TIMES PAST

Spring 2018 NEWSLETTER
OF
MARLOW ARCHAEOLOGY – (MAS)

www.marlowarchaeology.org       Founded 1999       marlowarch.mas@gmail.com

CBA Affiliated.                 Registered Charity 1098081 as Marlow Archaeological Society

The MAS logo, above, is an Iron Age gold stater found near Marlow is reproduced by courtesy of Buckinghamshire County Museum

There is an article about bricks on pages 11-13
Welcome to the Spring 2018 newsletter of the Marlow Archaeological Society

Messages from Liz Peters, membership secretary

We say a big welcome to our new members that have joined us over the last few months - many of whom are interested in fieldwork. Bearing in mind that Times Past has a wider distribution than the MAS itself, regretfully recent changes in the data protection legislation advise us against publishing all the new members names as part of our mission to comply with members personal details being held securely. So sorry we can not greet you by name in this publication but hopefully we will meet up at future events.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 1 MAY 2018/19

The subscriptions are due at the beginning of May and reminders by email (or letter if not on email) will be sent out in April. The subscriptions are:

- £12.00 for a single member,
- £15.00 for a single household
- £5.00 for full time students.
- If taking part in field work there is a supplement for insurance which can be paid as £12 annually or £2.00 per session.

Payments can be made at a meeting,

or by sending your cheque made payable to Marlow Archaeological Society to:

The Membership Secretary,

Liz Peters, Cobbers, High Road, Cookham. SL6 9JS,

or by direct debit 30.95.36 account number 02814852.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF MAS?

If not please do consider joining this happy band of diggers. Why not use our website to download a membership form, look up forthcoming events etc

wwwmarlowarchaeology.org
DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

MARLOW ARCHAEOLOGY (MAS)
Registered Charity No. 1098081

EVENTS: APRIL to NOVEMBER 2018

All talks below in Main Hall, Liston Hall, Marlow SL7 1DD
Members MAS/AiM £3 – Visitors £4.50 - Students £1.50  Free adjacent parking after 7pm

THURSDAY 26 APRIL 2018 at 8pm
Buckinghamshire in the Civil Wars 1640-1660
Prof. Ian Beckett – Hon. Professor of Military History, University of Kent

THURSDAY 17 MAY 2018 at 8pm
King Alfred
Katie Tucker (Joint talk AIM/MAS).

THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2018 at 8pm
Cox Green Roman Villa
A short vintage film about an extraordinary local rescue dig which took place in the 1950s, in an attempt to evaluate a Roman villa site and rescue artefacts before a large housing estate was built over it. Visitors are most welcome. (Voluntary collection – no entrance fee). Followed by MAS AGM.

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2018 at 8pm
The Boxford Mosaic
Steve Clark (Joint talk AiM/MAS).

THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER at 8pm
Monumental activity at Riding Court Farm, Datchet
John Powell – Site Director, Wessex Archaeology
A Neolithic monument has just been discovered less than two miles from Windsor Castle. Dating from 5,500 years ago, it is one of the earliest known examples of monument-building in Britain. This ceremonial gathering place is unusually rich in artefacts, some showing signs of boisterous festivities!

THURSDAY 8 NOVEMBER at 8pm
Buckinghamshire’s Saxon Prince: the burial at Taplow
Leslie Webster – former Keeper Dept. of Prehistory & Europe, British Museum.
The Taplow burial mound, excavated in 1883, contains a 7th-century Anglo-Saxon burial in the churchyard at Taplow Court. The princely burial, which dates to c.AD 620, contained a rich and varied collection of grave goods, now in the British Museum, similar in quality and date to those at Sutton Hoo.

ALL ENQUIRIES: 01628 523896  email: marlowarch.mas@gmail.com
Please watch for any programme changes: www.marlowarchaeology.org

THANKS PAM KNIGHT FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS IN ORGANISING THESE MEETINGS.
A celebration of the Archaeological life and times of
Raymond Antony Phillip Spencer,
(Wack)
4 October 1934 – 7 December 2017.

