

Anyone wishing to send contributions to the Newsletter should send copy to 5 Luther Terrace, Oxford (Tel 43888) before the last Tuesday in each month.

SURVEY

Towns Survey. The entire text is now at the printers. Historic Towns in Oxfordshire: a survey of the new county and off-prints of the individual towns included in the survey should be available in September.

EXCAVATION

ABINGDON, Barton Court Farm. Excavation and backfilling of the site is now complete. The well, uncovered during the last stages of the excavation in May, presented a number of problems, not least its size. It measured only 18" by 22" in width and, when finally the bottom was reached, 22' in depth. Undaunted, David Miles and Mark Robinson recovered waterlogged material, pottery, bones and a number of the huge stones lining the well. These latter were packed with moss, probably to act as a filter. As the well was so narrow, anything dropped into it has remained there, complete, if not unbroken, until its retrieval by David and Mark. The finds are now being photographed and drawn.

Human bones recovered from the site during the past year have been examined by Mary Harman, who specialises in Saxon human bones from the Upper Thames Valley. Other specialist reports on the seeds and coins have been completed.

OXFORD, St. Thomas's. Since putting down a number of trial trenches the OUMS, with the Unit, are preparing for an excavation of medieval dwellings in the Hamel. This excavation, which will take place from 30 June to 8 August, is being directed by Nick Palmer and anyone wishing to assist on the excavation who can spare a week or more, or regular days each week, should write to him at 34 Norham Road, Oxford.

OXFORD, Osney Abbey. A stone footing and a stone drain, thought to be part of the abbey have been uncovered south of Mill Street. There is a possibility that this site may be excavated in the late summer and next year.

FUTURE EXCAVATION

Witney By-pass. ARC have been awarded the contract and it is hoped that excavation will take place along the route when work commences.

PUBLICATION

ABINGDON, Ashville Trading Estate. Michael Parrington is maintaining a watching brief on this site, where developers have commenced work recently. Unfortunately, as they have refused to allow the Unit access to excavate the site again, the excavation that was planned for this summer will not take place. Environmental and pottery reports are in progress on material recovered from the site last year.

BANBURY. Kirsty Rodwell is now working on the finds from this site.

FARMOOR. George Lambrick is continuing on the drawings for this site and examining the Iron Age pottery. From Mark Robinson's work on waterlogged Iron Age deposits the site seems to have been meadow at that time, supporting grassland and annual weeds.

OXFORD, Blackfriars. The final report for the western part, which was excavated in 1973-4, is being prepared by Humphrey Woods.

PLOUGHING TECHNIQUES. The text of George Lambrick's booklet on ploughing techniques is complete, and he is waiting to receive illustrations of agricultural machinery from manufacturers.

REPORTS for Oxoniensia. Richard Chambers continues to write up reports for the following sites: Somerton, Hardwick, Kingston Blount.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Conference in the USA. Tom Hassall attended the 40th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Dallas, Texas, early in May. He will be giving a talk on his American trip to members of the Unit in the Autumn.

A Day of Archaeology, which took place in Abingdon on 11 May and was organised by the Abingdon and District Archaeological Society with members of the Unit, was very well attended. Finds from the Ashville site and reconstructed models of Iron Age structures were displayed and lectures were given by David Miles and Michael Parrington.

Conventions for drawing plans and finds. Wendy Lee is compiling a set of conventions for drawing plans and finds. At this stage any suggestions and descriptions of methods already in use are welcome. It is hoped that once a system has been established members of the Unit will be willing to use it as a guideline to achieve a uniform style, particularly when a number of people are involved in the drawings for the same site and in drawings that are used for publication.

St. Neot's ware. A copy of Richard Hunter's thesis on neutron activation of St. Neot's ware is now available for consultation at the Unit.

In Service Training Scheme. Discussions on a training scheme have been taking place. Middlesex Polytechnic are suggesting sending a sponsored student who would be based at the Unit for a year.

CALENDAR FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Until 8 August	Excavation at St. Thomas's
19 July - 9 August	Middleton Stoney Training School. Department for External Studies.
27 July - 17 August	Oxford Archaeological Summer School, New College. Department for External Studies.
Monday 28 July	Staff Meeting.