The Chairman's Report

When I wrote my report in the last issue of Camertonia, life was starting to return to normal after the Great COVID Pandemic. We had restarted lectures at BRLSI and fieldwork was fully underway. We had survived, in fact we had grown and were confidently looking forward.

That confidence was well-founded. In the last three years we have carried out a number of excavations and geophysics surveys. Some of these projects are featured in this issue, including: Prior Park, Royal Victoria Park, Cleaves House in Timsbury, John Wood's tomb in Swainswick, the Workhouse Burial Ground, and Four Acre Field on Lansdown.

We set up and organised the very successful Stukeley 300 commemoration event at Stanton Drew in collaboration with the local parish council, English Heritage, BaNES, and the two Bristol archaeological societies. I have contributed an article on the event, co-written with Liz Richardson (Stanton Drew PC) and Julie Bassett (Bristol and Avon Archaeological Society)

In late 2023, BACAS celebrated its 75th anniversary, and the Committee decided to make Bob Whitaker our first ever Honorary Life Member. Bob Whitaker was a member near the very start of the Camerton Excavation Club, the forerunner of BACAS. He joined in 1949, travelling down to the Camerton excavation by bus on a Saturday. He has done extensive work on Roman Roads. Bob even used his scuba diving skills in 1967 to dive in the Roman Spring chamber below the Kings Bath and crawled along the outfall culvert in an attempt to define the course of the waters. In 2001, Bob was awarded an MA in Landscape Archaeology by the University of Bristol. Bob was our Chairman from 2001 to 2018 and since then he has been our Director of Archaeology and then Archaeological Advisor. He was also a trustee for many years.

Back in 2018, BACAS embarked on the Archway project, one of the most, possibly the most, important and prestigious projects it has ever undertaken. This project was set up by the Roman Baths to open up new areas of the site to visitors and to expand into buildings on the other size of York Street. Cotswold Archaeology was the prime contractor, and BACAS assisted with geophysical survey and excavation, and provided guides who gave tours to visitors. In this issue, we have the recollections of a number of BACAS members who took part.

The Bathscape Scheme was launched in October 2018 to promote better management and use of the beautiful natural landscapes surrounding the historic city of Bath. Thanks to the vital support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and others, the Bathscape Scheme received funding of £2.2 million to cover its many different activities over the next five years. BACAS has been involved with Bathscape since the beginning and in 2021 we obtained funding that enabled us to purchase new geophysics equipment and laptops.

John Richards

Chairman

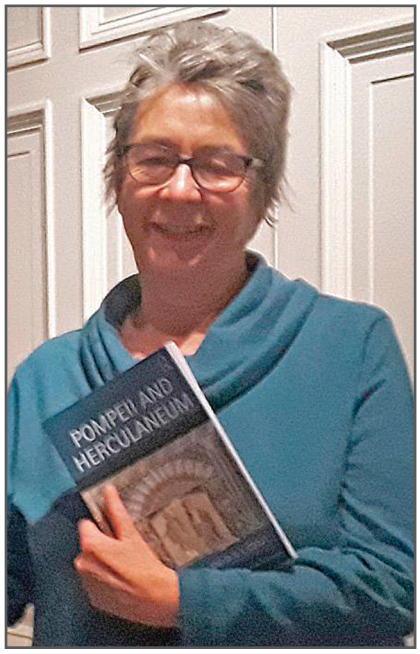
Clive Peacock Memorial Awards

Clive was a very active member of BACAS and the Committee decided to grant, in his memory, an annual award to the nominated member who is considered to have made the most important contribution to the Society during the previous year.

The Clive Peacock Award for 2023...
went to **John Knapper**. John has been making important contributions for several years to our fieldwork projects. He has taken part in many BACAS projects – he has been mentioned in over 30 reports, and there will be more – and must have walked hundreds of kilometres with the resistance frame. He was also Director of Operations in the recent past, and sorted out the stores and equipment at Lilliput. This year's winner is John Knapper."

John was unable to attend the meeting and received his award, a copy of *Buried, by Alice Roberts,* at the Harington Club in May.

The Clive Peacock Award for 2024 ...
John Richards gave the address at the AGM in February 2024. He said "This year's winner of the Clive Peacock Award has been a member of BACAS for many years and taken part in a lot of projects (I counted 24 reports that acknowledged her). She has helped out at recruitment events and looked after the Facebook page. She co-authored the 2022 report on the Frome Francisca. She served a period as the secretary of CBA Wessex. She has been an editor of Camertonia.



She has done a lot of work in Dorset. In 2013, she carried out a project at Fontmell Down. In 2015, she produced a paper on the Witchampton chess pieces. In 2023, she was awarded an MPhil degree by Cardiff University for her dissertation *'Continuity and Change in the British-Roman Lifescape of East Dorset C AD 350 – AD 650*'. This year's winner is **Gill Vickery**. Gill received as her award a copy of *Pompeii and Herculaneum: A Source Book*, *by Alison E. Cooley and M. G. L. Coole.* Gill is the 19th recipient of this award,

The Clive Peacock Award for 2025 ...
John Richards gave the address at the AGM in March 2025. He said "This person joined BACAS at the end of 2012. He became Director of Operations in February 2020.

In May 2021, he took on the role of Director of Archaeology, since when he has been notable for his energy and enthusiasm. He has been involved in overseeing a large number of projects, including the long running excavation at Oldfield. In November 2024, he became a BACAS trustee, and last week got awarded his masters degree at Oxford. Tonight, **Shaun Wilson** gets an even more prestigious prize, the Clive Peacock Memorial Award."

Shaun received as his award a copy of *The Oxford Handbook of Anglo-Saxon Archaeology, edited by Helena Hamerow, David A Hinton, and Sally Crawford.*