Castle Hill, Wittenham Clumps in August 2003Photograph by Anne Spencer

When Ray retired in 1999 he needed something to fill the gap - a new hobby. Out of curiosity in 1999, under the umbrella of Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, we took part in excavations of a Roman farm house located inside Alfred’s Castle Hillfort, close to the Ridgeway at Ashbury, Oxfordshire. After this interesting experience we felt we needed to learn more about this fascinating subject so we enrolled for Archaeological courses, [for a total of 6 years], with the Department of Continuing Education of Oxford University. As a result of these studies we were introduced to the excavations of a Romano-British religious site located at Marcham Frilford, near Abingdon which lasted for 12 years.. We made many great enduring friendships during the period.

Whenever the opportunity occurred to excavate elsewhere we did. For example at Castle Hill, Wittenham Clumps in August 2003; whilst excavating an Iron Age pit Wack uncovered part of a female skeleton. [see photograph above] and this discovery made the newspapers [see cutting on next page]. In 2012 he was invited to be the local archaeologist for an episode of Time Team filmed near Sutton Courtenay: an interesting experience. Once the Marcham excavations closed then it was the excavations at Dorchester on Thames [covering later Iron Age, 100BC, Roman and Anglo Saxon eras] that became his main focus.

When we were unable physically excavate we continued to be involved in post excavation activates at the Institute of Archaeology in Oxford. This involves sorting those *bits and bobs* that have been recovered during the excavation process. It covers ancient to modern – it could be Stone Age flint tools, almost complete beautiful Roman Samian ware to tiny sherds of rough cooking pots, collections of human and animal bones, coins, jewellery, or thousands of Roman nails! So sometimes its monotonous, sometimes very exciting – but it’s all important
as all contributes to the history of the site. When the Marcham collection was completed we started on Dorchester on Thames with its masses of animal bones and Roman nails!

So since 1999 Archaeology took over our lives and even dictated where we went on holiday – that is except for his winter time ski trips! We have travelled far and wide - from the stone-built Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae in the Orkney archipelago of Scotland to the Australian rock art, the Great Wall of China, the Terracotta Warriors, the Inca capital city of Cusco and to Machu Picchu in Peru - even Antarctica has some archaeology in the form of deserted whaling stations plus, of course, masses in between such as cave art in the Dordogne plus excavating etc in the UK – all in pursuit of a hobby.

He is sadly missed by those who came into contact with him, but most of all by me, his wife, Anne Spencer.
Still clouds and whispered tears
The existence of ‘the story’ in archaeological discourse.


The weather must repeat itself over time. In general sense it repeats itself according to the seasons, but sometimes there are days when the clouds, the wind, the temperature, are so particular that their conjunction may occur only once in a lifetime. Over time these days may repeat themselves maybe once in a thousand years.

Has she wanted to cry? Her daughter had been no more than three or four years old. Maybe it was her first child, maybe she hadn’t wanted the child, maybe she was young – or old, married or unmarried. Amongst the unknown one certainty has been passed to the present that she had given birth to this child, had been there at the primal scream and felt the pain and possible joy and relief of delivery. She may not have lived beyond childbirth and yet she might have. In the absence of a knowable truth, no interpretation is wrong. The important thing is, no matter how inaccurate one’s picture of the past is the imagination inevitably frames people and events in a reality that can be apprehended. And that imagined reality has an emotional content that makes people real, as they once were.

