



# Roman Baldock

An exhibition at Baldock Museum

May 2018-May 2019

This booklet is based on the panels devised for an exhibition held at Baldock Museum between May 2018 and May 2019. It was organised using the collections of North Hertfordshire Museum and written by Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, Museum Curator and Heritage Access Officer.

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## Baldock and its Archaeology

No-one suspected that there is an ancient town hidden beneath Baldock until 1925, when Roman burials were found after Walls Field was deep ploughed for the first time. Since then, we have come to learn a lot about life here more than 1500 years ago. Every time archaeologists log a new discovery, we learn a little bit more, which means that our ideas about the ancient past are always changing.



Excavating in Walls Field in 1925

Many of the objects displayed in the exhibition held at Baldock Museum in 2018-19 were found during one of the three main periods when large excavations have taken place in Baldock: between 1925 and 1930, between 1968 and 1972, and between 1978 and 1994. Percival Westell, Curator of Letchworth Museum, carried out the first digs; next, Ian Stead of the British Museum excavated for the Department of the Environment; finally, Gil Burleigh of Letchworth Museum undertook the largest campaign of work in the town.

Since 1994, commercial archaeology companies have carried out smaller excavations, usually before building work happens, although the construction of the A505 bypass in 2003-4 was a major landscape project.

Most of the finds made in Baldock are kept by North Hertfordshire Museum, in Hitchin, where you can see some in the permanent displays. A lot more of them are in storage, as there is not enough space to show them all and most of them are just broken pieces that are of interest only to archaeologists. Archaeologists are always developing new techniques to study the past, so we keep these bits and pieces for people doing research to use for local history, student projects, academic research and so on.

In recent years, research using finds from the stores has included studying human bones in a major international project to understand when different strains of tuberculosis spread across Europe. A PhD candidate has analysed potsherds to investigate Iron Age trade in southern Britain, while the archaeologist has worked with an American professor on finding out about what happened to pottery production when Roman rule ended in Britain.

## Prehistory: before Baldock

Humans have been around in the North Hertfordshire landscape for many thousands of years. The earliest visitors to the area, during the Lower Palaeolithic (800,000 to 200,000 years ago) have left few traces. During the late 1800s, quarrymen in the Hitchin area found over a hundred of the stone tools these early humans made and left behind but none have been found in Baldock.

Parts of the skeleton of a woolly mammoth were found when sewers were being laid in Salisbury Road in 1920. They were close to an ancient stream bed that continued as a winterbourne (a stream that only flows in winter) into Roman times. A flint spearhead of the same date, about 60,000 to 40,000 years ago, was found in Walls Field in the 1930s. You can see the mammoth tusk and the spearhead in the North Hertfordshire Museum in Hitchin.

The first permanent settlers probably arrived about 6000 years ago. We have found their flint tools across the town. About 3500 BC, they built a cursus (thought to be a processional way) leading from the Ivel Springs past Nortonbury. A few centuries later, they built a henge nearby, overlooking the springs. This was a place where they held religious ceremonies, probably watching the equinox sunrise (21 March and 21 September) that marks the change from winter to spring and from summer to autumn.

About the same time, a group of people set up a farm on Clothall Common, where they built a timber house, struck flints and used pottery. An important member of the community was buried inside a square ditched enclosure about 3000 BC, close to the roundabouts at the Royston end of the A505 Baldock Bypass.



Late Neolithic house at Sale Drive

We know less about local peoples' lives for the next 2000 years, as the main monuments they left behind were burial mounds. Most of these have been ploughed away, leaving only the ditches that formed quarries for them. They are found all over Baldock and the surrounding areas.

## Iron Age Beginnings

Mount Hekla in Iceland erupted in 1159 BC, throwing ash high into the atmosphere and causing climate change across Europe. The main effects were to make it cooler and wetter, so that areas where early farmers had settled became heathland. Over the next two hundred years, people were forced to leave their settlements on the tops of the hills in North Hertfordshire and move down into lower lying areas.

In a few special places, people continued to live on higher ground. They built villages surrounded by banks and ditches at Arbury Banks, on the edge of Ashwell, and Wilbury Hill, on the edge of Letchworth Garden City. Archaeologists often call these places hillforts, but they were not military camps. They kept animals in and unwanted visitors (people and animals like wolves and bears) out and were places where farmers could store their crops until the next harvest.

