



Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee

# NEWSLETTER

No. 1 April 2009

Dear Member,

After a break of several years, the SELRC has decided to re-instate the annual newsletter which will contain information on forthcoming field meetings, the AGM and other snippets of news and information. As the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century comes to a close, the Estuary, the surrounding wetlands, and their archaeology and historic landscape face some of the greatest threats yet, by continued aggregate extraction and the proposed construction of the Severn Barrage. The SELRC continues to encourage and support research, evaluation and excavation on both the English and Welsh shores of the Estuary.

Recent field meetings have taken us to Brean Down and the Wentlooge Levels, and this year the meeting will be based around Lydney (see below for more information). Attendance at the annual AGM held in Chepstow has continued to grow, the most recent meeting in November 2008 was particularly successful and included papers by Professor Oliver Rackham who discussed the historic woodlands of the area, Ed Wilson presented an informative paper on ongoing work in the area and Gary Momber of Hampshire and Wight Archaeological Trust discussed the submerged Mesolithic landscape of Bouldnor Cliff and sites in the Solent.

Next year we hope to emulate the success of the 10th Anniversary Conference in Abergavenny as we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with "Fish and Ships" a residential conference to be held in Cardiff during 10-12 September 2010. More information on this event will be passed on to our members in due course.

*We are also very proud to launch our new website at:*

**[www.selrc.org.uk](http://www.selrc.org.uk)**

## *Field Day Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009*

### **Lydney Harbour and the Roman Temple and Museum, Lydney Park**

*General arrangements:* Participants should equip themselves with a copy of the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Sheet 162 (Gloucester and the Forest or Dean) or the 1:25,000 sheet covering Aylburton and Lydney. The walking distances are short. Lydney Harbour is a level site but Lydney Deer Park, in which the temple lies, presents rough and steep ground. Stout footwear is recommended for both sites.

*Morning:* Take the B4231 southeastwards off the A48(T) in Lydney and follow the signs to Lydney Harbour (c. 2.5 km), where cars can be left. Assemble in the car park not later than 1030 hrs. The tour of the Harbour, which dates to Victorian times, will be led by Edward Wilson, Senior Archaeologist, Environment Agency, in whose charge the Harbour now falls.

*Lunch:* On a fine day Lydney Harbour is an attractive spot for a picnic, with excellent views over the Severn Estuary, but there no toilet facilities there. Alternatively, lunches can be purchased from the pubs and cafes in Lydney itself or at the inn in Aylburton, the village nearby to the southwest.

*Afternoon:* Lord Bledisloe and his family of Lydney Park have graciously consented to a private visit by members of the Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee to the site of the late third-century Roman temple complex in Lydney Deer Park and the associated museum of finds from the site. There will be an entry charge of £4 per head collected on the day. Details of the time and meeting place for the visit to Lydney Park will be announced during the morning at Lydney Harbour. The visit is an exceptional opportunity for members and it is essential that the arrangements as announced are strictly adhered to.

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Please indicate your intentions below, striking out as appropriate, cut off this slip here, and return by Royal Mail to: Professor John Allen, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, PO Box 227, READING RG6 6AB.

Name:

Email/telephone:

I/We propose to attend the tour of Lydney Harbour only.

I/We propose to attend the tour of Lydney Harbour and then the private visit to Lydney Park in the afternoon.

**AGM 2009** *to be held at*  
**The Drill Hall, Chepstow**  
**7<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

Further information will be made available at a later date.  
We look forward to seeing you there!

**Back Issues of ARCHAEOLOGY  
IN THE SEVERN ESTUARY**

Should you have lack any copies of our journal, back issues are available at the following prices

<b>Nos. 1-5 out of print</b>	
<b>Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9:</b>	<b>£2 each</b>
<b>Nos. 10, 11, 12 (13 out of print):</b>	<b>£3 each</b>
<b>Nos. 14, 15, 16:</b>	<b>£5 each</b>
<b>Nos. 17/18:</b>	<b>£10 each</b>

The price does not include postage and packing.

Purchase request should be addressed to our publication secretary, Dr. Scott Timpany at:  
Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd., 13 Jane Street,  
Edinburgh, EH6 5HE or email:  
[scott@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:scott@headlandarchaeology.com)

**A BIG THANK YOU...**

In 2008 we set out to consolidate our membership in order to determine the total number of subscribers to our organization. The Steering Committee would like to extend their thanks to all those members who have renewed their membership and for the kind letters we received during this process.

For those members who pay by cheque, the renewal notification for 2009-10 is enclosed with this newsletter.

*Many thanks for your continued support*

**SELRC  
COMMITTEE**

Our committee may have changed a little bit since you last looked!

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**Request for emails...**

Our current email list is woefully out of date, as we are ever conscious of our carbon footprint, we propose a greater degree of communication with our members via email. If you would prefer to receive further notifications such as this by email and so we can update our database! Please send an email to:

**[selrc@live.co.uk](mailto:selrc@live.co.uk)**