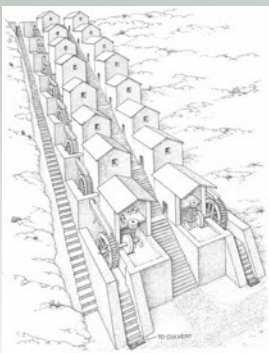


**Monday 1 March**

**Councillor Bryan Chalker**  
Chair of B&NES Council will open the Roman Series at 7 pm.



**Roman Technology**

• **Its Past and Future**  
**Professor Julian Vincent**

*Chair of BRLSI Trustees*  
Using power from the wind, water, animals and themselves, the Romans made crossbows and catapults for war, water-mills and pumps, cranes and hoists, and had both merchant and armed navies. The Industrial Revolution broke these traditions, which we would do well to rediscover.

◆ **Saturday 6 March** 6 pm

**BATH LITERATURE FESTIVAL**  
Tickets £8 /£7

**The Roman Empire**  
Authors **Frank McLynn, Philip Parker & Charlotte Higgins** in conversation.

How did Rome come to conquer such an enormous territory and where and why did its expansion halt and fold in on itself? What is that legacy and how powerfully does it survive, both physically and culturally?



**Monday 22 March**

**Britain's First Information Revolution**

**Professor Ian Haynes**  
*University of Newcastle*  
The Roman conquest of Britain introduced a revolution in the use of information as dramatic in its way as the introduction of the internet in our own times. While many changes were linked to major cities and military centres, others reached further afield and deeper into society. Even patterns of cult practice were changed by this revolution as the evidence from the famous Bath curse tablets demonstrates.



**Monday 12 April**

**They Came to Aquae Sulis**  
**Stephen Bird**

*Head of Heritage Services, B&NES*  
Throughout the Roman period people came to Aquae Sulis (Bath) for different reasons - for rest and recuperation, relaxation, to seek retribution for wrongs done to them, or simply to retire. This lecture draws on antiquarian records and archaeological evidence to tell us who these people were and why they came.



◆ **Friday 16 April**

**The Demonisation of Paganism**

• **Christian views of Roman religion in late antiquity**

**Dr Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe**

*Kings College London*  
This lecture will explore the reasons for and expressions of Christian hatred of Roman religion. It will focus on their stigmatization of magic and of pagan statues as the dwelling-places of demons. It will also address the effects that such anxieties had on the development of the Christian church.



**Friday 7 May**

**Mutating Gods of the Roman Pantheon**

• **Roman religious practicality, its origins and traces today**

**Roger Vlitos**

*Writer & photographer*  
Sulis Minerva, often represented, for her wisdom, with an owl, represents that eclectic pragmatism which allowed Romans to assimilate diverse and even contrary traditions of mythology and faith, from Pagan to Christian eras, into their pantheon. This richly illustrated lecture will examine local examples of the faith-fusion or syncretism which brought unity to the Empire, and consider the meaning of its well known symbols, some of which survive to this day.



**Monday 10 May**

**Bathing in the Roman Empire**

**Stephen Clews**

*Bath Roman Baths & Pump Room*  
What is special about the Roman baths at Bath that attracts visitors from around the world? How do they compare with Roman baths elsewhere? We shall consider the role of bathing in the Roman world, and enjoy some insights from classical sources, the whole finely illustrated with examples from around the Roman Empire.

**Wednesday 26 May**

**Roman Ruins, English Poets**  
**BRLSI Members & others**

For centuries, ruins of Roman buildings in England and in Rome have moved English poets to admiration, wonder and reflection on the great fall of empires. We present a variety of poems prompted by such reflections, some read first in Anglo-Saxon or Latin, followed by recent translation.



**Wednesday 2 June**

**Roma non basta una vita**  
**(Rome, a lifetime is not enough)**

**Duncan McGibbon**

*author of The Consolations*  
An evocation of Rome through the eyes of poets who visited Bath, including Richard Brinsley Sheridan, John Dryden and Walter Savage Landor.

**Friday 4 June**

**Fosse Way and Myth**  
• **Evidence and interpretation**

**Simon Tyler**

*BRLSI Member*  
In tracing this Roman road from Devon to Lincolnshire, we uncover many layers of story and history. As with so much of history and archaeology, the story depends upon the teller, and upon the simplifications in his account and the reasons for them.

◆ **Monday 7 June**

**What the Ancients have done for us**

**(and might still do)**

**Dr Peter V Jones**

*Classicist*  
Our speaker will show how the Greeks and Romans laid the foundations of our world, with their law, politics, education, sport, medicine, war, natural science, ethics, literature, history, philosophy, and 'communication skills'.