The population grew rapidly between 1000 BC and 100 BC, and most of the local woodland was cut down to make fields and farms. Some large villages grew up in places like Jacks Hill, near Graveley, but most people continued to live in family farms. The people living in the hillforts became the chieftains of small areas, gradually expanding their power over surrounding areas. They would carry out raids on neighbouring tribes, stealing cattle and other booty.



The Mile Ditches, Therfield: an early territorial boundary under excavation in 1978

Something remarkable happened in the decades before 100 BC. The old pattern of settlement, with communities living along the scarp, dominated by warlords living in hillforts, began to disintegrate. Their boundaries, marked by massive ditches like those at the Mile Ditches, Therfield, were broken up as the new pattern developed. A new focus grew up in the valley south of the Ivel Springs, ignoring these long-established territorial boundaries and creating new ones. This was at Walls Field, which became the core of ancient Baldock.



## Britain's First Town

A village began to grow up at the southern end of Walls Field about 100 BC, opposite Pinnocks Lane and Roman Lane. About the same time, the local chief – perhaps we can call him a king – died and was buried in The Tene. At his funeral, a stew was cooked in a huge bronze cauldron, over logs held on iron firedogs, served in bronze dishes from Tuscany in Italy and washed down with Italian wine from



Objects from the chieftain's burial found in The Tene

Campania, mixed with water in wood-and-bronze 'buckets'. All these objects, together with roasted piglets, were put in his grave after he had been cremated wearing a bearskin. Perhaps his family believed he would take everything with him into the afterlife.

Widespread trade with the continent began during this king's lifetime and by the time he died, people in Britain were beginning to use gold and silver coins imported from Gaul. Over the next half a century, they started to mint their own, including small change, which means that they were using it as real money. In 55 and 54 BC, Julius Caesar invaded Britain, bringing the first Roman army to the island. He defeated a king named Cassivellaunus who lived somewhere north of the River Thames, although we do not know where the battle happened. It may even have been at Baldock.

For the next hundred years, the Roman government began to meddle with British politics by appointing kings in south-eastern Britain rather than ruling the island directly. By 30 BC, the local king was a man named Addedomaros (the *d* stands for a sound we don't have in English, a cross between a *th* and a *sh*). He died about 25 BC, around the time that the first Roman style roads were built in the town, which was growing quickly at this time. After him, Tasciouanos became king and expanded his kingdom eastwards into Essex, where he founded a new capital, *Camulodunon* (Colchester). He also founded the town at *Uerolamion* (St Albans). After he died about 10 BC, the kingdom may have split between rival kings until his son Cunobelinos became king by about AD 7.

## The Coming of the Romans

The death of King Cunobelinos about AD 41 caused a political crisis in Britain when his son Caratacos took over, apparently without approval from Rome. After another king, Verica, was thrown out of his kingdom south of the Thames, the Emperor Claudius decided to invade in AD 43. Within 40 years, most of Britain had become the Roman province of *Britannia*. The ruler of Hertfordshire seems to have put up no resistance to the invaders and no forts have even been found here. The idea that thousands of Roman settlers came to live here is quite wrong: apart from government officials, including soldiers, Britannia was not an attractive place to live. In fact, it had become a place of exile by the fourth century.

It can be very difficult to see the impact of the Roman invasion on Baldock, as the big changes all happened either 70 years earlier, during the 20s BC, or a generation later, about AD 70. Many of the things that we think of as Roman innovations, including paved roads, imported high-quality pottery and urban living, had all arrived before the end of the first century BC. Many of the changes that took place later seem to have been designed to remove traces of the earlier past of the town by building new roads over old cemeteries and dismantling long-established temples.

Other changes happened gradually. People started to cook food in the Roman way, using mortaria to grind food that included new imports, such as apples and onions. The traditional British roundhouse gave way to rectangular houses. Latin became the language of government and the educated. These slow processes were



Coin of Cunobelinos from Clothall Common

already underway at the time of Claudius's invasion and took generations to complete. People slowly adapted to the new culture of imperial Rome.

## Prosperity and the *Pax Romana*

Baldock continued to grow for more than a century after the Roman invasion, eventually becoming one of the largest settlements in *Britannia*. A large paved area south of one of the main roads was probably the market place, although it was never developed as a forum. To the north, on the other side of the road, lay a temple complex that must have been an important part of town life. Some of the largest houses stood in this area, while those towards the suburbs had spacious plots that may have combined gardens with smallholdings and orchards.

The economy of the Roman town never depended on a single industry or product. Set in one of the most fertile parts of Britain, it was surrounded by rural villages and farms whose produce would have been traded in the market place for luxuries and imports. Some of



these luxuries were made locally: there was a workshop for bone pins at Hartsfield School, while an iron foundry stood on Clothall Common.

