Villagers dig talk on Roman Calleva

The director of the Silchester excavation gave a talk to local residents on Friday.

More than 100 people packed into Silchester Village Hall to hear Professor Mike Fulford from the University of Reading speak about the excavations which took place last summer.

A team of 80 archaeologists worked on the site of the Roman bathhouse and uncovered the bathhouse, portico entrance, latrines and tepidarium.

Most of the finds from the site were ceramic building material, which has provided information about life at Roman Calleva.

Tiles were manufactured on site and as they were drying an array of animals ran across them, leaving their footprints imprinted into the clay.

These animals included dogs, foxes, red deer and even stoats, and one tile also has a human shoeprint on it.

Before placing tiles in a klin, the worker would step on the tiles to test their hardness.

In her vote of thanks, Silchester Association chairwoman Sara Westwood said she hoped that Prof Fulford would return to talk to the village again next year as it is such a popular event.

Prof Fulford announced that the team will be back on June 17 to start work this summer and there will be an open day at the dig on Saturday, July 6.
Silchester Village Hall was packed for Professor Mike Fulford's talk on Friday.