

OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT NEWSLETTER

INCLUDING OXFORDSHIRE PARISH SURVEY NEWS

No.7 - July 1978

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Newsletter should send details to 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford OX1 2EP (Tel: Oxford 43888) before the last Tuesday of each month.

ASTHALL

Richard Chambers reports that the Asthall group is continuing to make good progress for the Parish Survey on field names and field walking. Plans are now in hand for a graveyard survey of the parish church. They have also produced a transcription of a tape recorded interview with one of the older inhabitants of the parish. A distribution map of all the known Rb coins from the Rb settlement is underway and should provide some interesting patterns. Some minor corrections have been made to the existing Sites & Monuments Record.

BICESTER, Kings' End Farm

Peter Briebrach reports that little material has come from the Romano-British settlement site currently being developed as a housing estate. Now that all of the ground-work for Building Phase 2a has been completed, there will be a short lull whilst the houses are completed before the commencement of Phase 2b which will also be sited over known Romano-British enclosures.

CAVERSHAM

Two members of the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Society Mr & Mrs Just, have kindly volunteered to keep a watching brief for the OAU over gravel workings to be opened up at the Redlands gravel pit. Some archaeological material, Roman and Viking, has been recorded from adjacent gravel workings in the past. Richard Chambers of the OAU has recently found a flint flake and a Clactonian flint core on the site of the new workings.

CHALGROVE

Excavations, directed by Phillip Page, have begun on the medieval moated site at Chalgrove. Labour on the site is being financed by the Manpower Services Commission. Areas to the north and south of R A Chambers main trench dug in 1976, have been opened up to try and recover the rest of the ground plan of the large store building plus ancillary structures thought to be one of the three manors of Chalgrove. R A Chambers' recent documentary research suggests it may be a manor of the Quartermain family.

The area to the south of trench 1 is at present under investigation. This reveals a rectangular building, attached to the south-east corner of the main building, which could be a garderobe. It is immediately south of the kitchen with what may be a drain between the two buildings.

A wall foundation runs parallel to the Eastern arm of the moat and may represent a boundary wall. Set against this are two insubstantial structures, probably ancillary farm buildings. With the main building these form an 'L', within which is a cobbled yard area. At the W end of this yard there appears to be a later structure possibly a byre, whose back wall delimits the N extent of the cobbles.

Volunteers wishing to take part in the excavation should contact Phillip Page in the evening on Abingdon 27856.

#### FARINGDON BY-PASS

Mrs Church reports that local volunteers from the Faringdon Archaeological evening class have continued their watching brief of the soil stripping for the Faringdon by-pass. As yet no archaeological material has come to light.

#### HARDWICK, Mingies Ditch

Mark Robinson and Tim Allen have begun the second season of this joint Unit/OUAS excavation. Mechanical clearance of the hedge separating the areas excavated last year has begun.

#### Other News:

##### OAU v OUAS Cricket Match

The University Archaeological Society's cricketing challenge to the Unit was taken up at Cutteslowe Park on an excellent pitch contrasting with last year's ground of ridge and furrow. Runs came freely and the OUAS finally reached 141 with further calculations during the course of a splendid afternoon tea. The Unit began well too, but some deceptive slow bowling by Tony Waters quickly embarrassed five batsmen and there was much nail biting until the Unit finally won with three wickets to spare. A chancy 126 by Bob Wilson restored the humour of the Unit and the OUAS hope that he will be under contract to Kerry Packer next year. (Duncan & Bob Wilson).

##### Photographic Darkroom at Hythe Bridge Street

An elementary darkroom has been set up in the Unit's premises, initially for developing and contact printing. At present there are no plans for having a full time technician, and it seems unlikely that existing staff will have time to do routine processing, so the room will probably be used mainly for urgent work, press releases and so on. Depending on how much use it gets, we may eventually provide an enlarger and a range of printing papers. The darkroom has been designed and set up by Michael Burrell under the Job Creation Programme, and it is hoped that he will be with us for long enough to see the system fully established.

#### CALENDAR

6th August

Hardwick Open Day - Please see details enclosed.