

Caistor Roman Project



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



Chairman's Statement

I'm delighted to report another very active and successful year for CRP. The items in this annual report outline the various projects undertaken – we have had a busy year in the field as well as continuing to develop our organisation and administration.

Further test pitting at Old Hall, Caistor and round the corner in Markshall were key elements in our fieldwork. A major geophysics survey last summer in Park Field (opposite the town car park) has yielded useful information about the development of settlements outside the town. The extensive trench in Wymer Field added much to our understanding of the triple ditch system amongst other things. A huge amount of preparation and management of these projects had to be undertaken, and we owe much to Mike Pinner, Project Manager, and many others for their incredible hard work. Of course, this continues, with follow up analysis and reporting as we develop the 'Caistor Roman Town Story'.

We had an opportunity to reflect on the last 10 years of CRP at the Town of the Iceni conference at UEA in January – a great success and laying the foundations for our further researches. Much credit is due to Will Bowden and the contributors for an excellent and productive day.

We are especially grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for their magnificent support as part of the three year grant – this is enabling us to undertake much new research and develop key skills amongst our volunteers. As well as putting in many, many hours to organise events, workshops, meetings, and fieldwork, the volunteers have taken the opportunity to develop their archaeological skills to new levels – our aim has always been to work to professional levels and our planning, fieldwork and follow-up reporting has continued to a very high standard.

Finally, a personal thanks to the trustees for putting in long hours on the essential role of managing the organisation on a day to day basis – and making things happen!

Alan Pask

A message from our Patron, Antony Jarrold.....

Caistor Roman Project has, in the last year, successfully achieved so many things, increased membership and involvement of local community, test pits and more, with major excavation in Wymer Field and other sites in Caistor, leading to recovery of many items and then the work of cleaning, analysis and documentation of the finds. As always, the enthusiasm of the members is contagious. Our involvement in the one day conference 'A Town of the Iceni' in January was a major event.

CRP's affiliation with NAT, now a year old, is beginning to bear fruit, and I am particularly looking forward to our involvement with them in 'Imagined Land' at Tasburgh and then at Burnham Norton Friary, as I have a personal interest in the former site. For two years NAT were without a Warden at Tasburgh and in the interim I volunteered to act in that capacity (organ playing, in the Church that is enclosed within the original fort site, also took me there on a regular basis). My monthly inspection tours involved collecting rubbish, checking fences and gates and looking for any signs of danger from trees around this elevated site, in lovely countryside, upstream, in the Tas Valley, from Caistor, but where there are no visible historical remains and the only feature is the raised bank, with a line of trees (believed to form part of the Iron Age fort) that divides the property. Often a very large flock of sheep would be grazing the fields which are also a popular exercise location for local dog owners.....a coincidence which will not be lost on CRP members.

But appearances are misleading and Wikipedia's fascinating information on 'Tasburgh – history' suggests to me that this area could hide a wealth of archaeological treasures. Iron age, Roman, Viking, Norman, and more recent history lies under those fields!

The HLF grant to NAT envisages involvement of local people and schools with the digging of test pits around the two sites, research on the findings stimulating creative arts programmes and historical pageants. CRP experience has a lot to offer with this interesting opportunity, and by the time you read this joint groups will have been set up to interview householders and start the programme of test-pitting around Tasburgh, with our members acting as mentors to the local volunteers. This will add a further, timely, dimension to CRP's role in local archaeological research, and I look forward to watching it unfold.

Antony Jarrold

Front cover – Panoramic reconstruction of 4th-century Caistor (Jam Creative)

Fieldwork in 2016–2017

This was undoubtedly our most successful year as a community archaeology group, supported in the first year of a three year grant by HLF.

In summary: test pitting was undertaken at both Old Hall and at several sites in Markshall. Whilst there were diminished returns there due to later upheaval, further work at Old Hall revealed more evidence of Roman occupation as well as demonstrating that any features beneath the back lawn – relating to medieval habitation – have long gone after later levelling. But it was worth checking out!