There were other heavy industries outside the town. There were quarries for chalk in the Weston Hills to the south; chalk was used locally to make lime for mortar and plaster, and as building stone as rubble foundations. Some was exported as far away as Leicestershire to use in mosaic paving. Towards Norton, a series of enclosures combined factories that may have included glass-works and ironworks with warehouses, perhaps for storing finished goods.

This mixed economy was good for the town, which continued to prosper throughout the Roman period. Many towns went into decline during the fourth century, with large areas given over to farming. Although Baldock did shrink, it managed to survive the changes that saw the major cities become little more than gated communities for the rich.



## Life and Death

Baldock is best known to archaeologists for its number and variety of burials. Thanks to the analysis of the remains, we know a lot about the health and lifestyles of the town's ancient inhabitants. While these people are obviously all dead, their skeletons usually appear quite healthy. This is because most people die from things that leave no trace, like heart failure or simple old age.

Almost everyone was well fed, eating a good mixture of fresh fruit and vegetables as well as meat. Oysters were a popular snack. Although a lot of children died before they were five years old from illnesses that we can treat easily today, if people reached adulthood, they had a good chance of reaching a healthy old age (over 60).

We can see that the descendants of people born here before the Roman conquest continued to live here afterwards, but were joined by people from outside. A couple of people buried in a cemetery at Royston Road had probably come from West Africa, although no-one knows how or why they arrived in Roman Britain. As they were in a cemetery where the burials were most of people with no signs that they had done heavy work during their lives, they were probably wealthy.

In some cemeteries, there are signs that people had lived hard lives, with the strain of manual labour visible in their joints and backs. In one, most people had died before reaching middle age, which is shocking, even by ancient standards. One possible explanation is that these people had been slaves, as Roman Britain was a slave-owning society.

Some people had life-long debilitating health issues. One old lady suffered from such severe osteoporosis that she had probably been unable to get out of bed for many years. Another, younger woman, died aged about 40 from complications while giving birth to triplets, who also sadly died. A man who had been hit on the head with a sharp implement, perhaps an axe, received surgery to try to heal the wound, but he unfortunately died from an infection a few months afterwards.



A middle-aged man with an unusual bone growth on his jaw

## Religion and Belief

For most of the Roman period, the people of Baldock were pagans. This descriptive term was invented by Christians (it means ‘country folk’) and does not refer to a single religion. The state did not usually interfere in people’s beliefs, so long as they were prepared to sacrifice to the emperor’s wellbeing. This caused conflict first with Jewish people and later with Christians.

In a place like *Britannia*, which had many local gods, nature spirits and sacred places, Roman culture absorbed them into Classical beliefs. The goddess Senuna, whose shrine was discovered at Ashwell in 2003, was identified with the Roman Minerva; Toutatis, who was worshipped at Barkway, was thought to be the same as Mars.

People could pick and choose their favourite gods and goddesses, keeping statuettes and images in shrines in their home. Here, they worked alongside the spirits of the ancestors and the household. Some well-regarded emperors were believed to have been admitted into the ranks of the gods and might have their own images in domestic shrines.

There were also temples where more public aspects of religion would be celebrated. Sacrifices were an important part of Roman religion, involving the slaughter of animals or the gift of expensive objects to the temple. Priests examined the entrails of some sacrificial victims to look for favourable omens. There were very few professional priests in the Roman world and leading citizens would be expected to perform the correct rituals when they were needed.



There seem to have been few Christians in Baldock, even in the late fourth century after paganism was made illegal in 391. Their burial ground at The Tene and the bezel from a signet ring reading *Cimarli CS Vivas* (‘Cimarlius, live forever in Christ the Saviour’) are the only evidence we have for their presence in the town, as their church has not been discovered.

The bezel of Cimarlius’s ring identifying him as a Christian

## Baldock in *Britannia*

Although Baldock had been the base of an important ruler in the first century BC, it did not have any administrative importance after the Roman conquest. We know that it had its own town council (or *curia*), as official lead seals have been found on several sites. For local government purposes, it was part of the *Civitas Catuellaunorum*, with the main law courts and tax office at *Verolamium* (St Albans). As a town, its status was *vicus*, the smallest grade of independent settlement, while the land it controlled was its *pagus*, which covered most of North Hertfordshire, Stevenage and part of Central Bedfordshire.



