

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

Berkshire Gravel Survey Mrs. Robin Spey, working with Tim Gates for the Berkshire Archaeological Committee, has almost completed the maps for the survey. It is hoped that the survey will go to the printers next month. The northern section of the Upper Thames Gravels is not now being published, but will appear as a paper produced internally by CRAAGS.

Cumnor Hill By-Pass George Lambrick, who directed the field walking, has been working on plans and level profiles.

Parish Survey A meeting was held at Rewley House on 2 February to review progress.

Plough Survey George Lambrick has been conducting a feasibility study since the beginning of January. He has had a good response to his request for information on the technical side of ploughing from manufacturers and the Ministry of Agriculture. He will be presenting his recommendations to the South Midlands Archaeological Working Party early in March on how the survey should be conducted, in which areas, and the methods that should be used.

Towns Survey The text of the Towns Survey is now at the printers. Sue Lumley Smith and Tricia Roberts, with Eleanor Beard, are continuing work on the maps. The towns to be included in the Survey are in Cherwell: Banbury, Bicester, Deddington; in South Oxfordshire: Henley, Thame, Wallingford, Watlington; in West Oxfordshire: Bampton, Burford, Charlbury, Chipping Norton Eynsham, Witney, Woodstock; and in the Vale of White Horse: Abingdon, Faringdon, Wantage. There is also a section on Oxford.

EXCAVATIONS

Chipping Norton, Market Place A small excavation took place before Christmas, directed by Richard Chambers. The excavation revealed floor levels and a hearth of late medieval or early post medieval date. There was little evidence to be found of earlier features.

Ducklington By-pass Mary Harman, bone specialist, has expressed her interest in the Saxon burial group excavated early in December. David Brown, at the Ashmolean Museum, has confirmed that the burial group dates to the 7th century. The site has now been demolished by graders.

Oxford, Wadham College A site meeting with DoE representatives was held to make recommendations on excavation and observation.

Sunningwell The Abingdon and District Archaeological Society has been excavating a site at Sunningwell. Mike Parrington has been giving advice.

PUBLICATION

Abingdon Reports are being prepared for publication on a number of sites in Abingdon, in particular, the Old Gaol and Broad Street, and Barton Court Farm. Martin Jones has made a visit to Cambridge in connection with his botanical report on the latter site.

Appleford The report on the insects from this site is almost complete. Evidence from the three wells shows a decline in grassland, and presumably, an increase in arable land, but this may only reflect the change of use in the area around the site. Seeds are only to be found in the very latest deposits.

Berinsfield Mary Harman will be working on the bone report.

Farmoor The report is in progress.

Oxford, Hertford College, St. Helen's Passage Nick Palmer is preparing the plans and report.

Oxford, St. Aldate's Work on publication continues.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Alchester The inquiry into the appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission to English China Clay at Promised Land Farm, Wendlebury, is going to a public hearing. In this event, Tom Hassall may be called upon to give verbal evidence in support of the refusal on grounds of the archaeological potential of the area.

Exhibition of Berinsfield Finds Preparation for the exhibition at Gold Fields, the parent company of Amey Roadstone Corporation, in London at the end of February is being undertaken by David Miles and Wendy Lee. It is hoped to announce the generous gift by ARC to the Unit of £7,500 at this exhibition. We are extremely grateful to the Amey Roadstone Corporation for their continued support of the Unit's work.

Controlled Room for Small Finds at Woodstock The Oxford City and County Museum is setting up a room with a controlled atmosphere for the storage and drawing of small finds.

Environmental work Bob Wilson conducted a controlled study on the effect of scavengers. He was trying to establish how far and how quickly samples of 'meat on the bone' were removed. After a week, 90% of the samples, placed in open areas, had disappeared.

At a course in Southampton, Bob Wilson was able to meet other environmentalists, although no new information was discussed. Visits have been made from other environmentalists, who seem to be impressed with the work of the Unit.

Information Retrieval Group of the Museums Association Conference at Cambridge This conference, attended by David Miles, was held to discuss museum cataloguing. The aim is to establish a system that can be applied to everything, from paintings and photographs to archaeological material. The initial concern was to catalogue the backlog of unrecorded material which has accumulated in many provincial museums. A record card has been proposed which could be used in conjunction with county council and university computers, providing a unified, country-wide system. A committee has been set up to develop a card that could be used through all stages from recording on site to storage in a museum.

Recent Publications Tom Hassall has contributions in the following recently produced publications: Oxford and its Region, ed. C.G. Smith and D.I. Scargill and Landscapes and Documents, ed. A. Rogers and T. Rowley at £1.50.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

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| Monday 3 February | Staff Meeting, Luther Terrace, 2.15 pm

Professor S S Frere: 'Strageath and the Roman occupation of Scotland', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 pm, OUAS |
| Monday 10 February | Dr. T C Young Jnr: 'Of Medes and Media: the fortified palace of period II at Godin Tepe, Western Iran', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 pm, OUAS. |
| Tuesday 11 February | Myra Shackley: 'Neanderthals and Yeti: or arguments against preconceptions', Institute of Archaeology, 5.00 pm. |
| Monday 17 February | C Blair: 'Armour and monuments', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 pm, OUAS. |
| Monday 24 February | Miss J M Harding: 'Vernacular buildings: recording and information retrieval on a county basis', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 pm, OUAS. |
| Tuesday 25 February | Don Benson: 'Recording Processes', Rewley House, 5.00 pm.

Gordon Murray: 'Computers in archaeology: an application from Pictish Studies', Institute of Archaeology, 5.00 pm. |

Thursday 27 February J A Goodall: 'Icon and liturgy', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 pm, OUAS.

Tom Hassall: 'Excavations in Oxfordshire 1973-4', OAHS.

Saturday 1 March CBA Group 9 Regional Conference, Department
to Sunday 2 March of Nuclear Physics.

Monday 3 March Dr J M Coles: 'Archaeology in the Somerset Levels', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 pm, OUAS.

Monday 10 March The President: 'The earliest brasses', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 pm, OUAS.

Tuesday 11 March Janet Davidson: 'Origins and the role of "Hill Forts" for three Polynesian Societies', Institute of Archaeology, 5.00 pm.

Tuesday 25 March Staff Meeting, Luther Terrace, 2.15 pm.

Mrs Kirsty Rodwell: 'Oxfordshire Towns Survey', Rewley House, 5.00 pm.