

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

Plough Survey. George Lambrick has completed the feasibility study for the plough survey. Although we have not heard yet whether to go ahead with the plough survey he is producing a booklet on ploughing implements and their use specifically to explain techniques to archaeologists. It is hoped that the CBA might consider publishing it.

Towns Survey. Brian Durham and other members of the Unit have photographed towns in Oxfordshire from the air. The photographs are to be used in the survey.

EXCAVATIONS

Abingdon: Abbey grounds, Ashville Trading Estate. Michael Parrington has been observing developments in progress at these two sites. The former has uncovered numbers of skeletons, being the site of a lay cemetery up to the 16th century.

Abingdon: Barton Court Farm. Members of the Unit returned to Barton Court Farm to backfill the area excavated last year and to put down a number of trial trenches for further observation by the environmentalists. This work, directed by David Miles, has uncovered a very narrow, stone-lined well, from which Mark Robinson is recovering waterlogged material. During April members of Culham College assisted on the site.

Eynsham: The Shrubbery, High Street. Remains of intensive Anglo-Saxon occupation were found by Richard Chambers during excavation for a swimming pool. Finds included a loom weight, calcite gritted and grass tempered pottery and much animal bone. The site lies close to a small excavation conducted within the abbey precincts by Margaret Gray from which similar material was recovered.

Hanwell. During late April and May Richard Chambers and Susan Digby-Firth kept a watching brief over the building development on part of the shrunken medieval village where a small excavation had previously been conducted. Further medieval material and building remains were recorded.

Kingston Bagpuize. Michael Parrington and George Lambrick carried out a small excavation on the site of a Roman villa.

Oxford: St. Thomas's Area. This development may offer scope for the excavation of a trial trench with the OUMS and further excavation in the summer.

PUBLICATION

Abingdon, Ashville site. With the help of a Munsell colour chart for soils Dee De Roche is compiling a fabric type series for Iron Age pottery from the site. She is also working on a catalogue of all published Iron Age and Romano British pottery.

Abingdon: West St. Helen Street. Publication of the material from this site has involved several members of the Unit who took part in the excavation in 1972. The reports on the site and other Abingdon sites will appear in Oxoniensia.

Alchester and Appleford. Mark Robinson has visited Cambridge in connection with his report on the seeds from these two sites.

Farnoor. The writing-up and drawings of the excavations which took place last summer are continuing. Observation of the site, parts of which still have to be stripped, is being carried out by George Lanbrick.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

European Architectural Heritage Year. A conference held jointly by the CBA and the Department for External Studies took place on 6 - 12 April. Tom Hassall gave a lecture, 'Oxford's Past', in the Town Hall during that week.

At a computing course Martin Jones learnt about the application of computers in the storage of finds. He explained that a system could be put into action straightaway and easily modified and improved as the system was used.

Finds Store. The Finds Store at the Department for Museum Services is now available for use by members of the Unit.

Oxford: Churchill Hospital. A kiln from the site has been removed and placed in the Museum of Oxford in the Town Hall. The removal, carried out by the Department of Museum Services, met with a number of difficulties, including the very wet weather.

CALENDAR FOR MAY, JUNE AND JULY

Monday 5 May	Professor J.D. Evans, 'The earliest Cretans', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m., OUAS
6 May to 3 June	Exhibition of Aerial Photography, Oxfordshire County Museum, Department of Museum Services, Woodstock.
Sunday 11 May	Day of Archaeology, Abbey Buildings, Abingdon, Abingdon and District Archaeological Society.
Monday 12 May	Dr. Derek Roe, 'The Archaeology of Olduvai Gorge', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m., OUAS.
Saturday 17 May	Documents and Local History: Oxfordshire County Museum, Woodstock.
Monday 19 May	Professor E.T. Hall, 'Archaeometry: an attempt to bridge arts and sciences', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m. OUAS.
Monday 26 May	A.G. Rook, 'Roman Baths', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m. CUAS.
Tuesday 27 May	Staff Meeting, 2.15 p.m., Luther Terrace.

CALENDAR (Cont.)

Monday 2 June	Dr. R.A. Brown, 'The development of the Castle 1066-c1300', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m., OUAS
Monday 9 June	D. Macreth, 'Orton Hall Farn: A Roman and Saxon rural site', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m., OUAS.
Monday 16 June	John Kilvington (President), 'Evaluation of the impact of the Neolithic revolution in the Middle East', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m., OUAS
Tuesday 24 June	Staff Meeting
19 July - 2 August	Middleton Stoney Training School. Department for External Studies.
27 July - 17 August	Oxford Archaeological Summer School, New College. Department for External Studies.
Tuesday 29 July	Staff Meeting.