

Nos. 7-9 October 1974

We apologise for the long delay in the preparation of this issue. Inevitably ephemeral productions of this kind tend to be erratic, but now that the winter lecture season has begun we shall try to make sure that the regular monthly calendar of events goes out on time. Anyone wishing to send contributions to the Newsletter should send copy to 3 Luther Terrace, Oxford (Tel. 43888) before the last Tuesday in each month.

### Surveys

Parish Surveys. With the ploughing season now well under way it is hoped that the field-walking part of the Parish Survey will begin in earnest. Anyone wishing to take part in the Survey should contact Clive Hart: 2 Goddard Close, Shinfield, Reading, RG2 9DR

M.40 and Other Road Schemes. John Hinchliffe's report on the preliminary archaeological survey of the motorway route corridor has now been submitted to the Eastern Road Construction Unit. The survey has also been circulated to other interested parties. No preference as to a route has been expressed, although the Buchanan route, which passes close to Alchester, is the least preferred route. Field walking by the O.U.A.S. working with George Lambrick, is shortly to begin on the Cumnor By-pass.

Towns Survey. Kirsty Rodwell is continuing her work on the archaeological section of the survey. Julian Munby has virtually completed the architectural survey of all those towns which will not be surveyed by the District Conservation Officers or O.C.C.M. Two meetings have been held, with representatives of the Districts and the County, to agree on the form and content of the survey. Mrs. Eleanor Beard is preparing the drawings.

### Planning enquiries

Eynsham: The application to build on the Abbey site has now been turned down after enquiry; the major reason for refusal was the archaeological importance of the site.

Wendlebury, Alchester: Land & Properties (E.C.C.) Ltd. have now appealed against the refusal of planning consent on the suburban area of the Roman town and Tom Hassall is currently preparing a statement for the appeal.

### Excavations/observations

Abingdon: Ashville Trading Estate. The developers are now putting on the pressure on this site, which must be completed by early November. The A. and D.A.S. are continuing to excavate at weekends and Unit staff, with Mike Parrington, are working full-time on the site during the week. The developers have allowed a major extension and, although the whole area of the site cannot be stripped, a large sample containing structures, ditches, pits and wells of Iron Age and Roman date can be examined. Martin Jones is collecting large quantities of carbonised seed samples.

Abingdon: Barton Court Farm. The season of excavations has now been completed after an extension of time. Further mid fourth century paddocks, bounded by a droveway, were cleared, together with a small building, probably a smithy. In this building were pagan Saxon burials, one of which possessed beads, a saucer brooch and gold and silver-plated belt fittings.

Abingdon: MG Factory. Mike Parrington recorded late Roman burials during construction of a new building.

Berinsfield: Wally Corner. Gravel extraction by A.R.C. has uncovered part of a Romano-British field system and a large and rich pagan Saxon cemetery, containing over a hundred burials, with a high proportion of grave goods. A salvage excavation was mounted by David Miles, which attracted wide-scale publicity, both locally and nationally. The management of A.R.C. and the parent company, Consolidated Goldfields, were extremely pleased with the site. Further work is planned during 1975 when the gravel pit is extended.

Farmoor: George Lanbrick's excavation, with the O.U.A.S. providing the work force, together with assistance from Mike Hall of T.W.A., has been completed as also has the first major phase of observation. Because of the large area being cleared, it is possible to reconstruct a large tract of Iron Age into Roman landscape, with its field system and farmsteads and droveway. Three structures have been excavated, including perhaps the most complete Iron Age farm so far excavated in the Upper Thames. Mark Robinson has been collecting large samples of water-logged botanical evidence. The most spectacular find was a virtually complete scythe blade. Investigation of geological features, including pleistocene river channels has taken place.

Dunsden: Hampstead Farm. Jo Jefferies carried out a rapid trial excavation to examine a cropmark, looking suspiciously like a causewayed camp, on the line of the proposed new Henley-Reading road. Nothing was found, however, to account for the cropmark..

Hardwick: Geoff Williams and the Witney Group have been excavating Romano-British features on the line of the by-pass, uncovered during the site stripping.

Oxford: All Saints Church, High Street. Brian Durham observed part of a probable south porch of the church and early street surfaces.

Oxford: Canning Crescent. Further finds of Roman pottery have been found during dredging by the T.W.A. It now seems certain that there was a Roman ford here.

Shorthampton: Chilson Roman Villa. The Ascott Under Wychwood-Chilson sewerage scheme has now cut through part of the site, but no visible structures were seen during recording by Tom Hassall.