A geophysical survey was undertaken at Park Field West which revealed known signs of occupation beyond the walled town and some unknown signs of a road heading north east, surrounded by other features. We very much hope that we can investigate further in the future.

Our major summer investigation involved a 25m trench across the triple ditches in Wymer field. Much has been written about the work already. However, as professional reports begin to appear, we are beginning

to develop a story. It now seems that the triple ditches (already investigated on the southern side in 2012) were open to the mid 2nd century AD as evidenced by pottery deposits. More information concerning the history of the ditches is awaited; it is possible, from initial observations, that the shallower middle ditch was dug later than the other two. Watch this space! Upper layers contained a significant amount of Saxon pottery of early, middle and later date and adds to a growing corpus of information concerning habitation outside the town boundaries.

Our other target in the field was a burnt patch of clay and sand that was first uncovered by test pitting in 2015. This proved to be particularly difficult to analyse, but post holes, remains of structures and pottery would appear to offer a date of 14th–16th century. This is significant as the first post-Roman structure found in the field and the village.

Perhaps our greatest achievement, beyond the research objectives, was the growth in competency of our volunteers. Having

recently been writing reports from our 2014 work and sifting the files– the growth in capability is immense! We had always hoped to aspire to professional standards and the work at both Old Hall and Wymer show that we are well on track.

We have many people to thank. Firstly, none of what we do could take place without the support of owners and tenants and we are hugely grateful for their help and interest. Secondly, thanks to our band of professionals who have led us through the increasing complexities of what we do and how we do it. Thirdly, our grateful thanks to Darren Barnes who machined and filled in for us; without his support we couldn't have finished all that we did within the time allowed at Wymer. Finally, my sincere thanks to all of our volunteers whose hard work and good humour make my days in muddy holes an absolute pleasure!

Mike Pinner, Project Manager



Report from the Barn for 2016/2017 by Chrissy Sullivan

Caistor Roman Project has grown immensely over the past year in both what we have attempted and achieved. Here is a month-by-month summary of activities undertaken since the last Annual Report.

June 2016

- Dave Bescoby held a training session on geophysics for interested members before the work on geophysics took place on Park Field, opposite the Roman town car park.
- Processing, test pitting and fieldwalking continued.

July 2016

- The first of two visits to Old Hall took place with the digging of 9 test pits.
- This was followed immediately by the Festival of Archaeology event at the hotel, giving our Chairman a chance to formally announce the successful HLF bid.
- Caroline Davidson came to the second of the year's coffee mornings and spoke about the properties and work of the NAT. This was to lead to a joint venture later in the year.
- Processing continued.

August 2016

- After the exhibition, preparation began for the Wymer Field excavation. For two weeks, the sun shone brightly, Celia (the lady in whose garden we dug our very first test pit) brought ice-pops daily and we found some excellent archaeology.
- Val Fryer donned her other hat and began our training in environmental archaeology which will continue in 2017.
- The third coffee morning was a visit to the excavation site and a talk and tour by Mike Pinner
- Post-dig processing began almost immediately.

September 2016

- This saw our second visit of the year to Colney Burial Ground, on this occasion for the funeral of Gwen Digby. The service was extremely well attended, reflecting Gwen's diverse interests and the great sadness of her death (see the appreciation of Gwen on page 5).
- We continued with the processing, getting finds to the experts and starting our in-house cataloguing and reporting.

October 2016

- Alice Lyons came to the barn to open up the wonders of CBM to a small group of members, who have since begun cataloging CBM from the 2009-2012 excavations. Those of us who have taken this on have become extremely interested in what we have discovered. We are making a reference collection of such things as tally marks, signature marks, and graffiti, as well as different forms and fabrics.
- Joint NAT and CRP outing to visit NAT properties in north Norfolk with guides to explain the sites.
- Martin Clarke arranged with his wife Helen, a radiologist, to x-ray some of our concreted Fé finds from the town dig.
- At the last of the coffee mornings Ian and I reported back on what had been found on the Wymer Field excavation.
- A long weekend of test pitting took place at Old Hall, including digging up the pristine lawn.
- Processing and report writing continued as did discussion on CBM.