She stood on the white chalk rampart that had been etched with blistered hands and anther picks. It was the biggest manmade structure in that pre-industrial Eden and its impressiveness absorbed the attention of all those who looked up to it - although on-one yet knew how impressive still this white ring would look from the air…Before her stretched a woodland for fifty miles and more, everywhere was green forest, sagging under the weight of late summers over ripeness and drably coloured by the sunless twilight. Agriculture, transport and the
invasions of urbanism had yet to make their inimitable marks on nature’s soft tissue. For now, only the delicate trampling of feet was all that could be objected to by suburban ‘n.i.m.b.y.s’ and anti road protesters. Standing on the camp’s perimeter she recognised this landscape well for she knew it in almost as much detail as the cartographers that would one day map it. Away from the sun, in the valley was the river hidden by forest. Where the sun set along the upland was a neighbouring Dobunni camp and behind her where the sun hung high in the sky was the upland and the path which she had heard stretched across from England from one sea to the other and along which came exotic travellers to exchange shells, metals, intoxicants and narcotics – the luxuries that supplemented their Iron Age existence. And where the sun rose? All she knew of that was that one day followed another, that people were born, aged and died and that time would outlive her long into the future.

But was this all that she felt or thought about life and death? Has our own vanity obscured from us the sensitivities and complexities of emotion and belief of the people that become imprisoned in the past, confined there by our investigative frame of reference. Through the discovery of her baby child, her voice managed to transcend time and to proclaim to us: “I existed, I felt and I cried just as you do!” Yet this voice is often ignored because it is intangible and nebulous in a world which subordinates subjective experience to the emotionless discourse of objective inquiry.

The day had been unusual. There was a strange mystical quality to the stillness of the winds and even light. Clouds spread motionless across the vast sky bending over the horizon – the sky seemed very close. The greyness of the clouds was not heavy or menacing but melancholic in the late summer’s warmth. Today there was no sun, only an evenly filtered sad light that hung on people and the land – it was a still, grey summer’s day and it felt sad and strange. Voices washed across the hill fort like dreams, indistinct words and working sounds could be heard like ghosts but their meaning remained unlistened to; noise was just another component of this day’s abstract texture. Sound, light, the elements: all seemed to mourn, in convergent serenity, the death of Somun’s daughter.

The pit was maybe a cow’s length in diameter, cut through the fleshy topsoil into the enamelled hardness of the white chalk below. It had retained its circular symmetry quiterespectably for something which was man made without the precision instruments of twentieth century specifications. Yet over the years the neat edges had subsided. The perennial activity from waste producing humans had scuffed the perimeter of the pit as they filled it with their proverbial shit. In comparison to the technological saturation of say the modern kitchen, a pit seems positively mundane, a little barbaric perhaps, yet in terms of its significance, function and effort with which it was made, it was surely a very important technology in the Iron Age.

However, the pit at Somun’s feet was special. From that day it would be different from the other Iron Age hollows around it, distinguished by the burial of her child on its stratified sediment and beneath the ground’s grass camouflage, leaving it undisturbed for 2,700 years. How many more people do we, unknowingly, walk over whose death signifies the same impermanence as we will one day experience and whose legacy is often painful and tragic?

It felt appropriate to place the child in the centre of the pit but, unable to reach the ceremonious spot graciously, she carefully placed her daughter by the edge of the shallow hole. The waste pit had now become a grave, a place of rest and respected reverent peace for the dead. Standing back, below the still clouds and whispered voices around her, she took out of a small bag some pieces of chalk and a stone that her daughter had played with. They were for Somun at once oracular mystical objects and simply the toys of a child’s curious
explorations. The pieces of chalk had small holes made through them and were rough and irregular. Somun did not know if her daughter had found them like that or if someone made the holes but the small child had taken them everywhere like the pendants of the religious as though they comforted and protected her – and Somun hoped that they would. She placed these and the small burnished oblong of sandstone between the baby’s arms. The care and deliberate delicacy with which she did this evoked a sense of ritual and significance for herself that framed her grief in worldly acts and ideas that made her loss comprehensible and bearable.