**Sunday 13 June**

**A day visit to the Roman town of Caerwent and the legionary fortress of Caerleon**

See romans@brlsi.org  
or 01225 312084 for details

**EXHIBITION**

**Caveman to Celt**  
• **The unwritten history of the British Isles**

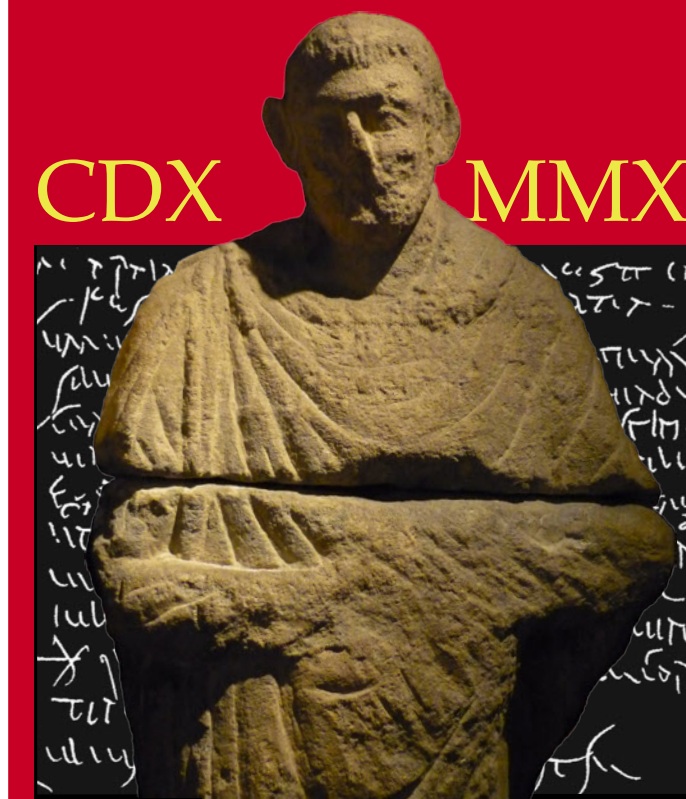
The environment, lifestyle and technologies of early man, from stone tools used to butcher Mammoth and Woolly Rhino, to the beginnings of agriculture and settled communities, the development of international trade, and with it, the first contacts between Britain and the Roman Empire.



**Saturday 24 April - 19 June**

**ROMANS IN BATH**

BATH ROYAL LITERARY & SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION



**BRLSI is marking Britannia's 1600th Anniversary of Independence from Rome with a programme of lectures, events and exhibitions to examine Rome's influence and legacy.**

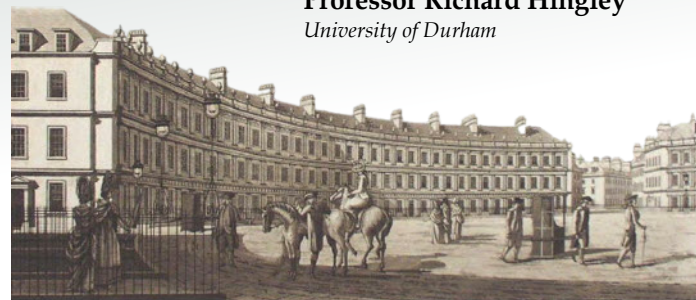
# ROMANS • IN • BATH • ROMANS • IN • BATH • ROMANS • IN • BATH • ROMANS • IN • BATH • ROMANS •



◆ **Monday 12 July**  
**Health and Medicine in Antiquity • Too busy to be ill?**  
**Professor Helen King**  
*Dept of Classics, University of Reading*  
 When early twentieth century medical historians tried to reconstruct the earliest period of Roman medicine, they suggested that constant war kept the Romans fit. Can we go further in exploring the relationships between Rome and her conquered peoples?



**Friday 1 October**  
**The Battle of Mount Badon**  
 • **Arthur's last & greatest victory**  
**Michael Davis, BRLSI member**  
 Britain was the most militarised part of a highly militarised Roman Empire, & with Arthur's great victory near Bath, became the most successful ex-colony, during the break-up, in resisting the barbarian hordes. With the later Battle of Dyrham came inexorably the Celtic Twilight, and for two centuries Bath was deserted.



British Museum

**Friday 15 October**  
**THE JOHN WOOD LECTURE**  
**Colony so Fertile**  
 • **John Wood and the recovery of the Roman Empire**  
**Professor Richard Hingley**  
*University of Durham*



**Friday 12 November**  
**AD 410 - The Sack of Rome**  
 • **Was it the end for Roman Britain?**  
**Sam Moorhead**  
*British Museum*  
 When Alaric and his Visigoths sacked Rome in 410, just how great was the catastrophe? Were its effects more psychological than physical? What were the real motives of the late Roman emperors, the Senate and the barbarians? Was this infamous year really so pivotal in Roman and British history?

**Tuesday 16 November**  
**Edward Gibbon's 'Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'**  
**Dr Brian Young**  
*University of Oxford*  
 Dr Young's reappraisal of Gibbon's historical masterpiece will provide a fitting conclusion to this Roman series.