November 2016

- Alice Lyons delivered a Pottery Workshop to a packed house.
- A group closely concerned with small finds attended a Conservation Workshop delivered by Debbie Harris of the Shirehall

Conservation Team. In the months since, this has proved to be extremely valuable and has led to a great deal more work.

January 2017

- The New Year began with a big event – Will Bowden's conference at University of East Anglia. It was an extremely interesting day and Andrew and his team signed up a fair number of new members some of whom have already taken part in activities at the hotel and at the barn.

February 2017

- We started the practical conservation of finds from 2009-2012 excavations. A dedicated group worked their way through some very corroded Fé before getting their hands on the more delicate and perhaps more interesting other fabric finds.
- Work on the bone, CBM and bulk finds from the 2016 excavation continued.

March 2017

- March found Mike and I tramping around Caistor to think about next year's work, this time in the company of Rhiane and Ian.
- We returned to regular working at the barn and after a thorough tidy up, cleaning, and taking of a new inventory we went back to processing finds. This was followed by report writing of the fieldwalking finds from 2016, the first time we have tackled this.

So what's next?...

- Finish the processing from Old Hall test pits and complete the reports from the 2016 excavation, test pits and fieldwalking.
- Get fieldwalking finds from Dunston Field returned to the barn for reporting: conserve, identify, photograph and record metal detecting finds from Dunston Field.



Roman glass vessel - Harriet Foster



Excavation of Roman Pot



Head Buckle - Ian Jackson

Remembering Gwen (Gwen Digby 4 August 1937 to 26 August 2016)

- Continue to examine the CBM from the town digs.
- Training sessions, both with professionals and in-house, including with Val Fryer on environmental sampling
- Book/discussion sessions where our reference library would be available for study and borrowing.
- Preparation for collaboration with 'Imagined Land' test-pit programme at Tasburgh.

Educational Liason Report

The major activity in the past year was our attendance at the two-week Norwich Science Festival at the Forum in October 2016. CRP was asked to host an exhibition to explore the uses of science within archaeology, and over two days, around 500 school children and countless members of the public got the chance to see our displays in osteoarchaeology (featuring George the skeleton, carbon dating, isotope analysis, skeleton burials) and environmental archaeology (foods from around the world, ancient remedies, medicines and household treatments). Our displays included geophysics surveys of the Roman town and more recent ones done to the east of the town, as well as a geophysics machine (thanks to David Crease), and LIDAR data of the Roman town on a TV screen. Two resident metal detectorists brought their detectors along for the display along with some of their finds for the public to see. Grateful thanks are due to the eleven volunteers who gave their time to staff our displays during what was a very successful event for the project.

Other events during the past year included the Festival of Archaeology event at Caistor Hall Hotel in July, where we put on a display for children, and a visit of 10 undergraduate students from UEA to the Roman town in November, where we spent two hours on site with the students and used the app created earlier in the year. The Venta conference in January this year provided the opportunity to have a stall in the reception area to advertise our educational outreach project.

The information for this report was supplied by Lizzie Stewart, who has since resigned from the Trustees to enable her to concentrate on her PhD studies. Her place on the Educational Liaison team will be taken by Linda Russell.



It is with great affection that any thought of Gwen Digby comes to mind. She was a dignified lady but was not averse to getting stuck into any job that was at hand. Besides her work with CRP she found time to organise both the St. John's Ambulance and the City of Norwich guide training. Obviously she was a born organiser but had boundless energy which left those of us younger in years floundering with admiration.