The small ritual however, could not deflect her attentions and emotions. Her mind was confused by the metaphysical wanderings and the spiritual possibilities of one who begins to question the nature of existence. Where was her daughter now? Could she see the people in the Camp? Why was she so young when she died? Had her ‘life force’, her spirit died or had it merely passed on – was her daughter in other words more than the inert body that Somun had just placed in the pit? The unanswerable became overwhelming, the knotted strain of the inconceivable eventually revealed itself as in fact a thought from the heart, not the mind, and she let go of her questions, releasing tears from her glazed salty eyes. She had not cried before this point, but now the transparent drops of saline feeling ran freely onto her checks and she sensed a strange mix of relief and strength permeate her turbulent mind.

Somun’s brothers helped fill in the remaining hollow which exposed the child to morbid onlookers. She turned to be alone, to walk silently in introspection and cry to herself and for the grief that she was suffering. As the sound of the soil could be heard falling on hard packed earth, her perspective was raised beyond the burial. She looked up towards the vast expanse of the arching sky above and the valley beneath, within which her sorrow seemed to be lost for a necessary moment and her grief reduced to human proportions.

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Report by Anne Spencer

Editors comments.

I have copied this essay without any editing.

I personally found it quite moving and that it required reading more than once. Archaeologists do sadly occasionally forget that human remains should always be treated with dignity and respect. The treatment of human remains is one of the most emotive and complex areas of archaeological activity.

Human remains may be encountered as cremations in containers or in pits or as inhumations, or as mixed collections of bones in a communal deposition (as in Neolithic long barrows), or as a charnel. The list of possible information gleaned from these bones and teeth keeps growing as scientific knowledge increases. Sex, stature, age at death, diseases, diet, DNA, etc and possible ritual demonstrated by the disposal of a body and or any grave goods. All can lead us to understand the life and times of our ancestors.

It’s a personal view but I consider that once useful information had been obtained, and maybe a few samples retained, then rather than leaving the remains to gather dust on the shelves of a store room they should be reinterred, with respect, within the location that they were found.

What is your view??
What happened to the builders of Stonehenge?

Members who have followed the Low Grounds story will be familiar with the presumed dating of the site to the transition of the Neolithic to the Bronze Age. This was a period of significant and apparently relatively abrupt change and it has always mystified me why people who demonstrated such amazing skill with stone construction should abandon such a durable building material. Low Grounds may shed some light on this subject, which is addressed in a recent paper published in the journal ‘Nature’.

The origin of the Bell Beaker culture can be traced back to the Iberian Peninsular about 4700 years ago. But it was not clear how this style spread to the rest of Europe, including Britain, and North Africa. The alternatives were either cultural diffusion or the movement of people.

A recent paper argues that both mechanisms were at work, though not necessarily simultaneously. Work by 144 archaeologists and geneticists involved analysing the genomes of 400 Europeans dating from 2700BC to 1800BC, when the style died out. This figure included 226 bodies associated with Beaker burials in Iberia, 4 from southern France, 3 each from northern Italy and Sicily, 9 from the Netherlands and 37 from Britain. In addition, 56 bodies from more ancient populations in Europe were examined and 118 from Britain dating from both before and after the Beaker era.

About 4500 years ago there was a mass migration westward of people from the steppes of eastern Europe, displacing and replacing the local population. However, the DNA of the Iberian people buried with Beaker pottery was different from that of the migrants in central Europe, and it is contended that the spread of the Beaker culture was not, at first, a result of the migration but rather cultural diffusion.
Subsequently, and particularly in the case of Britain, the introduction of the Beaker culture is associated with the migration. This replaced some 90% of the native population, so that our present skin colouring and eye pigmentation is derived from that time. That native population was responsible for building Stonehenge and the other great megalithic monuments in our islands, strongly suggesting that this was a period of great social upheaval.

It goes to explain the sudden disappearance of the culture of monumental stone construction. It also highlights the potential importance of Low Grounds, not just for Marlow, but also for our national story.

Peter Borrows (based on a report in Archaeology)
Bricks - a potted history…. by Anne Spencer

Most people consider archaeological artefacts would be buried; however, if you read the Cambridge dictionary it defines archaeology to be the study of the buildings, graves, tools, and other objects that belonged to people who lived in the past, in order to learn about their culture and society. So with that definition in mind I am considering bricks and what can be discovered through their size, colour and the materials used in their manufacture.

