These include parts of the Saxon Shore Fort and the foundation platform for the great triumphal arch almost 90 feet high commemorating the invasion. There are also lesser remains of other buildings.

**WROXETER:**
VIROCONIUM
Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Five miles east of Shrewsbury on the B4380. Grid Ref. 568 088
The fourth largest city in Roman Britain. The substantial remains of the central baths, ‘The Old Work’ being the largest mass of Roman masonry still standing in Britain. The baths are extensive and adjacent to them are the remains of the market (Macellum). Most of the finds are in Shrewsbury’s Rowley’s House Museum.

**DISCOUNT SITES ONLY**
Discounts are variable so check at the arrival desks at each venue.

**CAERLEON MUSEUM:**
ISCA
Near Newport, Gwent.
Part of the National Museum of Wales. The Museum contains a fine collection of materials recovered from the Fortress of the Legion II Augusta. The finest fortress remains in Britain, likewise the amphitheatre. The north-east corner of the fortress is laid out in Prysg Field. Part of the massive fortress baths are in a separate museum controlled by CADW (chargeable).

**SENGOBTUM:**
FORT AND MUSEUM
Caerleon.
On the Llanelogl Road, A4085 south-east of Caerleon. Grid Ref. SH 485 624
Part of the remains of the fort with museum containing artifacts from the site.

**CARDIFF:**
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES
Cardiff.
A minor gallery in this magnificent building which nonetheless displays important and significant historical material from both Celtic and Roman Wales.

**COLCHESTER:**
CASTLE MUSEUM
The mediaeval Keep is constructed on the foundation vaulting of the great temple of Claudius – the vaults are open to view. In the Keep is the very well displayed collection from CAMULODUNUM including large mosaics. Important metal work includes the Gosbecks Mercury. Part of the town walls are still visible as are two of the gates.

**CORIUM:**
MUSEUM
Park Street, Cirencester.
Very well laid out and spacious museum housing finds from the second largest town of Roman Britain and Civitas Capital of Britannia Prima. Very rich development in the 4th century favoured this town as the centre for the wealthy villa estates of the Cotswold region. On display in the galleries are some of the very fine late mosaics which have been recovered from the town and the surrounding area. Part of the town walls are displayed in the Abbey grounds. Amphitheatre also open.

**DEVIZES:**
MUSEUM
41 Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire.
A small but important Roman Gallery in this fine County Society Museum. Contains artifacts from within the central area of the county of Wiltshire – including the Littlecote villa. Currently undergoing refurbishment and therefore not available at present. Notification of opening will be announced later.

**MUSEUM OF LONDON:**
London Wall, Barbican.
Excellent displays of some of the most significant finds from LONDINIUM, including the Wallbrook Mithraea marble sculptures, The Bucklebury mosaic, the Southwark wall paintings and many other items.

**VERULAMIUM:**
MUSEUM
St. Michael’s, St. Albans, Hertfordshire.
Superb display in imaginative surroundings; possibly the most informative Roman collection open to the public. Excellent wall paintings. There is a fine, in-situ mosaic out in the park, and the Roman theatre is displayed on the edge of town though it is owned by the Gorhambury estate (chargeable).
An edited version of a highly successful joint Border Television with Tyne Tees Television documentary on Hadrian’s Wall has been released by its production team, Striding Edge.

Initially launched late last year, the video cassette is being made available to the ARA in a special purchase offer.

The film follows the history of the Wall from its impact on the local indigenous farming peoples of the late Iron Age through to its construction and occupation and on into the Dark Ages.

Writer and broadcaster Eric Robson travels the Wall, appreciatively for this reviewer, in a pleasant relaxed manner, interviewing en route a variety of well known names in Roman frontier studies, several of which will be familiar to members. These include Tony Wilmott describing his recent unexpected discoveries at Birdoswald, Paul Bidwell discussing the spectacular bridge over the Tyne at Chertsey and Nick Hodgson explaining the maritime connection of the garrison at South Shields. Among the current generation of excavators and researchers, Jim Crow’s expressive enthusiasm for the subject brings the appearance and function of the Wall alive.