She and Hugh brought up three boys to be fond of adventure. Apparently it was not unknown for the young children to be woken in the middle of night and taken outside in pyjamas to witness something of wonder. When at home she found time to paint and the work displayed on the walls of the family home bear witness to the talented artist she was. She read widely on her interest as well as just for fun, sometimes late into the night.

But we knew her as our Gwen, who worked on finds processing both at the barn and on site. She sieved on test pits and even backfilled. She and Hugh were very accomplished campers and putting up the marquee was no problem. We watched in awe and gratitude as they took on this task on site. She enjoyed all the workshops and training sessions, wrote detailed notes which have turned up in books purchased to further her knowledge. These books we have inherited.

Her death came as a great shock. We didn't know she was ill and we were contacted by her from her hospital bed with a list of instructions. The City Guides were also receiving messages from Gwen, who was keen to tidy up loose ends whilst she could. Hugh was given a list of things to sort out, one of which was fieldwalking. Gwen had taken on the organisation of this in her usual committed way and was concerned that all her notes would be passed on. She loved to be out tramping across the fields.

The year before she died she and I discussed a local walk and she prepared a map, route and more. This I feel would be a fun memorial to her and I hope the CRP membership will turn out to walk in the footsteps of Gwen Digby sometime this summer.

Chrissy Sullivan

Alan Pask, CRP Chairman adds:

I'm sure Chrissy's tribute will be appreciated by all who got to know Gwen. Gwen's work on fieldwalking was especially notable, reorganizing and re-energising a flagging programme, and a tremendous contribution to our work. I have her files here in my study and I'm astonished at the hard work and organization which is so evident from them.

Gwen leaves a fantastic legacy – she was a magnificent volunteer for CRP and a fine example for us all.

"A town of the Iceni" 10 years of research at Venta Icenorum

In January 2017 Caistor Roman Project and the University of Nottingham held a one-day conference at the University of East Anglia to bring together the archaeologists and materials specialists who have been involved in research at the Roman town to share their results. The conference was one outcome of the Mid-Career Fellowship that I was awarded by the British Academy who part sponsored the event. In it we tried to present both an overview of the Roman town from the early Roman until the late Saxon period as well as some of the techniques that have been used to investigate it. Around 180 conference delegates were also able to view displays set up by CRP and one excellent result was that we gained over 20 new members on the day.



Picture - Peter Wade - Martins

We began the day with an overview of the Roman town and the results so far and then got down to details. Sarah Horlock of NCC's Historic Environment Service introduced the enormous wealth of aerial photograph data for the Caistor region, collated as part of Historic England's National Mapping Programme. This has demonstrated that the Roman town lies within a dense landscape of field systems and trackways and also identified the full extent of the triple ditch system that has changed our perception of the town. This was followed by David Bescoby who described the results of geophysical survey, including the new work in Park Field to the east of the town. He also described the results of geoarchaeological work on the flood plain of the River Tas, which indicate that, contrary to previous suggestions, the River Tas was a slightly wider but fairly shallow channel in antiquity, probably lined with marshy reed beds.

The second session was started by Matilda Holmes who gave the audience a real insight into the information gained from the faunal remains covering everything from butchery techniques to pet dogs. In particular she suggested that the presence of a concentration of young pig bones on the north side of the town might be associated with a temple and pointed out a possible candidate for such a building on the geophysical survey. This was followed by Hannah O'Regan's analysis of the human remains from the site, including an individual from the triple ditches who would have been severely disabled. Both Hannah and Matilda's papers highlighted the unusual nature of the deposits in the



4th century burial in "running" position

south ditch, which was a recurrent theme of the day.

The small finds from the town were discussed by Natasha Harlow, who looked at how the metal and bone objects recovered from our excavations and those of Donald Atkinson revealed how new ideas about appearance and personal grooming took hold in the Roman period and how religious and other identities were manifested through portable objects.

