

E-newsletter 8

3 September 2021

Dear Roman Army Schooler,

We are delighted to be back after a summer recess and have a great programme in store for you over the next few months. Our series of online lectures at the beginning of the year were well received and most can now be viewed on our website (details below).

It gives us great pleasure to announce a second lecture series beginning on September 6th and running through to February 2022. See below for current programme.

We are also excited to announce that the official Roman Army School meeting will go ahead in Durham on 25th- 28th March 2022! The programme for this will be that of the delayed 2019 meeting and a booking form is attached. For those of you who had booked for 2019 and have opted to roll over your booking a member of the organising group will be in touch to confirm your booking and supply further details. Anyone who initially booked and then cancelled we ask that you please book again if interested.

We understand that there may be some trepidation about meeting again in person and are undertaking every effort with the assistance of St. Chads to be sure that the lectures will conform to social distancing guidelines. As such places are limited and we advise that you book early to avoid disappointment. Booking forms will be uploaded to our website and forwarded to all on our mailing list shortly.

And finally, our very own David Breeze has been awarded the 2021 British Academy's Kenyon Medal in recognition of his outstanding international contribution to the Archaeology of the Roman Empire!

The Kenyon Medal is awarded annually by the British Academy in recognition of work in the fields of Classical Studies and Archaeology and I'm sure you will all join us in congratulating David on this wonderful achievement. More information can be found here:

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/prizes-medals/kenyon-medal/>

<<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/prizes-medals/kenyon-medal/>>;

Previous lectures:

Our previous lectures are available through our webpage at: <https://www.ad43.org.uk/webinars.php>

Or individually on youtube here:

Bearsden: Life in a Roman Fort <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEv9UIOIYR0>

Roman Frontiers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3yYoztwK30>

Transmission and Meaning of the Notitia Dignitatum <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1l0nKfzd7w>

The Saxon Shore <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMymRQ9XUrQ>

The Logistics of Agricola's Final Campaign <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bq6EN0OPaj8>

The upcoming online programme:

Our upcoming webinars are listed on our website and booking is now open. Please visit <https://www.ad43.org.uk/webinars.php> to book and register your place for this new series.

Mon 6th September 8pm:

Professor David Breeze, The Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site: A Proposal to Encircle the Roman Empire with a New Protective Ring

David Breeze led the team which successfully nominated the Antonine Wall as a World Heritage Site and created the new transnational WHS, Frontiers of the Roman Empire. In this talk he will describe the project and consider its implications.

Mon 4th October 8pm:

Professor Rebecca Jones, On the March: Roman Camps in Scotland

Beccy Jones is Britain's leading authority on Roman camps and has written several books on the subject. Beccy is Head of Archaeology and World Heritage at Historic Environment Scotland.

Mon 1st November 8pm:

Dr Nick Hannon, The contribution of Lidar to our understanding of the Antonine Wall

Dr Nick Hannon, PCIfA, FSA Scot, works for Historic Environment Scotland as their Geophysical Survey Officer within the Survey and Recording team. He has previously worked in both commercial and academic archaeology specialising in the use and analysis of remotely sensed data to better understand archaeological landscapes. Nick earned his PhD from Canterbury Christ Church University where he investigated LiDAR data covering the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.

Mon 6th December 8pm:

Martin McAree, Roman Artillery: Development, Use and Sources

Martin McAree is an engineer and in particular is interested in the torsion of Roman catapults, that is to say, how they worked. He has collaborated with Alan Wilkins and Len Morgan who spoke at the Roman Army School 3 years ago.

Recommended reads

And finally, in this newsletter a few books that have caught my attention and may be of interest to Roman Army Schoolers.

