

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.

EXCAVATION

Abingdon, Stert Street. The foundations of post-medieval buildings and Roman and medieval pottery have been uncovered by an excavation which is being carried out by the Abingdon and District Archaeological Society under the supervision of Michael Parrington. Volunteers are welcome on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sundays.

Oxford, The Hamel. This excavation is being run in co-operation with the Oxford University Archaeological Society, with Nick Palmer as site director. The foundations of a row of 17th-18th century houses were found just below the surface. There seemed to have been several reorganisations of the row, with partition walls appearing in different places in successive phases. Beneath their floors were found the remains of medieval houses, slightly further back from the road, the northernmost house enclosing two ovens and several heavily burnt hearths. The southernmost medieval house was built on an unusually massive scale for a domestic property with walls up to 1 metre thick. It appears, at present, that this building represents the original development of the Hamel, perhaps in the late 13th century, as a 'by pass' approach to Osney Abbey. The site has produced an unexpectedly large number of medieval coins, which are in process of cleaning and identification. Work will continue for several more weeks, hopefully down to the subsoil over the entire area.

Middleton Stoney Summer School. Richard Chambers has been assisting with the Summer School.

OBSERVATION

A number of major projects have begun or are about to start in the county, which will involve members of the Unit.

Richard Chambers and Geoff Williams are keeping a watching brief on the stripping which has begun on the Witney By-pass.

Work on the Cumnor Hill By-pass began early in August and George Lambrick, who directed the field walking of the line, will be observing it.

George Lambrick will also be involved with the proposed high pressure gas pipeline which will be in the vicinity of a number of known sites in South Oxfordshire.

The Thames Water Authority have been in contact with David Miles about a pipeline which will be in a cropmark area in Cote.

PUBLICATION

Pottery. Iron Age and Roman pottery from the larger sites excavated last year, Barton Court Farm and Ashville Trading Estate in Abingdon, and Farmoor Reservoir are being examined.

Avingedon, Ashville Trading Estate. Investigations of the carbonised grain and C-14 dating, together with the pottery and other finds from the site are helping to build up a picture of the settlement at Ashville.

Abingdon, Ashville Barton Court Farm. Bob Wilson's examination of the animal remains from the Roman Villa have revealed evidence of red deer, fox and boar.

Farmoor. Iron Age and Roman material from the site is being examined by George Lambrick and Mark Robinson.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Summer School at New College. The first year of this summer school has met with a very good response; 17 students from the USA and Europe are attending the course at which Tom Hassall is lecturing.

Kirsty Rodwell is leaving the Unit at the end of August as her husband, Warwick is taking up the post of Director of CRAAGS in Bristol. Since joining us in October 1973 as Field Officer for South Oxfordshire and the Small Towns in the County, Kirsty has directed the excavation at Banbury Castle and has been largely responsible for the Unit's forthcoming publication, Historic Towns in Oxfordshire.

OAU v Middleton Stoney

Members of the Unit challenged the Middleton Stoney Summer School to a friendly soccer match on the evening of 31 July. In spite of temperatures in the 80s and the hours of training put in by the Middleton Stoney team, the Unit held the score to one goal each at half time, James Rutherford scoring for the Unit. However, the natural sporting talents of the Unit were not enough to prevent a lucky shot by the opposing team in the second half, which won them the game; the Unit conceded defeat with good grace!

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Until 17 August	Oxford Archaeological Summer School, OUDES
22 September	OUDES Archaeological Class, Aylesbury
30 September	Staff Meeting