Stanton Harcourt: Richard Chambers dug a trial trench after the ambiguous geophysical survey. However nothing further was located.

Wallingford: New Road, site of St. Michael's Church. The T.W.H.A.S. excavation is continuing.

Wendlebury: Alchester. Chris Young's excavation of two sections across the defences, as part of the plough survey, produced Belgic or early Roman occupation, including two ditches underlying the Roman town defences, consisting of a stone wall, later robbed, and rampart with a berm and recut ditch.

#### Future Excavations

Ducklington: By-pass. Excavation, directed by Richard Chambers, will begin in early November.

#### Publication

Excavation reports, minus some specialist reports, have now been completed for

Abingdon, Broad Street (Mike Parrington); Appleford (John Hinchliffe); Banbury Castle (Kirsty Rodwell); Hanwell (Richard Chambers); Mongewell Grim's Ditch (John Hinchliffe). Work is continuing on the publication of Abingdon, Barton Court Farm (David Miles, with Bob Wilson, working on bones and Robin Spey, on drawings); Berinsfield, Wally Corner (David Miles and David Brown, of the Ashmolean, with Wendy Lee, on drawings); Farmoor (George Lambrick); Oxford, All Saints (Brian Durham - Regina Haldon has now completed the pottery report).

#### Other News Items

#### Staff News

John Hinchliffe has now left the Unit, having been appointed Director of the Inner London (North) Archaeological Unit. The Committee have decided not to replace John in the immediate future, but George Lambrick has been taken on as an assistant field officer.

Regina Haldon has also left the Unit in order to work for WEMRAC, at Stretton on the Fosse.

The Committee is offering short-term contracts and salaries to the following people: Wendy Lee (draughtswoman), Martin Jones (environmentalist), Bob Wilson (environmentalist), Tim Akister (digger), Mike Wilcox (digger).

#### Conservation

Note received from David Vaisey of the Bodleian Library:

A preliminary meeting organised by Mrs. Judith Segal, the senior repairer at the Bodleian Library, was held on Wednesday, 9 October, for people working in the field of conservation in various establishments in Oxford and the immediate area. Repairers and conservators from the Department of Antiquities and Eastern Art at the Ashmolean, the Pitt Rivers Museum, the Institute of Archaeology, the Museum of the History of Science, and the Bodleian Library were present. It is hoped that such meetings will in future be held quarterly, and that they will promote cooperation between institutions and the sharing of ideas (and possibly equipment) by conservators and repairers. If any organisations active in this field would like to send representatives to future meetings they should write to Mrs. Segal at the Bodleian Library.

#### Calendar for October, November and December

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| Monday 28th October    | Warwick Rodwell, 'Excavations at Hadstock and Rivenhall: Problems and Potential of Church archaeology'. 8.15 p.m. at Ashmolean, Museum, O.U.A.S.                                    |
| Tuesday 29th October   | Unit Staff Meeting.<br>Environmental Archaeology - to be conducted by members of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit. 5.00 p.m. Department for External Studies, Rewley House, 20p. |
| Wednesday 30th October | Exhibition of the Friars at Oxford, including excavations and manuscripts, at the Divinity School Bodleian Library.   |

Monday 4th November	Dr. Ian Stead. 'Recent Excavations of Latène Burials in Champagne'. 8.15 p.m. Ashmolean Museum, O.U.A.S.
Sunday 10th November	Possible Abingdon, Ashville Trading Estate Open Day.
Monday 11th November	Possible visit to the Unit by Peter Addyman and staff of York Unit. Peter Addyman. 'Alas, poor Jorvik' or 'Rescue Archaeology in Viking York'. 8.15 p.m. Ashmolean Museum, O.U.A.S.
Monday 18th November	James Allan. 'Medieval Persian Metalwork: Dealers versus Archaeologists?'. 8.15 p.m. Ashmolean Museum, O.U.A.S.
Monday 25th November	Stephen Mitchell. 'Celts and Anatolia'. 8.15 p.m. Ashmolean Museum, O.U.A.S.
Tuesday 26th November	Unit Staff Meeting. David Miles. 'Excavations at Barton Court Farm, Abingdon'. 5.00 p.m. Department for External Studies, Rewley House, 20p.
Thursday 28th November	Michael A. Aston. 'The Stonesfield Slate Roofing Industry of Oxfordshire'. 8.15 p.m. Ashmolean Museum, O.A.H.S.
Monday 2nd December	N. Palmer. 'The Hadrianic Frontier of Britain'. 8.15 p.m. Ashmolean Museum, O.U.A.S.
Tuesday 17th December	Unit Staff Meeting.