

**EMAS ROMAN FIELD TRIP to
Portchester, Fishbourne and Bignor Roman Villas**

Saturday, 24th June 2017 with Harvey Sheldon

Harvey Sheldon will be our guide to the Roman fort of Portchester in the morning and to the Roman villas of Fishbourne and Bignor in the afternoon.

Portchester, a later Saxon Shore Fort, is one of the best preserved forts from Roman Britain. Apart from disruption in the NW corner, where a Norman castle was built, the entire circuit of the defensive walls remain. These walls are c.3m thick and c.6m high in places with 14 of the original 20 bastions still standing. Though the above circuit of defensive walls date from the end of the 3rd century there was earlier military occupation of the area in the 1st century. Occupation within the walls, visible today, was between 340 and 370. Barry Cunliffe discovered Anglo-Saxon occupation within the walls and a Norman castle stands in the NW corner.

It was Barry Cunliffe who directed extensive excavations at Fishbourne in the 1960s. From these and further exploration it has been determined that there were three main periods of development and occupation. The 1st Period, 43-75AD, began with a military settlement and the later building of the Protopalace, 65-75AD. The 2nd Period saw the construction of the Flavian Palace, 75-100AD. However it was the 3rd century that saw occupation in an altered and sumptuous Palace until the abandonment of the site between 280 and 290AD. The visitor can feast their eyes on some wonderful finds, but it is the mosaics that catch the eye. These include the black and white mosaics from the 1st Period, and the mid 2nd century mosaic of a Boy on a Dolphin. Such finds and the Roman garden show one how splendid this palace complex must have been.

Originally excavated in the early 19th century, Bignor Roman Villa is also famed for its exquisite and extremely skilled 4th century mosaics such as the examples of Gannymede and of Venus. They were part of a sumptuous courtyard villa with a farm annex – the whole complex being some 2 hectares in extent, making it the largest villa from Roman Britain in a perfect setting and in a location near to Stane Street. The North Wing was the length of 3 tennis courts. Today the visitor views only a third of this length. The proximity of Stane Street makes it no surprise that there was a farmstead on the site by the end of the 1st century, though the actual structural remains date to the end of the 2nd century. The first stone house from the mid third century was to develop into a massive villa that, it has been suggested, was owned by a family rapidly growing in size and wealth.

Lunch has been arranged at the Bull's Head in Fishbourne. If you require lunch please make a choice from the menu included and send a separate cheque, made payable to R. Yeaxlee, for the price of your lunch along with the half section of the menu for her.

A coach will leave from the **EMBANKMENT TUBE STATION** (riverside exit) at **8am**.

The cost of this trip is £48.80 for EMAS members and £53.68 for non members; £44.00 for EMAS and EH members and £48.90 for non EMAS but EH members. (Cheques payable to EMAS). If you wish to join this trip please fill in the attached slip and send it with your trip cheque, menu choice slip and lunch cheque to R. Yeaxlee as soon as possible.

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EMAS Field Trip to Portchester, Fishbourne & Bignor
Saturday 24th June 2017 from EMBANKMENT TUBE STATION at 8am

Name(s).....

Address (in full).....

.....Post code:

Your mobile telephone no. **R.Y's** mobile no. 07931 998469

I/We enclose cheque for £ _____ (Cheques made payable to EMAS).

Please send this form and cheque, together with your lunch slip and cheque to: Rosemary Yeaxlee, 50 School Lane, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 9BB.

Lunch Menu for Bull's Head, Fishbourne

Name: _____

Your own copy

Please tick box by dish of your choice

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------------------|
| A. Fish and chips with mushy peas | £ 11.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B. Cumberland sausage in a giant Yorkshire pudding
with mushy peas | £ 12.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C. Pork belly with garlic mash, apple cider gravy
and vegetables | £ 12.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D. Lamb shank with mash and vegetables | £ 16.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E. Stilton vegetable bake with chips and salad | £ 11.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| F. Spinach and ricotta cannelloni with salad & garlic bread | £ 11.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

Lunch Menu for Bull's Head, Fishbourne

Name: _____

Copy for R. Yeaxlee

Please tick box by dish of your choice

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------------------|
| A. Fish and chips with mushy peas | £ 11.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| E. Stilton vegetable bake with chips and salad | £ 11.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| F. Spinach and ricotta cannelloni with salad & garlic bread | £ 11.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please send second section of menu to R. Yeaxlee with your cheque for lunch only, made payable to R. Yeaxlee.