A lead seal issued by the town council

So far as we know, Baldock is not mentioned in any Roman histories or geographical works, which is why we do not know its ancient name. The seal of the *curia* reads C·VIC SPVS, which stands for *Curia Vicanorum Spus...* ('the *curia* of the townspeople of *Spus...*'). It was not garrisoned during the conquest period or during the troubles of the late fourth and fifth centuries, when raiders from overseas attacked *Britannia*.

A building with a long corridor was discovered behind The Engine public house in 1992. Situated by a main crossroads in the town, it was probably a *mansio*, a place where riders for the imperial postal system could change horses and rest overnight. This shows that the town was connected with the rest of the Empire and would regularly have received official messages from Rome.

About the year 200, Roman Britain was split into two provinces, with Baldock falling under *Britannia Superior* (Upper Britain), with its capital in London. A hundred years later, this province was split again after the defeat of the usurper Allectus in 296, and the town ended up in *Maxima Caesariensis*. By this time, the imperial bureaucracy was enormous and costly to maintain.

## Losing the Roman Connection

In the early fifth century, Britain ceased to be part of the Roman Empire. The details of how this happened are unclear but involve three usurpers, the last of whom, Constantine III, was defeated and killed in 411. At about the same time, the provincials expelled the governors he had put in place when he left the island in an attempt to conquer the western part of the Empire. From then on, *Britannia* was on its own.

In many parts of Britain, towns were soon abandoned, as they had depended on imperial bureaucracies to keep running. Baldock, with its diverse economic base, remained the main settlement in northern Hertfordshire. Its population fell gradually but people continued to build new houses, repair roads and try to maintain a Roman lifestyle for more than a hundred years.

Small change continued to arrive in the south-east and money was being used until at least the end of the 430s, a generation after direct Roman rule had ended. As the manufacturing industries went into decline, unable to sell their products through lucrative government contracts and transport them through territories that were under the control of hostile Saxon



A hand-made fifth-century bowl, copying an older mass-produced type

settlers, small-scale local craft production became the norm. This is most visible in the lack of well-made pottery that had been so common in Roman times; instead, poorly fired hand-made pots were the only types easily available.

By the middle of the sixth century, few people remained in the town, which must have begun to look ruinous. A timber hall built behind Hartsfield School about this time probably stood in a largely empty landscape, with the nearby road falling into disrepair and the cemetery on its other side becoming increasingly overgrown. Slowly, the ancient settlement reverted to farmland and was completely forgotten.

## The Empty Centuries

By 600, the town was deserted. There is no sign that it was overwhelmed by marauding Saxon raiders, killing off the population; nor do the inhabitants seem to have succumbed to the Great Plague, which arrived in Britain in 547. So what happened to them?

It is probably not a coincidence that as Baldock was declining from the fourth century on, a new settlement was growing up around Queen Street and the River Hiz in Hitchin. The cemetery of this village was discovered in 2001 and was found to be Christian, in use from the fourth to seventh centuries. The people who lived here called themselves *Hicce*, after the Brittonic name of the river. As Baldock's falling population remained resolutely pagan into the fifth and sixth centuries, it is likely that the Christians moved away, finding a new place to settle in Hitchin.

Hitchin continued to develop from a village and had become the principal settlement of a small kingdom by the end of the seventh century. Its parish church may have been founded around this time, if it had not already been established in Late Roman times. By 900, it had become the main settlement of northern Hertfordshire and filled the role as market, administrative and religious centre that Baldock had done over five hundred years earlier.



Domesday manors around Baldock; the ancient settlement is shown in green

Baldock is not named in Domesday Book. At the time it was compiled in 1086, the site of the old Roman town lay partly in Weston, partly in Clothall and partly in Bygrave. As Domesday Book records two priests in the manor of Weston, it has been suggested that one was based in a church in Baldock, but this is unlikely as there is no evidence either for a church or for a community that it would serve. Instead, it was probably a Minster church, caring for a large rural area.



## Baudac Reborn

About 1140, Gilbert de Clare (c 1100-1148) granted part of his manor of Weston to the Knights Templar to found a new town. This was known as *Baudac* or *Baldac*, the Old French form of the name of Baghdad. Diverting the Roman road from St Albans to the north north-west, they created a double market place along High Street and White Horse Street. The layout of the new town was based on the shape of the Cross, an important symbol for the Templars. They established a parish church at the dominating position of the 'knee' of the market place, further emphasising their religious credentials.