Brick-work is so common that we don't give it a second thought. However, brickwork evolved to meet the needs of society, and over the centuries it has continually responded to changing needs, technology and fashions. The history told by brickwork is all around us. It is written in the buildings that you can see any day, and if you can understand the language in which it is written, you can read the buildings history. Walk around almost any town and look at the brickwork you pass. Often it can tell you something about the building and the area where it stands, about the purpose for which it was built and how that has changed over the years, and even the status of the building's original owner. In town centres especially, look up above the shop fronts where you can see the original fabric of the buildings, before they were mauld by the makers of gaudy modern shop fronts.

Bricks are one of the oldest known building materials dating back to around 7000 BC. These were simple sun dried mud shapes; examples of which were discovered in an ancient settlement around the city of Jericho, southern Turkey. The Ancient Egyptians made their bricks of clay mixed with straw, sand and sometimes animal dung mixed with water; the mixture was pressed into a mould and put out in the sun to dry. This mixture could not be kiln baked due to the straw inclusions. The illustration above, copied from the Massive on line Encyclopaedia of Islam, demonstrates their process.

Moulded mud bricks appeared in Mesopotamia in about 5,000 BC. However, the greatest breakthrough in the manufacture of bricks came with the invention of fired brick in about 3,500 BC - probably a Greek invention. From this point bricks could be produced without the heat of sun and soon became popular in cooler climates – particularly where wood or stone was in short supply. Fired bricks were used by the remarkably advanced civilization, 3300-1300 BC, Indus Valley Civilization, (a civilization well worth reading about!) This extended from modern-day northeast Afghanistan to Pakistan and northwest India. In 1856, British colonial officials in India were involved in the construction of a railway between Lahore and Karachi in Pakistan along the Indus River Valley. when labourers discovered hundreds of thousands of old fairly uniform bricks which proved to be fire-baked bricks from the Indus Valley Civilisation era.

The Romans probably copied the ancient Greek methods for firing bricks, perfecting the technique during the 1st century AD using white or red clay. Roman bricks are
characteristically of longer and flatter dimensions than those of standard modern bricks. The usage of bricks in construction spread throughout the Roman Empire and they differed from other ancient bricks being round, square, oblong, triangular and rectangular in a variety of sizes. The Romans used brick for public and private buildings over the entire Roman Empire.

Part of the interest of U.K. brickwork is the ability to observe subtle (and some not so subtle) differences in size, shape and colour as you walk round different towns. When you 'get your eye in' you will find that differences will stand out even before you resort to a ruler. Several things influenced the size of bricks. They mustn't be too big, or they will be too heavy and awkward to pick up with one hand, while applying mortar with a trowel held in the other. They mustn't be too small, as then a wall will need more of them, more mortar, and be more time consuming.

In modern times most UK bricks are made to a standard size of 8½" × 4" × 2½" [65 x 102.5 x 215mm], and laid with nominal 10 mm mortar joints. In earlier times the size varied quite a lot. Some early medieval bricks were as big as 13"x6"x2". Late 15th century bricks were mostly about 9½"x4½"x2". A charter in 1571 specified bricks to be 9"x4½"x2¾", and in the 18th century, Parliament specified 8½"x4"x2½", which is equivalent to our modern bricks. In 1784 a brick tax imposed by the government, to be paid per brick laid - so brick makers responded by making much larger bricks, which meant fewer were needed for a given size wall. An extreme case of this was produced by Joseph Wilkes of Measham, who produced bricks double the normal size known locally as 'Jumbies' or Wilkes's Gobbs", see right. The government later set an upper limit of 150 cubic inches (10"x5"x3") for a brick which was still much larger than bricks had been before the tax. The tax was repealed in 1850, but by this time, many brick makers, especially in the Midlands and North, had moved from hand-made to machine-made bricks. Having invested heavily in machinery it wasn't easy for them to revert to the smaller sizes, which meant that big bricks persisted for a long time afterwards. As a result you are likely to find bigger bricks in buildings built before the introduction of standard modern bricks as you move farther north.

