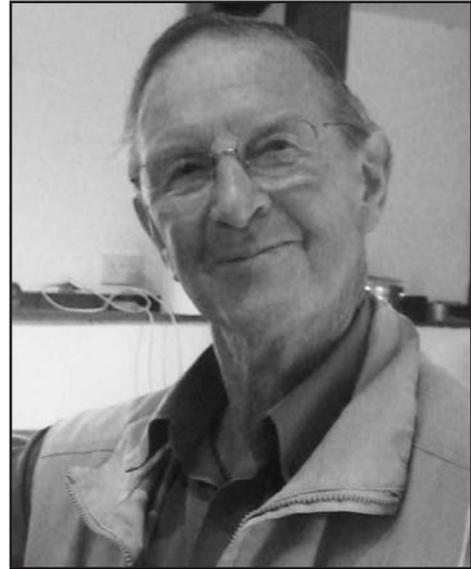


Chairman's Report



Over the past 12 years as your Chairman, I have reported on the progress of the society, its triumphs, tragedies when members have died, its successes and setbacks. When the society's predecessor, Camerton Excavation Club, was formed in 1949 it was a small local club, at first operating only at the Romano British settlement at Camerton although it was led by personalities of national and international standing.

For a number of years the Society was very successful, but by the early 80s its membership had diminished and its leadership, by that point elderly, meant that the society was nearly defunct. However, it was rescued and regenerated by a new, younger leadership and an increasing membership.

Since then the society has grown in stature and influence and is now recognised as one of the leading archaeological societies.

We are extremely fortunate to have not only a dedicated committee, but a number of experienced archaeologists and other specialists including a highly motivated geophysics team and other members who have taken on important tasks like the archive and collections management.

Until the 2012 AGM in February, our Director of Archaeology, Robin Holley, ensured that all of the projects that were proposed were planned and completed to the highest standards and reports of the projects written and published. Robin, for health and personal reasons, has resigned. He will be very difficult to replace - we shall miss his expertise and thank him for all he has done for the Society.

However, we should not be complacent, every organisation has its highs and lows - change is inevitable and we must plan for it. New members must come forward to serve on the committee, including assistance with the lecture and excursions programme.

We have to strive to increase our membership, encourage young people to join, and connect with the wider community. Our "Archaeology For All" project was highly successful and it may be possible to do something similar again. We have some exciting plans for the future.

Finally, I should like to pay tribute to my committee colleagues who devote so much time and effort organising the Society's activities and to you, the membership, for your continuing support and involvement.

Bob Whitaker MBE MA