The most common find from any Roman site is pottery and Alice Lyons gave an excellent overview of the study of Roman pottery at Caistor and in Norfolk, showing how ideas about the "backwardness" of the Iceni had influenced early study and dating of Roman pottery in the county. This was continued by Gwladys Monteil, who described the Samian pottery from the site, which not only suggests

changes in dining habits but also gives further evidence of literacy at the site, with the discovery of Samian inkwells, underlining the purpose of the town as an administrative centre. Harriet Foster then showed the significance of the town for the study of ancient glass, highlighted by the evidence for glass manufacture at the site, an industry for which evidence in Britain remains scarce.

The final part of the day focused on the evidence for the Anglo-Saxon phases at Caistor. Sue Anderson described the post-Roman pottery from the site, including that from CRP's work at Old Hall, which is demonstrating that significant post-Roman occupation can be detected to the north of the Roman town. Tim Pestell then placed the Anglo-Saxon finds from the site in their wider context and also introduced us to some of the extraordinary evidence for post-Roman metalwork from Norfolk



Geophysical survey at Caistor - D Bescoy CRP



Enamelled brooch 2nd century CE - Copyright NCC



Samian vessel from 2010 excavations - D Leese coming from the Portable Antiquities Scheme.



Sunken featured building Dunston Field - Will Bowden

The day was rounded off with a look towards the future work of CRP given by Mike Pinner who showed how the project is developing as a true community-based research project and was a chance for some of the audience to see pictures of themselves upside down in muddy trenches. David Gurney then led a stimulating question and answer session, which could have continued longer if we hadn't run out of time!

A recurring theme at the conference concerned the results from the excavations of the triple ditches, identified by the National Mapping Programme and then investigated in 2012 and most recently by CRP in 2016. A number of speakers highlighted the unusual nature of the finds from these ditches, which ranged from the skeletons of a heavily disabled individual and a pet dog, to "pipe clay" figurines and a fragment of rare "marbled" samian. These results suggest that the ditches not only served as a civic boundary or defensive barrier, but also had a more

nebulous symbolic value to the inhabitants of the town. How people viewed the world in which they lived is one of the hardest things for archaeology to study, but the results presented at the conference remind us that, as well as being a place of streets and buildings, Venta Icenorum was home to generations of people whose lives we are starting to understand a little more.

Will Bowden, Project Director
University of Nottingham

Finance and Fundraising Report 2016-17

Naturally the most important event of the year was being notified in June that we would receive a grant of £84300 from the Heritage Lottery Fund over a period of three years. In the first nine months we used about £22000 of this money, somewhat less than planned due to the late start of some parts of the project.

Although the HLF grant covers most of our archaeological activities for the year and also contributes to our overheads it is still necessary for us to raise other funds to cover the rest of the overheads and any activities outside the HLF grant. However, once a grant of such size has been secured it is difficult to raise more from other charitable bodies so we concentrated on carrying out small projects such as talks and guiding for which a 'thank you' gift is likely to be received. These included the UEA conference in January and all together raised over £1500. As well as this we received over £2000 from membership fees (about one third up from last year) and £780 in personal donations from friends of the project. Taken together these account for about 19% of the amount of the HLF grant spent which we believe is reasonable. In the coming two years we will be receiving the bulk of our money from HLF but we will continue to pursue top-up amounts as in this year and will plan for our next major funding drive to follow the HLF project.

The final accounts for the year to 31 March 2017 are being independently reviewed and will be lodged with the Charity Commission and available to all members at the Members' AGM.

Andrew Ray Treasurer

Dispatches from the trenches – 3 Volunteers' personal views of 2016



The summer dig last year saw me step up to be Mike's 2IC and once the ceremonial handing over of the high-vis vest was complete I was happy to help lighten Mike's load. I soon discovered that this meant I would be doing a lot less trowelling than in previous years. Much time was spent making sure everybody was occupied, to-ing and fro-ing between the trench and the equipment tents, searching for things I'd put down, doing paperwork, drawing, managing spoil heaps and the obligatory staring into the trench and chin scratching. Having been with The Project since the beginning I have acquired many archaeological skills and this year I gained a whole lot more. Under Giles' patient tuition I learned a great deal about looking after and recording a large trench, I'm very grateful to him. The summer excavation is always my favourite CRP activity of the year. It is extremely satisfying to dig a big trench, watch features emerge, excavate them and add to our knowledge. But what I love most of all is the camaraderie. We muck in and work hard but (almost) always with smiles and banter, a disparate group with a common interest. I love it and can't wait for this summer.