*Baudac* lay largely to the west of the ancient town, although parts to the east of High Street and Norton Street overlapped its eastern suburbs. It is unclear whether this was a deliberate act, avoiding the ruins of Roman buildings, or was a result of the older site being split between separate medieval manors.

Henry II granted the town a market charter, which was confirmed by Richard I in 1185. Properties fronted the four main streets, with back lanes behind them, and by the time of Richard I's charter, there were already 122 tenants. Much of the town's prosperity depended on its position along one of the principal roads linking London with the north. By 1300, it had established itself as one of the principal markets of Hertfordshire, although it was badly affected by the Black Death between 1347 and 1361.



The medieval parish church of St Mary

The modern town owes its shape to *Baudac*, not the ancient settlement. Only North Road and London Road follow the line of a Roman road: all the others are medieval or later. Owing to the discovery of Roman remains in Walls Field in 1925, it was Scheduled as an Ancient Monument in 1946. Although Hartsfield School was built on part of it, it has become a major open space in the twenty-first century town, protected from urban development.

## Catalogue of the exhibition

This brief catalogue lists the objects chosen for display in the exhibition held at Baldock Museum between May 2018 and May 2019.

### **Ceramic flagon, AD 130-160**

A flagon, which has lost most of the white slip that originally coated it, showing that it was old by the time it was placed in the ground. The contents of earthenware vessels would slowly seep through the walls and evaporate. Although this meant that they were not useful for long-term storage, evaporation helps to keep the contents cool. They were perhaps used to hold *ceruisa* (beer) or *uinum* (wine). This one was probably made in potteries near *Uerolamium*. It was excavated from the Walls Field cemetery in 1925 as part of the gifts accompanying a cremation burial.



### **Bone hairpin, AD 200-300**

Pins like this were used to hold ladies' elaborate hairstyles in place, as hairspray did not exist in the ancient world. Many of them were fashion items and could be decorated elaborately, but this is a plain type. Excavated from a quarry in Walls Field in 1926.

### **Ceramic beaker, AD 380-420**

A colour-coated beaker, probably used as a drinking vessel. It was imported at the very end of the Roman period, possibly from the important Oxfordshire potteries, one of the major suppliers of ceramics to Baldock from the third century on. It was found in 1983, buried with an elderly man in the fourth- to sixth-century cemetery behind Hartsfield School.



### **Samian dish, AD 150-230**

Samian ware was a fine, but everyday, tableware imported from Gaul and Germany. It was made in moulds, with thousands fired at the same time. This was found in 1987 with the cremation burial of a mature man in the cemetery at Royston Road.



### **Horseshoe scraper, 2300-1800 BC**

Scrapers were probably used to clean animal hides so that they could be turned into clothing, bags and containers. They may also have been used for smoothing wood. The term 'horseshoe' refers to its shape, not how it was used. They are typical Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flint tools and many examples have been found in and around Baldock. This was found on the field surface in 1984, long before the houses in Sale Drive were built.



### **London ware bowl (reconstructed), AD 50-80**

These fine wares were made in several places in south-east *Britannia*, not just London. It is sometimes also called Upchurch Ware, after a production site in Kent. It was excavated by Baldock Urban District Council's surveyor, Mr Widger, in 1932 before the Grosvenor Road estate was built.



### **Ceramic flagon, AD 100-150**

A coarseware flagon, whose rim was deliberately broken off and put inside the pot when it was buried. It is unclear if this was to 'kill' the pot or to prevent people from stealing it. It was found, propped up by a lump of flint, in the grave of a young woman who had been cremated, which was the preferred burial rite in the second century AD. Many graves contain vessels for cooking, eating and drinking, perhaps for the deceased to use in the afterlife. It was excavated during the building of houses at Westell Close in 1982, the first part of the Clothall Common estate to be constructed.



### **Large ceramic jar, AD 100-150**

In many graves, cremated remains were put in disused cooking pots, like this one. It is possible that using these vessels was a pun on the burning of the corpse during the funeral ritual. It was probably made at Harrold in Bedfordshire, like a lot of the Roman pottery found at Baldock. This was excavated from the the same grave at Westell Close as the flagon described above.



### **Samian dish, AD 150-200**

Although it was mass produced, some samian types are uncommon, like this little dish with a design normally used on deeper 'cups'. Although samian often has a glossy finish, it is not glazed. It was excavated in 1925 from the Walls Field cemetery.





### **Samian dish, AD 125-175**

Like many samian vessels, this dish has the maker's stamp in the centre, although it is difficult to read (the first letters are CA). It was excavated in 1928 from the Walls Field cemetery.



