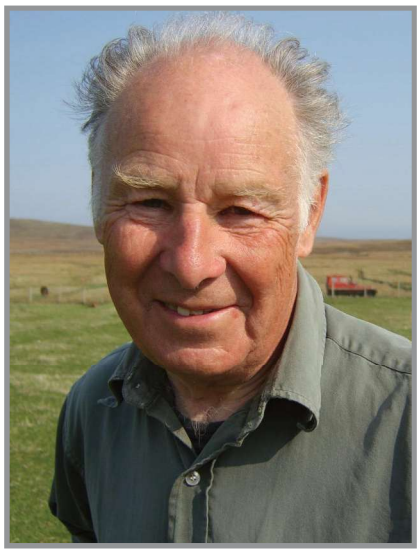
Owen Dicker 2nd April 1934 – 7th February 2026

Obituary

John Owsin



At one of our Open Days at Upper Row Farm, about 2002, we had a visitor who tried the resistance meter in our geophysics display, liked it, came back for more… and came back for more…and came back for more. That was Owen. He got involved with the excavations during the season, but then was also happy to work in the geophysics team all through the winter. Within a season or two, he had become 'The Fastest Resi-surveyor in the West' as well as a regular student supervisor during the training digs, a very useful handyman and an expert on local mediaeval pottery. He was a member of the team when BACAS travelled to Foula in 2006, a remote island off the Atlantic coast of Shetland, to explore its monuments by geophysics, returning the following year to help dig the newly discovered stone circle. He was given the Clive Peacock Memorial Award in 2008.

He worked tirelessly during BACAS time at Upper Row Farm and through the excavations at St Algars and Peart, becoming also a Society committee member. A slight stroke in 2011 started to limit his activities within the Society, although he was able to join in our geophysics explorations on the Isle of Man in 2017. He worked instead on the papers of the archaeologist Dom Ethelbert Horne at Downside Abbey. He was always interested to know what we were doing and until quite recently attended lectures and visited sites especially the local dig at Marston Mill.

Owen and Margaret met doing geophysics on site in about 2005 and their partnership has lasted to the end. He died peacefully at his home in Warminster, surrounded by his family. He leaves two sons and a daughter, a grandson and two great-grandchildren. All those who worked with him will remember him with great fondness and admiration. Trowel in peace, Owen.

Addendum to Camertonia 55 2019/22

Early Roman Coins from Bath

Janet Pryke

Following the publication of the above, the unavailable coins from the Hot Bath Spring noted in the above article have become accessible at the Roman Baths Museum. Those five remaining copied Claudian asses RIC 100 (Minerva) have been examined and measured (with many thanks to Roman Baths Museum Collections Manager, Zofia Matyjaszkiewicz).

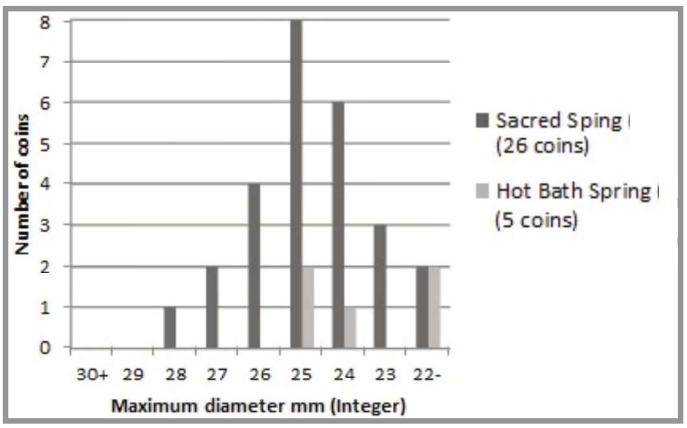


Figure 1
The five coins overlapped with the coins from the SacredSpring.

Their diameters overlapped with those at the smaller, so possibly later dated, end of the distribution of the coins from the Sacred Spring. Assuming that these maximum diameters were not reduced by what was observed to be a comparatively higher degradation, the Hot Bath spring may have accumulated these coins during the later years of those present in the Sacred Spring. There is no indication they predate those. However with the presence of only five coins and lack of knowledge about the details of the coins themselves and their comparative deposition and degradation, better interpretation will await further information.