Rhiane Keeley



As the 2016 excavations planned for Wymer Field approached I was faced with something of a dilemma, to wit, should I risk my misbehaving back and pursue my first love which is digging, or should I listen to my body, have a go at something less physically demanding and live to fight another day. For once, unusually for me, I chose the cautious option. Having spent many hours photographing and re-photographing Small Finds this seemed a logical path to pursue. Kathryn didn't seem to be averse to my offer to assist her and after some discussion on the pros and cons of our existing methodology we devised a more streamlined system based on daily recording of the Small Finds directly on to laptops. With my longstanding interest in photography it also seemed logical to further develop this in the area of archaeology and so I also volunteered to have a go at doing the photo record of the dig. I enjoyed the new challenges and was never unoccupied for very long throughout the two weeks we were on site. I particularly enjoyed speaking to visiting members of the public during our open afternoon and re-discovered something of my long lost confidence. To summarise the experience, I thought I'd miss the digging but I didn't. Moral of the story – never be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and take on a new challenge.

Ian Jackson



Last year Chrissy asked me to become her deputy at the Barn and help with the planning of various activities and duties on site for Old Hall test pitting and the Wymer field dig. I readily accepted as I was so pleased that at last I felt fit enough to assist with these projects. Jenny, Gwen and Margaret were quickly co-opted to the team and gave sustained help. I'd like to thank all those that supported me whilst Chrissy was away and bore with me whilst I improved my 'Excel' skills. There are many aspects to running a successful dig – meticulous recording of all the 'finds' on site being a vital component – and there's a wide range of other tasks that need to be done, nothing is overlooked and everyone is encouraged to join in. We must be aware of Health & Safety at all times but being "comfortable" is also a priority, and this means a ready supply of tea, coffee and CAKES, which come high on any list (see photo!). We have continued working at the hotel and the barn over the winter months, so all-in-all 2016 was a great year, not least with the wonderful summer weather, but also for me personally – I'm loving the learning curve I'm on!

Barbara Marriage

Joint Excursion with NAT



Burnham Norton Friary – Photos Sue Harman CRP

CRP Associate Members also featured heavily in the Trust's annual excursion which took place on Saturday October 15th. The two organisations worked together to organise a coach tour of three Trust sites in north Norfolk – Bloodgate Hillfort, Burnham Norton Friary and Binham Priory, as well as Warham Camp (owned by the Holkham Estate). Ken Penn and Stephen Heywood accompanied the group of around 30, and helped spark and inform our conversations about each site. John Hogg, Director of R&T Hogg, met us at the Friary to explain the approach to repairs of the precinct wall, and David Frost from Binham PC explained the recent partnership project there. It was a packed day with a very nice lunch at the Three Horseshoes, Warham, shoe-horned in; and despite complicated arrangements to replace our first coach, which had a damaged door, we arrived back in Norwich on time! If you have an idea for the annual excursion next year please let me know.

Caroline Davison NAT

(This article first appeared in the NAT newsletter circulated on 3 April 2017)



Hill fort, N Norfolk coast

Publicity 2016–2017

This year we have managed to maintain a reasonable profile in the press. Below is a list of our appearances since the 2015–2016 Report:

June 2016

Double-page spread in the EDP (18 June) on our new HLF funding, including an editorial comment.

The article on Andrew, mentioned as pending in last year's report, was published in *Economia*.

