

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.

Abingdon - Ashville Trading Estate

A new large area has become available since Christmas. Michael Parrington now believes the site was once a small Iron Age village and not a small farmstead as previously thought. In addition to more Iron Age hut circles two Bronze Age ring ditches have been found. Aerial photographs have been taken of the site - these have not yet been processed.

Bob Wilson has finished the bulk of the report on the bones found on the site. It would appear that sheep bone out-numbers cattle bone 3:4. The horn cores sample is very similar to that from Kingston Bagpuize.

Dee de Roche is writing up the pottery report from the site but in view of the recent findings she would like to wait for further possible samples before completing the report.

Abingdon - Barton Court Farm

David Miles continues to write up the Barton Court site.

Abingdon - Stert Street

Diane Collins is working on the conservation of material found on this site.

Berinsfield

Wendy Lee is currently drawing articles taken from Berinsfield and now in the Ashmolean Museum.

Curbridge and Witney By-pass

Richard Chambers continues to write up the report on the small finds from these sites. Iron Age material has been found at the Ducklington site since Richard wrote his last report.

Farnoor

More of the site has become available during the final stripping. Mark Robinson has been looking at material taken from the ford. This does not prove to be very interesting and reveals very little apart from a beetle which is now only to be found in the Isle of Wight. The new finds include a further enclosure which is being excavated by George Lanbrick. The importance of the latest find is that it is sealed by $\frac{1}{2}$ metre of alluvium. Mark has obtained a very good sample of Iron Age insects from the enclosure ditch - also an above average sample of seeds. The enclosure currently being excavated is probably not a hut site but it is associated with two Iron Age gravel trackways.

Oxford - Blackfriars

Diane Collins has almost finished clearing the glass samples from this site.

Oxford - Greyfriars

Humphrey Woods has found further evidence to establish the east range of cloisters at Greyfriars. Further re-excavation will be required.

Oxford Castle

Maureen Mellor is working on the pottery finds from the Castle site.

Oxford St. Aldates

Brian Durham continues to work on this site.

Thrupp

This site has been watched for the past three years and has produced both Roman and Iron Age features. Recently a ring ditch has been found and this has produced a good deal of bone and Peterborough ware. Excavations are to continue.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Oxford Museum - is now open. First room in the Museum contains mostly exhibits from the Oxfordshire excavations.

Mr. Peter Spokes - Members of the Unit were sorry to hear that Mr. Peter Spokes, Chairman of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Excavation Committee, died on Thursday 22 January.

Mr. Henry Cleere - Director of the Council for British Archaeology will visit the Unit on 4 February to discuss the principles of publication.

H.M. Visit to Oxford - The Queen will visit Oxford on 5 March to officially open the new County Council offices. The Unit will arrange a small 'before and after' exhibition of the Westgate Centre.

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STONESFIELD SLATERS - old Oxfordshire song

Inspired by M. Aston's loving study of the Stonesfield Slates.

Let us go slating in the merry month of May
With short and long bachelors and Muffity too
We will wippet and wibbett in the nines and elevens
In long and short cuttings in the short and long becks.

Now is the time for cussesms and mopes
And undereaves munfords, even the short 'un
It's a long job, an even job, that we all have to do,
In the long fourteens and fifteens in the middle of May.

(Cont.)

Now All Up, lads, short pricks and long 'uns
In-bow and out-bow to set 'em all free
With wivets and short cocks, the beast with two long backs
And middle cock and long cock, and LONG SIXTEENS!

To be sung by James Bumpus, Caleb Oliver, Solomon Oliver, Uncle Mick Aston
and all.

Philip Rahtz

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CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

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| 4 February - 27 March | Excavations on Rams Hill 1972-73. Wantage Museum, Civic Hall; Weds. Thurs. Sat. 2.00 - 4.30 p.m. |
| 5 February | Dr. N.J. Shackleton: 'Isotopes and Archaeology' - Institute of Archaeology 5.00 p.m. |
| 9 February | Vincent Desborough Esq.: Lefkandi (Greece) and its works, c. 900-700 BC. OUAS - Ashmolean Museum 8.15 p.m. |
| 12 February | Dr. P.H.T. Beckett: 'Soil surveys and soil maps' - Institute of Archaeology, 5.00 p.m. |
| 16 February | Dr. John Fletcher: Through Panels to Paintings - OUAS - Ashmolean Museum 8.15 p.m. |
| 18 February | T.G. Hassall: Archaeology in the United States today: John Mason School, 7.30 p.m. |
| 19 February | Mr. M. Robinson: 'The Iron Age and Roman Environment in the Upper Thames Basin' - Institute of Archaeology - 5.00 p.m. |
| 19 February | Dr. John Collis: Pots and People: Approaches to the British Iron Age. OUAS - Ashmolean Museum 8.15 p.m. |
| 23 February | John Ruffle, Esq: Ancient Egyptian Tourists and Antiquarians. OUAS - Ashmolean Museum 8.15 p.m. |
| 24 February | Next staff meeting |
| 26 February | Dr. R.E.M. Hedges: 'Does genetic information survive in buried bones?' - Institute of Archaeology, 5.00 p.m. |
| 27 February | Dr. John Wild: 'Recent Excavations in the Nene Valley'. Department for External Studies, Rewley House, 8.00 p.m. |
| 28 - 29 February | C.B.A. Group 9 Local Archaeology Weekend. Department for External Studies, Rewley House |
| 1 March | Dr. John North: Richard of Wallingford, an Oxford Astronomer of the 14th Century. OUAS - Ashmolean Museum 8.15 p.m. |
| 4 March | Mr. J. Bintliff: 'Landscape and Society in the early Aegean' - Institute of archaeology 5.00 p.m. |

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH (Cont.)

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| 6 March | Scientific Techniques in the Study of Pottery Fabrics -
University Centre, Northampton. |
| 8 March | The President: St. Cuthbert at Lindisfarne and Durham.
OUCS - Ashmolean Museum 8.15 p.m. |
| 11 March | T.G. Hassall: 'Excavations in Oxfordshire 1975': OAHs,
Ashmolean Museum 8.15 p.m. |
| 17 March | Trevor Rowley: 'Welsh Border Castles'. John Mason School
- 7.30 p.m. |
| 26 March | Christine Colyer: Recent Work of the Lincoln Archaeological
Trust. Department for External Studies, Rewley House,
8.00 p.m. |
| 27 March | A Day School on Garden History - Department for
External Studies, Rewley House |
| 30 March | Next staff meeting. |