

# LOVELY LITTLECOTE

## HADS FIELD TRIP

SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013



Several members of HADS travelled to Littlecote last Sunday, the route took us up the A34 (where Don forgot to pick up Jerry), and on to the A4 towards Hungerford where just afterwards we turned right to find ourselves in the grounds of Littlecote House.

The day was entirely different to usual, we viewed the interior of the house and sat and relaxed over coffee in a superb lounge. We then walked over to the Roman Villa to view the famous (but dirty) Orpheus mosaic.

We then headed to the Wheatsheaf pub at nearby Chilton Foliat where we had a really good meal. We had reserved the restaurant beforehand and everything was ready when we arrived. As the pub had been recently re-opened I must say that the staff did us proud.

After lunch we returned to the site of the villa where we dowsed for various elements. Some members located the ford across the River Kennet; some located the external wall of the villa. Other Roman buildings were also located, including the early Roman fort. Marshall discovered the later medieval houses; he also found a worked flint (possible arrowhead) and bits of tesserae from a mosaic as well as Roman pottery and tile. All these were discovered in mole hills.....well done Marshall!

To finish the day off many members returned to Littlecote House and thoroughly enjoyed a cream tea or a pint in the bar!

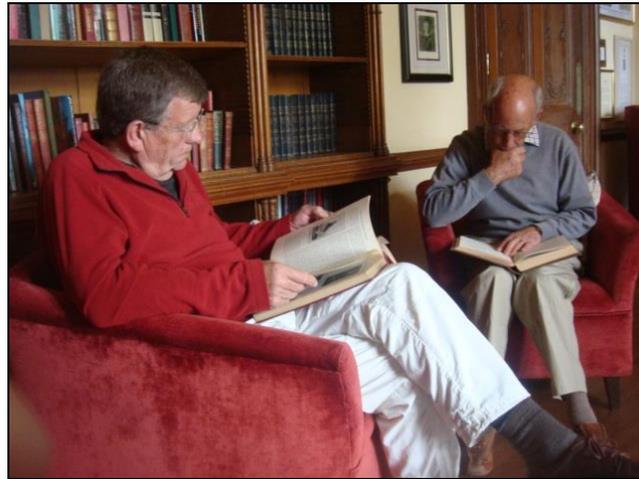
All those attended really enjoyed the day.....a mixture of history, archaeology, dowsing and great fellowship....a brilliant combination!



*Ed & Gill having a natter*



*Carol & Jerry playing chess*



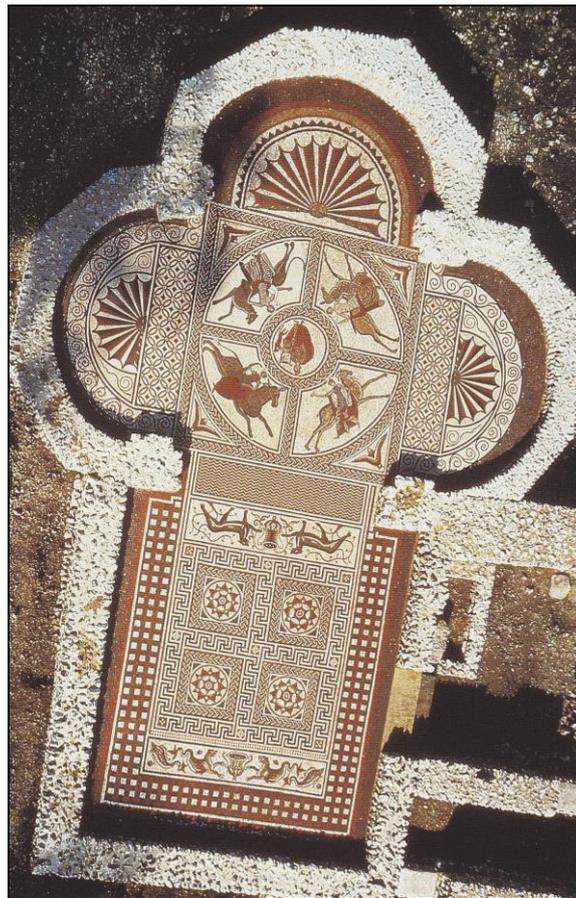
*Roger & Derek educating themselves*



*Outside in the sun!*



*Littlecote Roman Villa  
(You can see the buried buildings we dowsed for)*



*A clean version of the Orpheus mosaic*

It was discovered complete in 1727 but was left open to the elements for three years causing great damage. Nearly one half of the mosaic was damaged. It was reburied in 1730 and the site was forgotten. It was rediscovered in 1977 and fully restored 1979-80 using modern terracotta.



*On the villa site with Littlecote House in the back-ground*



*On the buried Roman buildings*

**A great day was had by all !**