July 2016

A report on the Festival of Archaeology event, and our official HLF launch, in the EDP, July 28th.

August 2016

A letter from Andrew (wearing his Treasurer's hat), on the subject of archaeology as good training for the brain, in the context of plans to drop A-level archaeology, was published in the *Financial Times* on 29 August.

December 2016

Pre-conference article and editorial in the EDP (12 December) on the Venta Icenorum conference at UEA.

January 2017

Radio Norfolk (5 January) interview with Will Bowden on the Venta conference

February 2017

Substantial article in *British Archaeology* on the ten years of research on Caistor Roman Town. Entitled "Venta Icenorum: 'doing different' in the land of the Iceni", the 6-page article with several photos brings together the current state of knowledge about the town and a section on the formation and development of the Caistor Roman Project. If you haven't already read it, do so soon!

Mike Pinner (Project Manager) has an article in *Current Archaeology* pending for publication later this year.

Val Cossey, Publicity/Administration

The (In)Famous Five Go Trekking

It's not often people go on holiday with their work colleagues, but then CRP breaks the mould in many ways! And so it was that last June 23 (does the date ring a bell?) five of us – Linda Bradley, Ian Jackson, Chrissy Sullivan, Steve Rothera and me – travelled north to walk a 55 mile stretch of Hadrian's Wall between Corbridge and Brampton. Early on the 24th we set off from our B&B for the first day's trek, and I for one was glad of the opportunity to just get my head down and walk and try to forget about the referendum result.



Ian, Chrissy, Steve and Linda



Hadrian's Wall

We soon had the first hint of the weather to come, intermittent rain showers that had us digging into our backpacks for waterproofs – having experienced two total drenchings by the end of the week, I wished fervently that I'd updated my equipment! I think 'bracing' would describe the prevailing weather conditions, particularly on the exposed upland stretches. However, the scenery along the route and a day's layover in Vindolanda (where, courtesy of Will, we were treated to a guided tour of the site by the director, Andrew Birley), overcame any frustrations about the English weather. Happily the sun shone on our Vindolanda experience, which was wonderful – the site itself and the museum were spectacular. Along the way we spent time at the Temple of Mithras at Carrawburgh, or Brocolitia if you prefer (where every scuffed molehill yielded something Roman, including a tiny piece of Samian) and, of course, Housesteads. The last day on the route was very wet and muddy – sadly, as the countryside was delightful – but by late afternoon we were propping up the bar in our hotel in Brampton, having ferried our soaking gear down to the cellar for drying.



Housesteads



Temple of Mithras

Thanks to Chrissy for the arrangements – the specialist company she chose booked all the accommodation and transfers of luggage, and everything worked perfectly. Along the way we met walkers of all nationalities, stayed in some quirky but very welcoming places, marvelled at the views and the enduring wall, the odd names (Birdoswald, Once Brewed), and that iconic tree at Sycamore Gap (crowned England's Tree of the Year in the 2016 Woodland Trust contest, and 5th in the European Tree of the Year rankings). Next year it's Orkney, the Ness of Stromgar, Maes Howe etc., and the numbers have swelled to twelve!

Val Cossey

Membership

At April 2017 membership of CRP stands at 70. This figure includes the 22 delegates who took advantage of the special offer to top up their conference fee and become members at the UEA Conference on 14 January. It is expected that membership will increase when digging takes place, as this is usually a time when we attract a number of students and other enthusiasts who are eager to gain hands-on experience, but of course we welcome new members at any time.

Vicky Hawkes, Membership Secretary



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CRP wishes to acknowledge again the practical support given by Darren Barnes of Kingdom Landscapes, Framingham Pigot, for the use of his digger. Thanks again to Richard for his professional expertise in the design of this report, and to Paul Harman for his assistance to the Archive Group.
Photos: (where not accredited) Sue, Ian, Barbara, Rhiane, Will and Val.

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Caistor Roman Project



Aerial view of Caistor - Mike Page

