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**RAS newsletter 02**

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Susan Porter &lt;susancoley@hotmail.com&gt;

6 July 2020 at 14:02

Dear Roman Army Schooler

Welcome to Newsletter number 2! As you know we are still in lockdown although things are beginning to ease and perhaps some semblance of normality may be looming on the horizon and with it perhaps more Roman archaeological news that we can share.

Attached to the email is an article by David Breeze: 'Organising a tour.'

David would also like to announce that his 400-page report on his excavations at the Roman fort at Bearsden on the Antonine Wall is now available online:

<https://doi.org/10.9750/9781908332189> thanks to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Since the report went online 3 weeks ago there have been over 1,000 downloads from people across the world from Europe, America and Australia.

Over on her own webpage our chair has detailed her experience of continuing to work on site as a commercial archaeologist during the lockdown. Whilst a lot of folks were furloughed or working from home she was still on site digging and recording with a whole load of extra health and safety precautions in place.

<https://www.smporterauthor.co.uk/blog/archaeology-in-lockdown>

Worthy of note elsewhere, is the UK government's plans to 'take an axe' to the planning and development process which could put an end to archaeological investigation as part of the planning process. It may not sound like much but this clause in the planning process has resulted in spectacular finds such as Must Farm, The Amesbury Archer, North Berstead Warrior, numerous Roman villas and farmsteads and was partially responsible for the situation leading to the discovery of Richard III. None of these things would have been found and recorded without archaeological investigation as part of the planning process. There is currently little information available about the proposed changes, but keep an eye on the papers as the nation may be called upon to protect our heritage in the coming months.

The RAS website:

On our RAS website [www.ad43.org.uk](http://www.ad43.org.uk) we have the following new articles in our Anthology section:

A review of British Archaeological Record: Roman and Native in the Central Scottish Borders  
<https://www.ad43.org.uk/blog/roman-and-native-in-the-central-scottish-borders/>

A selection of photos by Peter Steele of the Roman city of Gerasa (Jerash), Jordan  
<https://www.ad43.org.uk/blog/jerash-jordan/>

And photos by Peter Steele of Afqa, Lebanon <https://www.ad43.org.uk/blog/afqa-lebanon/>

Please do have a look and join in the conversation.

Also, on the webpage is the provisional timetable for the Roman Army School 2021 meeting. This will be the rescheduled 2020 meeting, further details regarding booking and tickets to be released in the future.

The Roman Army School is currently set to run at the end of March 2021. Negotiations are taking place with St. Chad's so that exact prices can be determined for new delegates. We will be providing updates with this newsletter as soon as we have prices finalised and on any other developments. Expressions of interest are welcomed as there are only a limited number of places available

If you have an article or interesting link that you would like to share with the mailing list please send them on to us for inclusion in the next newsletter. We are roughly aiming to produce a small round up like this every two months, although it may be more sporadic depending on the available material.

Best wishes on behalf of the organisers of RAS,  
Susan Porter  
Chair – The Roman Army School

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