### **Large bowl, AD 100-150**

A large bowl like this was probably used for mixing foods; it was made at Harrold in Bedfordshire. It was excavated from the first burial to be discovered in Walls Field when Percival Westell began investigations in 1925.



### **Colour-coated jar, AD 225-275**

An unusual jar that seems to imitate a style normally used for glass vessels, with trails of thick slip across its body. Vessels like this were most likely used as tableware. It was probably made in the Nene Valley potteries, near modern day Peterborough. This was excavated from a burial in Walls Field in 1925.



### **Beaker, AD 400-420**

A beaker, probably hand made at Much Hadham, typical of pots made after 400, when manufacturing was in rapid decline. It is likely that potters were failing to train the next generation, as the infrastructure that had supported specialists began to break down and most people were forced to live as subsistence farmers. It was found in 1925, broken in an inhumation grave in the Walls Field cemetery.





### **Colour-coated beaker, AD 150-250**

Beakers were often put in cremation graves, perhaps to provide drink in the afterlife. The dark brown coating would polish to a metallic sheen, with the white barbotine scrolls representing vines. This may be a hint about what people drank from them. The narrow pedestal bases make this sort of beaker top heavy and they must have been knocked over frequently. It was found in 1925, broken in an inhumation grave in the Walls Field cemetery and was probably originally from a cremation disturbed by the later burial.



### **Oyster shells**

Oysters were a favourite food in Roman times. Their shells are found in such large numbers that they must have been eaten regularly. They were probably imported from the Essex coast in barrels packed with straw and salt water, where they can live for up to a week. Dead oysters are poisonous, so it was important to keep them alive. Found at 65 High Street in 1988.



### **Necked jar, AD 50-70**

This style was made shortly after the Roman conquest, developing Iron Age types made in south-eastern Britain. These wares are found across south-eastern *Britannia*. It was discovered in the summer of 1929 during the widening of London Road as it climbs uphill away from the Tesco roundabout. Its complete condition suggests that it was deposited as part of a burial.



### **Carinated beaker, AD 70-200**

These popular beakers are common finds from Roman Baldock. Most of them were made by the nearby pottery manufacturers based at Much Hadham, whose products are the most common in Roman Baldock, first arriving around AD 70. They were among the last potteries to supply the town during the fifth century AD. This one was found in 1994 with the skeleton of an adult woman in one of the two cemeteries at Sale Drive.



### **Samian dish, AD 160-190**

The centre of the dish is stamped **PRIVATIM**, identifying the maker as Privatus of Lezoux in central France. Found in 1982 as part of the cremation burial of an adult male at Westell Close.



### **Objects from a cremation burial, AD 70-100**

Seven pots (two poppyhead beakers, a flagon, a samian cup, two samian bowls and a samian dish), two silvered bronze dishes, the cremated remains of an adult and a cube of narwhal horn were found in a grave at the site of the former Convent of Providence in July 1971.





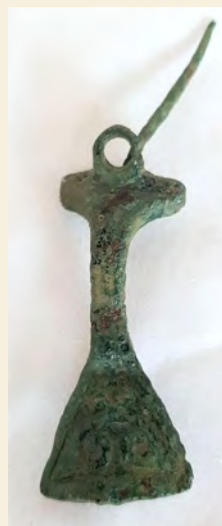
### **Pedestal beaker, 430-500**

A very plain hand-made drinking vessel with a flared pedestal foot and a burnished surface. It copies a Saxon style but was made using sub-Roman potting techniques. Sherds of pots in a similar ware have been found in fifth-century levels at Clothall Common, but this is the only complete example so far known. It was found in Baldock before 1964, possibly in Orchard Road.



### **Bronze bow-and-fantail brooch, AD 75-150**

People usually wore brooches in pairs, linked by a chain, to hold their cloaks in place. Brooches are common finds in ancient Baldock, up to the end of the second century, after which they seem to have gone out of fashion. Some were made locally, as half-finished and unusable examples have been found in the town. This one was found in 2004 near the Buntingford road during the construction of the A505 Baldock bypass.



## Objects from a cremation burial, AD 125-175

Five pots (a large poppyhead beaker containing cremated bone, a ring-necked flagon, a black-burnished jar imitating a glass vessel and two roughcast beakers made in the Nene valley) from ten found in a cremation burial together with a glass flask and a box with bronze mounts. Found in 1925 in the Walls Field cemetery.







The Three Ages of Baldock: ancient, medieval and modern towns