Prior to the age of mass transport, buildings in different parts of the country mostly used local materials, including bricks made from the local clay. Bricks in one part of the country would have a very different colour and texture from those in another, giving buildings a distinctive regional look and feel. However, all that changed when cheap transport began to favour mass production in areas where the bricks could be made more cheaply, and transported more or less anywhere. Incidentally brick sizes are not universal most countries have their own standard sizes.

If I had been asked what was used to build the Great Wall of China I would have said stone [well I thought the part I visited was stone] but trawling the internet I read that there

Wilkes Gobbs oversize bricks in the wall of former Ashby Canal warehouse alongside modern bricks of bridge parapet, High Street, Measham. Wikipedia

Photograph by Anne Spencer
might to be approximately 3,873,000,000 individual bricks used to build the Great Wall of China, though the precise number remains unresolved. As a rough estimate if all the bricks were placed end to end, the bricks would loop 36 times around the equator.

To state the obvious this article is only scraping the surface of brick manufacture and use. Nowadays, Industrial Chemists play a role in determining the composition and colouration of the product. Clay bricks are the most popular type and are now manufactured by the use of three processes—soft mud, dry press, and extruded. Also during 2007 the new ‘fly ash’ brick was created using the by-products from coal power plants!!

Brick size and colours can be used to date buildings. How about looking at Marlow buildings. For example, look at All Saints Parish Church by the bridge; built of Staffordshire bricks with Bath stone dressings it was completed in 1835. In 1867 the chancel was added, constructed of split flint with stone dressing * and the three span roof was added in 1889 and lastly the spire was rebuilt in 1898-9. All this activity can be clearly seen. Then go onto the Causeway and gaze at the George and Dragon**. Begin by looking at the step of the main door. The top step has been turned over and the worn hollow from the tread of many feet is now filled with cement; meander along and it's easy to spot different bricks where bits have been added and building have been joined together.

*A close up of the tower construction of All Saints Church Marlow

** The George and Dragon Marlow – a merger of several buildings

The old Bridge House St Peter Street, taken from the church yard. Anne Spencer
OWED TO THE ANCESTORS

We are the past,
The scions of those who went before
And by good fortune passed
Through famine, flood, disease and war.

Though gone, they speak
If we would hear,
And from their silent voices seek
To understand why we are here.

They made us what we are today;
So let their ancient record stay,
And show respect, as we wish for
When we’re no more
And now is yesterday.

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Recent excavations by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust at St Albans Abbey have confirmed that it was one of England’s early Norman cathedrals. The work was undertaken prior to the construction of a new visitor centre. The abbey is reputed to stand on the site where St Alban, the first British saint, was martyred by the Romans. It is the oldest place of continuous Christian worship in the country.

The excavation uncovered remains of the original apse that was built in 1077. Also found were the remains of some 20 benefactors or clergy from the abbey from the 11th and 12th centuries. They were situated close to the abbey wall in tile lined tombs, probably as a particular honour.

*Source: BBC News website 18 March 2018*
The Isle of Arran claims to be Scotland in miniature. That, of course, is a matter of opinion but it does contain a number fascinating megalithic monuments, perhaps the most spectacular of which is Machrie Moor. The site lies on the west of the island and was first investigated in the 19\textsuperscript{th} century, before the overlying peat was removed. A systematic archaeological excavation was undertaken in the 1980s. It is possible that more remains to be discovered under nearby peat mounds.

At sometime about 2500BC, two timber circles were constructed to the east of the site. Around 500 years later, these were replaced with stone circles. Probably at the same time or a little later a further four stone circles were constructed, the most westerly comprising two concentric circles. Associated with the circles are several large standing stones.

