the Government. During the 19th Century, coal and iron mining, smelting and quarrying for stone became major industries.

The effects of these industries were clear at several sites we visited. Among these were a Free Miners coal mining adit, the horizontal entrance to a mine; a working stone quarry and large stone cutting factory; the Scowles, which are collapsed caverns associated with iron extraction; and the site of a former major iron/steel plant at Dark Hill where the Musket father and son made practical the production of steel and developed durable steel alloys. Most impressive was a large scale geological map of the Forest laid out on the ground using the appropriate types of stone to reflect the geology, and showing the underlying coat seams. Every significant coal and iron mine and stone quarry was indicated and indexed by name. The Forest became a large industrial preserve during the 19th Century and the last major coal mine only closed in 1965. Only in the 20th Century did the Forest begin to revert to a form which the Normans would largely recognise and appreciate.

A final word on the uniqueness of the Forest. Anyone who is born and bred in the Hundred of St Brevials (a Forester) and who has worked underground for a year and a day can apply to become a Free Miner. This privilege was granted by Edward I in the 13th Century to reward the services of Foresters who undermined castle walls during his Scottish campaigns. However, a major obstacle has arisen to the continuance to the existence of Free Miners, as there is no longer a maternity hospital or ward in the Forest. Whether the naming of a ward outside the Forest, 'The Forest of Dean' will overcome this legal quibble is not known. It is one of the unique customs which make the Forest so unusual and enhance its character.

Many thanks to our guides, John Bosley and Geoff Davis, (a Forester) for a superb day and we all appreciated the in-depth research they conducted to suit our particular requirements.

Roman Bath

A whistle stop tour of Roman Bath with Marek Lewcun

Jackie Thompson

We met Marek outside the Podium opposite the Saracens Head pub for a walk around the ordinary part of Roman Bath, as distinct from the high status buildings of the Temple complex within the city walls. Our starting point was at the very bottom of Walcot Street, just outside the old North Gate.

Heading North, our attention was drawn to points along the way, where pottery, skeletons, coins, and still standing walls and columns - the usual remains of Roman settlement - had been found. A detour towards the river brought us past the burial ground in Walcot Gate, adjacent to the Walcot Mortuary Chapel, near to which Roman burials had been found in the 19th Century, and finally to the rear of TR Hayes warehouse where, incorporated into a retaining wall, there is the base of a Roman column. Excavations prior to building the warehouse in the 1990s, had revealed evidence of three buildings, a worn threshold and colonnades, and a blacksmith's workshop to the rear of one of the houses. Many small finds and a fairly complete Samian dish from the excavation are on display in the cafe in TR Hayes' shop.

At the end of Walcot Street we again detoured, this time into the yard of what used to be the notorious Hat and Feather public house, now Hudson Steakhouse, where the first century onwards Roman road from London, incorporating the Fosse Way at this point, runs parallel to the present day road; from this, in the first century, another road ran eastwards towards the river and Bathwick. Nearby, excavations were recorded by a J Cranch in 1816 ('An account of the monuments and remains of ancient arts collected in and near the city of Bath'), when the Sainsbury's and Acres' brewery was being constructed, revealing finds between 4 and 10 feet below ground level. These included stone coffins, a first century military diploma, half a pint of ancient coins from Augustus' reign, Samian ware, urns, amphorae and 40 glass fragments. When Cranch made his records he was looking at two other sites at the time: Upper Camden Street and the Methodist church, which backs onto the location of the brewery. Many finds were uncovered all over this area of Walcot,

which was densely populated in the area between London Street-London Road and the river.

North and East along the London Road is the Esso Garage, where Bill Wedlake was involved in excavating in 1958, and here he reported finding cobbles and stone blocks five and a half feet below ground level. And so it went on, a Roman wall in the gutter in front of the new TR Hayes building and a brief stop whilst Marek did some 'back of an envelope' calculations to show how great the population of the area was likely to have been and concluded that at any one time it must have been between 2,000 and 3,000 people, possibly more, given the extent of the residential area - not a small Roman town. Up Guinea Lane and another Roman surface six feet below the road. Crossing Lansdown Road into Julian Road and a halt at the old riding school where in 1856 there were more finds, including a rotary quern, bone pins and part of an iron spear.

We stopped behind the Royal Crescent and Marek talked about the Roman road surface in front of the primary school, Time Team's excavation on the site of St Andrew's Church, which was destroyed in World War ll, and the line of the Fosse Way up from the Avon. By this time the light was fading but, undaunted, we walked through the park below the Royal Crescent to view the line of the Fosse cutting uphill. From there we walked along to the Lower Common allotments, the site of Marek's introduction to archaeology - he found clay pipes and the rest is history. There, he later found two Iron Age round houses with a stone floor and an Iron Age coin, a Roman bath house, box flue tiles and a glass furnace. It was really dark by this time, but we completed the circuit by crossing the Upper Bristol Road to Nile Street and Norfolk Crescent, where a tessellated pavement was found in 1818. Interestingly, there were apparently no Roman finds when the Charlotte Street car park was being constructed, but coffins have been found along the Upper Bristol Road going towards Locksbrook.

If you don't have a street map of Bath in your head, this might be difficult to follow, but get one and follow the route to see the extent of the old city. You should allow yourself at least a couple of hours of daylight.

Figure 1
The base of a Roman column incorporated into a retaining wall, at the rear of the T R Hayes warehouse.