Guardians at the wall – Tim Walker

I was recommended this fiction book on Twitter by a friend of mine and whilst I have not yet gotten around to reading it, it certainly sounds like something myself and perhaps some other Roman Army Schoolers may be interested in. Although as a field archaeologist myself I'm not sure I appreciate the term 'mud rat' to refer to the profession – though I'm sure I've been called worse! Book available in paperback and on kindle from Amazon. https://www.amazon.co.uk/Guardians-at-Wall-Tim-Walker/dp/B08YMB19D2/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2QZFCIZHNJ4O0&dchild=1&keywords=guardians+at+the+wall&qid=1630678581&sr=8-1 <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Guardians-at-Wall-Tim-Walker/dp/B08YMB19D2/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2QZFCIZHNJ4O0&dchild=1&keywords=guardians+at+the+wall&qid=1630678581&sr=8-1>;

I have included the book's blurb below for your perusal.

"A group of archaeology students in northern England scrape at the soil near Hadrian's Wall, once a barrier that divided Roman Britannia from wild Caledonian tribes. Twenty-year-old Noah makes an intriguing find, but hasn't anticipated becoming the object of desire in a developing love triangle in the isolated academic community at Vindolanda. He is living his best life, but must learn to prioritise in a race against time to solve an astounding 2,000-year-old riddle, and an artefact theft, as he comes to realise his future career prospects depend on it. In the same place, in the year 180 C.E., Centurion Gaius Atticianus, hungover and unaware of the bloody conflicts that will soon challenge him, is rattled by the hoot of an owl, a bad omen.

These are the protagonists whose lives will brush together in the alternating strands of this dual timeline historical novel, one trying to get himself noticed and the other trying to stay intact as he approaches retirement. How will the breathless battles fought by a Roman officer influence the fortunes of a twenty-first century archaeology mud rat? Can naive Noah, distracted by the attentions of two very different women, work out who to trust? Find out in Tim Walker's thrilling historical dual timeline novel, Guardians at the Wall."

BAR KOKHBA: The Jew Who Defied Hadrian and Challenged the Might of Rome. - Lindsay Powell

In this new book to be published this month, Lindsay Powell has made a new study of the Bar Kokhba revolt that has been well received. It will be available from Pen & Sword books later this month

<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Bar-Kokhba-Hardback/p/19278>

Book blurb included below for your perusal.

"BAR KOKHBA is the search for the truth of the epic struggle between two strong-willed leaders over who would rule a nation. One was Hadrian, the cosmopolitan ruler of the vast Roman Empire, then at its zenith, who some regarded as divine; the other was Shim'on, a Jewish military leader in a district of a minor province, who some believed to be the 'King Messiah'. It is also the tale of the clash of two ancient cultures. One was the conqueror, seeking to maintain control of its hard-won dominion; the other was the conquered, seeking to break free and establish a new nation: Israel. During the ensuing conflict – the 'Second Jewish War' – the highly motivated Jewish militia sorely tested the highly trained professional Roman army. The rebels withstood the Roman onslaught for three-and-a-half years (AD 132 - 136). They established an independent nation with its own administration, headed by Shim'on as its president. The outcome of that David and Goliath contest was of great consequence, both for the people of Judaea and for Judaism itself. So, who was this insurgent Shim'on known today as 'Bar Kokhba'? How did Hadrian, the Roman emperor who built the famous Wall in northern Britain, respond to the challenger? And how, in later ages, did this rebel with a cause become a hero for the Jews in the Diaspora longing for the foundation of a new Israel in modern times? This book describes the author's personal journey across three continents to establish the facts."

Best wishes on behalf of the RAS Organising team,

Susan

Chair – The Roman Army School

S. M. Porter MA. BA Hons, ACIfA Project Officer, Fieldwork Trainer and Roman Coin Specialist Museum of London Archaeology, (MOLA), Basingstoke

<<https://www.facebook.com/pg/smporterauthor>>; <<https://twitter.com/smporterauthor>>; @SMPorterauthor
<<https://www.facebook.com/pg/smporterauthor>>; <<http://amzn.to/2eA1bDN>>; <<http://amzn.to/2eA1bDN>>;
Why not read my Archaeological Adventure novels. Available on Amazon! www.smporterauthor.co.uk

Archive note: This PDF is a web-friendly transcription of the original e-newsletter email. References to attachments and historical website links have been retained in the text; separate email attachments are not reproduced here.