Clearly, this was a ceremonial site of importance to the builders, but its purpose is a matter for speculation. A clue may be that the site aligns with a valley between nearby mountains that provides an early view of midsummer sunrise. Several of the circles contained burial cists and there are nearby remains of chambered cairns.

Machrie Moor is a site not to be missed and well worth making a long detour for and the island has much more to offer.
The times they are a changing!

Pam Knight has provided a couple of interesting photographs

This old postcard shows Chapel Street in Marlow, probably c1914. The chapel that was previously on the site of Liston Hall, where we hold our talks, is behind the railings next to the white lamp post in the centre of the picture.
An ongoing saga – how much money has been spent over the years?

Stonehenge tunnel: more plans more money - £1.6bn

Searching the internet there are so many conflicting views as to what to do about the dreaded A303. Massive amounts of money has already been ploughed into how to sort out the problem and several solutions suggested!

It explained the route had been chosen to avoid monuments and barrow groups and to avoid intrusion on views of the winter solstice. Highways England said that by taking the A303 underground it would reconnect the two halves of the site that has been spilt by the road for decades. Under the plan, work on the tunnel will begin by 2021 and be completed by 2025.

English Heritage, the National Trust and Historic England are in support the concept and, in a joint statement, welcomed what they see as improvements to the western end. But the bodies
flagged up particular concerns about the linking of two ancient byways, currently separated by the A303. If the byways are joined as is suggested, it could mean vehicles will still pass close to the circle, albeit going slower than on the A303 and in much smaller numbers.

Kate Fielden, the vice-chairman of Rescue – the British Archaeological Trust, said: “Our government proposes to spend £1.6bn trashing a world heritage site.” So will it ever be sorted out?? What do you think should happen??”

New Discoveries at Stonehenge Has Finally Revealed Its Purpose well that is until the next news breaks!

Rather than fill this last page with How to rid your lawn of Moss or How to cook the best Mary Berry cake I have trawled the internet for the latest developments about Stonehenge. There is a mass of information, some dating from a long time ago, from many different sources. For example, the most recent I have come across was found on You Tube:-

5 News - Published on 8 Jan 2018 …….
“These new discoveries have finally solved many of the mysteries surrounding Stonehenge, overturning the accepted view on construction and use of greatest prehistoric monument. Finding that the first monument was originally a graveyard for a community of elite families, whose remains were brought to Stonehenge and buried over a period of more than 200 years. The original monument was a large circular enclosure built 500 years before the Stonehenge we know today, with the remains of many of the cremated bodies originally marked by the bluestones of Stonehenge. We have also discovered that the second Stonehenge was built 200 years earlier than thought, around 2500 BC”.

Published on 8 Feb 2018
It's one of the most famous monuments in the world and now the first images of a controversial tunnel which will run near Stonehenge have been released.

And lastly Published on 9 Feb 2018
Stonehenge tunnel: full plans for two-mile underpass released . Stonehenge tunnel: full plans for two-mile underpass released Proposal would see £1.6 billion tunnel alleviate congestion at historic bottleneck on A303 Highways England has published plans for a new ... ... and so its goes on

Will this tunnel ever be built?
Probably not in my life time!!

Anne Spencer
And finally …………

I wish to thank **Harrisons the Hairdressers** and the builders **Galliven Homes**, whose advertisements appear in this newsletter, for their continued and valued sponsorship. Also thanks are, of course, due to the contributors to this edition of Times Past - without whom there would be little or no content to print!

The next edition will, hopefully, be published in the autumn of 2018. So please do let me have your contributions any time between now and then - I have a next edition file! Where will your travels take you over the coming summer? Perhaps you will visit some archaeological sites and let us know of your experiences.

Comments as to the contents - be they adverse or whatever - are always welcome.

*Anne Spencer*

Anne Spencer – Editor 01628487790
Fitzroy House  
21 St Peter Street  annerayspencer@googlemail.com
Marlow
SL7 1NQ