The video, which runs for an hour and forty minutes, makes for compulsive, and I would suggest compulsory viewing for teachers involved in Key Stage II of the National Curriculum Roman projects for schools, containing as it does so much up-to-date opinion on the construction, purpose and end of this most significant of our Roman monuments.

The quality of the production is first class and undoubtedly will make an excellent addition to members’ bookshelves, especially those who have done – or indeed intend to do – the Wall in the near future. The aerial views are invaluable as a means of getting a grasp of the scale of the construction, and the computer-aided reconstructions, which are becoming standard practice in documentaries, are extremely well produced and graphically vivid.

I highly recommend this video, being offered at £12.99, to all members of the ARA who are intrigued by Hadrian’s legacy to our island. However this includes Freepost and package, and more especially, a free copy of the latest 50 page colour guide to Birdoswald, written by Tony Wilmott, and which normally retails at £3.50. Available for a limited period only, this double package is extremely good value and would make an attractive gift.

Apply direct to Striding Edge the order form enclosed with this edition of ARA. Good viewing.

Bryn Walters

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**BOOK REVIEW**

by Grahame Soffe


This long awaited report is based on papers presented at the successful conference organised by Bryn Walters and his recently founded Roman Research Trust at the Museum of London in 1991. Editorial work started by Graham Webster has brought together a series of fascinating articles highlighting major discoveries and current thinking on Roman Britain’s indigenous architecture.

After John Wilkes’ introduction, papers by Tom Blagg and Paul Bidwell discuss exterior decoration. Upper storeys of villas are considered by David Neal, illustrated by his work on Gadebridge Park, Gorhambury and Stanwick. Graham Keevill and Anthony King’s contributions on the Redlands Farm and Meonstoke villas provide unprecedented new evidence of well preserved collapsed masonry which revolutionises our knowledge of these high buildings. Military buildings at Chester, Birdoswald and South Shields are reviewed together with a discussion of bridges by Neil Holbrook. Lastly, Bryn Walters examines exotic structures in the 4th century, illustrated by Luigi Thompson’s fine reconstructions of which the colour version of the Littlecote tri-conch structure over the famous mosaic appears on the front cover.

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**NEW BOOK ON COLCHESTER**

In November the Colchester Archaeological Trust plans to publish a fully illustrated account of the archaeology and history of Colchester entitled _City of Victory_. Starting in the first century BC when Camulodunum was possibly the most significant settlement in Britain, and ending in AD1100 with the Norman invasion and the building of the great castle from the ruins of the Roman town. The volume will be extensively illustrated with specially commissioned colour reconstructions by Peter Froste and the text, by Philip Crumley, will draw on the results of the major excavations of the 70s and 80s to produce a unique perspective on Britain’s first Roman town.

Colour publications are very expensive and the Trust is having to raise substantial funds to publish this exciting volume which will be at least 160 pages in length. Members can help in this in a very positive way by becoming a pre-publication subscriber and ordering at least one copy of the hardback volume at the standard price of £14.99. More orders the Trust receives the less they have to raise elsewhere to meet publication costs. You will receive your copy post free and be listed in the back of the book as a contributing subscriber (unless you wish to tell the editor not to).

Orders please, as soon as possible to: Nick Allen, City of Victory Fund, 10 Victory Road, West Mersea, Essex CO5 8XJ.

Cheques payable to Colchester Archaeological Trust, including your full name and address. All orders will be acknowledges with receipts.

Closing date for orders is 31st July 1996. Thank you.

Following several requests from members, your committee is trying to ascertain if we can produce ARA Christmas Cards this year, in sufficient volume to at least cover costs in the current financial year. If you are interested in supporting such a venture, would you please read the enclosed letter and return the slip as requested to the Treasurer.

The designs are shown below. 1, 2 and 3 will be Christmas Cards and 4 will be a blank, general purpose card.