**All events start at 7.30 pm (unless otherwise stated) at 16 Queen Square, Bath.**  
**Admission at the door: Visitors £4 • Members/Students £2**  
**Events marked ◆ may be booked in advance through the Bath Festivals Box Office: 01225 463362 Tickets: £6/£4**



Design: Marie-Louise Luxemburg

**Romans programme manager: Martin Sturge**  
**romans@brlsi.org**

◆ **Wednesday 3 November**  
**Calleva Atrebatum**  
 • **The beginning of town life in Britain**  
**Professor Michael Fulford**  
*University of Reading*  
 Long term excavation of the Roman town at Silchester in Hampshire is throwing important new light on its pre-Roman origins, and its development over the first two generations or so after the Roman conquest of southern Britain after AD 43.

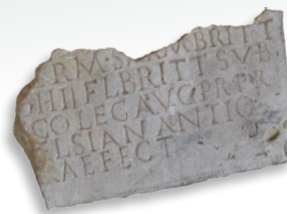


**Monday 8 November**  
**Roman Ripples**  
 • **Drapery in fashion through the ages**  
**Rosemary Harden**  
*Curator, Bath Museum of Fashion*  
 From those slender muslin dresses fashionable in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century to the intricately draped garments by today's designers - such as John Galiano and Sophia Kokosalaki - designers and makers of fashion in modern times have been inspired by the statues and sculptures of classical Rome and Greece.

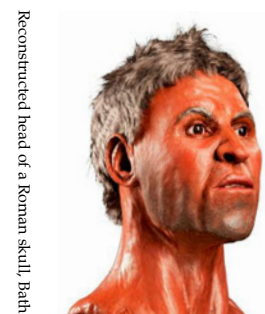


Sophia Kokosalaki

**Wednesday 6 October**  
**Living with Latin**  
 • **The feel of Roman culture**  
**Dr Nicholas Ostler**  
*Philologist*



**Monday 11 October**  
**The Perception of Self**  
 • **Freedom and Slavery in Roman Bath**  
**Stephen Clews**  
*B&NES Heritage Services*  
 How did the people of Bath nearly 2000 years ago see their position in life? From their monuments and inscriptions, we can see something of these people and the society they lived in. Evidence from classical sources, and from other locations, brings some colour to the story told by dry bones and stones.



Reconstructed head of a Roman skull, Bath

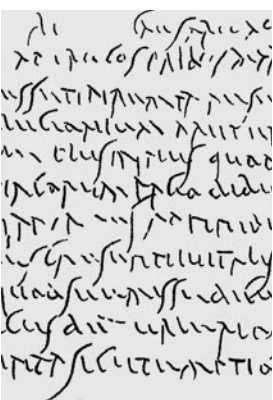
**Wednesday 13 October**  
**Vergil: the Aeneid**  
**Tony Pitman**  
*Classics Teacher*  
 Vergil's Latin epic of 29-19 BC drew stylistic elements from Homer's Iliad, written just after the fall of Troy c1880 BC, where Aeneas also first appeared. The poet John Dryden, celebrated for his 1690 translation of Vergil into English verse, understanding its connection with the Greeks and with the Emperor Augustus, Vergil's contemporary, saw the Aeneid as the glorification of Rome. Was he right?



**Monday 2 August - 10 October**  
**EXHIBITION**  
**Life in Roman Britain**  
 The Roman Empire as experienced in the province of Britannia: Government, society, industry, lives and beliefs of Romans and Britons living under a military dictatorship.



◆ **Friday 10 September**  
**I know my rights...**  
 • **But what laws were there in Roman Bath?**  
**Professor Derek Roebuck**  
*Institute of Advanced Legal Studies*  
 Roman Bath lasted five centuries, but legal records are scarce. Yet, with scholarship and some conjecture, we can imagine how civil and criminal law touched people's lives, and might have affected grievances such as between a British farmer and a retired Roman wishing to build a house on land acquired from him; and some other troublesome predicaments.



England was part of the Roman Empire for nearly 400 years. The Romans stationed three legions in Britannia and left a legacy of city-states, roads, and outlying forts. Aquae Sulis (Roman Bath), with its Hot Spring, was then as now, a place of rest and relaxation.

The Romans had no difficulty in seeing a connection between the native Celtic gods and their own. Hence the sacred spring of the Celtic Sulis (Bath) became dedicated to Sulis Minerva.

► **Relief carving of the Roman god Mercury with his Celtic consort the goddess Rosmerta.**  
*(Found in the Roman Baths)*

In AD 410 the Emperor Honorius, his coffers stretched, granted Britannia responsibility for her own affairs. Bath, which played a significant role in Roman Britain, was the focus of much strife and destruction after the Romans left.



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Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institution  
 16 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN  
 01225 312084 • www.brlsi.org • romans@brlsi.org