
RAS e-newsletter 4

3 November 2020

Dear Roman Army Schooler,

Hello and welcome to the fourth e-newsletter of The Roman Army School, we hope that everyone is safe and well.

It's an exciting newsletter this time as we have an article from a member of our mailing list! This is an article on 'The Saxon Shore Revisited' sent to us by Richard Bridgland. We hope that everyone enjoys reading this fantastic article and that it may inspire others to send in their own thoughts and studies.

I have also attached a leaflet for Rob Collins' new book 'Living on the Edge of Empire – The objects and people of Hadrian's Wall'. The book has had very good reviews and I'm sure will be of interest to not a few Roman Army Schoolers and the 25% discount offered by the flyer is not to be sniffed at.

Elsewhere our chair has written an account of the time she was involved in building an Iron Age roundhouse – whilst not Roman it is worth a read if experimental archaeology is of interest. This can be found on her own website here: <https://www.smporerauthor.co.uk/blog/experimental-archaeology-or-how-to-keep-teenagers-out-of-mischief>

The American Institute for Roman Culture have a new youtube video on Rome's Conquest of Italy 509-272BCE which can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCTO7bl18mA&feature=youtu.be>

Ancient Rome Live is also run by the American Institute for Roman Culture and has live and recorded lectures in Rome itself available on their website. The seminars are (to the best of my knowledge at time of writing) free but do require registration. <https://ancientromelive.org/>

And the Journal of Roman Archaeology has made 6 of its articles free to view online here: <https://journalofromanarchaeology.com/free-articles/?fbclid=IwAR22ELvGQ51OpyzoxfXrZJjZmLVM CJAR3VB1-V7SU3wiOvSSelhiZQ9vKE8>

Articles include Gothic invasions of the mid C3rd, Burnswark Hill: the opening shot, the gold bust of Septimius Severus and others.

Note from the organisers:

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On a more serious note we have been thinking very hard about the 2021 Roman Army School. It was very disappointing to have to cancel the 2020 session in March, but it was the right thing to do. Initially we had rescheduled the meeting for early April 2021, however the possibility of this going ahead as a full residential meeting has been looking increasingly less likely. As such it is with regret that we announce the cancelation of the 2021 meeting in April. I am sure everyone reading this is as disappointed as we are, but with the UK rule of 6 due to run until at least March, and social distancing to be in place until next October,

and now with the announcement of another full nationwide lockdown I hope that everyone can appreciate that we feel it would be unreasonable and irresponsible to attempt to hold the residential meeting in April.

For those of you who were originally booked onto the 2020 course and rolled your booking and payment over into 2021, keep an eye on your inbox for an email detailing your options for refund or for retaining your booking which will be issued shortly from the organisers. As the meeting will have been delayed for 2 years, Chads have indicated that the cost of the event will be a little more than the 2020 meeting; details will follow in due course.

However, it is not all doom and gloom! We have provisional dates for 2022! So far away we know but put Fri 25th – Mon 28th March 2022 in your diaries and keep an eye out for booking information nearer the time – We will be back hurrah!

Also in a very exciting new move, and because we don't want to keep everyone waiting until 2022 for some real Roman Army School activity, David Breeze has offered to do an online lecture for us! This will be our first Christmas Lecture!

Bearsden: Life in a Roman fort

The subject of the 2020 conference was to have been reconstruction Roman forts. In this lecture we will attempt to reconstruct life *within* the fort through studying the plan of the Roman fort at Bearsden on the Antonine Wall and the distribution of artefacts, in particular pottery, within and around it's buildings.

'Bearsden: Life in a Roman Fort' will be given via a live **Zoom** session between **8 and 9pm** on Tuesday **1st December!**

This will be our first foray into the world of digital lectures and we are quite excited about it. If things go well we are hoping to be able to bring you more digital content next year. As this will be our first one we may have to limit places on the live session, although we are playing with the idea of recording the lecture and making it available for a limited period to those who cannot make the live session. To register interest please contact our chair (reply to this email) and your name will be added to the provisional list. A reminder of the date and the zoom invitation will be sent out to those who have registered interest nearer the time.

If anyone has problems with accessing zoom and would like to attend please contact us and we will do our best to assist.

Best wishes on behalf of the organising team,
Susan Porter
Chair

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