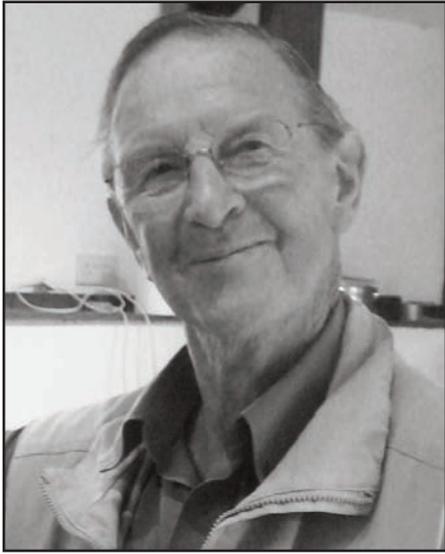


Chairman's Report



BACAS Chairman Bob Whitaker

In the 2011 edition of *Camertonia*, I reported that the Society was going through a period of significant change as our work at Upper Row Farm was coming to an end. Last year saw the final excavation at the Medieval site at Homefield, directed by Robin Holley. This excavation raised as many questions as answers but finds of pottery from the late Roman, Anglo Saxon and Medieval periods showed that the site was occupied from the end of the Roman period continuously through to the post-Medieval period. Robin is now writing a full report, incorporating all work undertaken at the site in the last decade.

The 2011 excavation was also the 11th successful training excavation that BACAS has run at Upper Row Farm. The reputation of our archaeological training has spread far and wide and our course continues to be recognised by a large number of Universities. The details of BACAS' 2012 Archaeological Training Course, which will be taking place at a Roman site near Frome, are on page 50.

On Saturday 16th July the Society held its last Archaeological Open Day at the farm, with Medieval re-enactors, hands-on archaeological activities, geophysics demonstrations, tours and the usual high standard of teas and refreshments. As in recent years, Society members turned out in force to help ensure that the day was a success. On the same day BACAS featured on BBC Breakfast News in relation to an article on the importance of volunteers in archaeology.

Following this, on Saturday 31st July the Society took part in a joint 'Festival of British Archaeology' Open Day with BaNES and the Roman Baths Museum at Bathampton Down. The Society, along with others, mounted displays in the Arts Barn at the University, whilst outside we laid on geophysical equipment demonstrations and guided walks around the Prehistoric landscapes led by BACAS members Rod Thomas and Marek Lewcun.

The Society's excursion and lecture programmes continued to be of a high standard, with a variety of visits and lecture subjects; the November lecture proved very successful, resulting in people having to be turned away to avoid contravening the BRLSI fire regulations.

The joint BACAS and BaNES Stanton Drew stone circles project continued last year and culminated in the publication of the work so far. The contributors were John Richards, John Oswin, Richard Sermon, and Vince Simmonds.

As for the future, this year the Society will be continuing the Stanton Drew Project by carrying out a geophysical survey at Hautville's Quoit near the stone circles and Robin Holley will be directing the Peart Project, he and Marek Lewcun will be running an excavation at the Roman villa near Norton St Philip. This is a very important site and one which we would like to be an ongoing project.

I have been Chairman of this Society now for 12 years. When I joined the predecessor Society the 'Camerton Excavation Club' in 1949, I had no idea that I would still be involved 63 years later, but it is a privilege to be Chairman of such a dynamic Society and be part of a Committee of such hard working and dedicated people, who continually strive to make this Society what it is.

Finally, I would like to thank Owen Dicker for all his hard work, commitment and support over the past eight years, as he steps down from the Committee due to ill health.

Bob Whitaker MBE MA