

Anyone wishing to send contributions to the Newsletter should send copy to 3 Luther Terrace, Oxford (Tel. 43888) before the last Tuesday of each month.

Abingdon - Ashville Trading Estate

Work on this site should be finished by the end of February as the contractors will be starting construction. During the last couple of weeks Michael Parrington has uncovered the two Bronze Age ring ditches, some of which have contained cremations, with beads amongst the bones. Twenty 'hut' circles in all have been located measuring 40m - 6m in diameter. Martin Jones has been looking at samples of grain and weeds taken from the site - most interesting discovery was that of a root of onion couch. Richard Thomas has been working on the charcoal samples which appear to be mainly hawthorn or blackthorn.

Abingdon - Barton Court Farm

David Miles has recently stripped a large area on the south side of the villa which has revealed burials in enclosure ditches. Bob Wilson is continuing to study the bones taken from this site.

Banbury Castle

Bob Wilson has been recording the bones taken from Banbury Castle and will be submitting his report in the near future.

Berinsfield

Wendy Lee hopes to complete the drawings of articles taken from Berinsfield by the end of February.

Farmoor

The contractors have at last finished stripping the site and George Lambrick has completed his observation. Mark Robinson has extracted insects from the most recent excavation at Farmoor which has proved to be a good collection. Richard Thomas has been sieving through samples of snails and also material taken from the bottom of a small Roman well.

Oxford - Churchill Hospital

Brian Durham found a Roman kiln at this site within the last week.

Oxford - Blackfriars

George Lambrick has almost completed his report on this site. Mark Robinson has some samples which he will be looking at in the near future.

Oxford - St. Aldates

Brian Durham has made good progress on the report from St. Aldates and hopes to complete this by the end of March.

Oxford - Queen Street (Marks & Spencer Site)

The first phase: the contractor's excavations are now well under way. Robert Bell is working on site. Two pits and a stone-lined well have been found and it is hoped that these will be salvaged.

Thrupp

David Miles has partially excavated a neolithic ring ditch found by Bill Skellington of the Abingdon Society and Iron Age enclosures measuring 16m. across south east entrance. These have revealed mainly Abingdon ware and some Peterborough ware. Flint arrow heads have also been found. Mark Robinson's study of samples taken from the ring ditch have shown that this was on dry land surrounded by marsh or flood plain on three sides. Features were similar to those found on the Causeway.

Wantage - Electro-Medical Supplies

Richard Chambers has found features dating from the 17th Century.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

The Oxford Mail's recent editorial about the Unit has sparked off interest in school-children to do pot-washing in their half-term holiday. Diane Collins has been kept very busy supervising.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH AND APRIL

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|---------------|---|
| 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.                   |
| 6 March       | Scientific Techniques in the Study of Pottery Fabrics - University Centre, Northampton                              |
| 8 March       | The President: St. Cuthbert at Lindisfarne and Durham. OUAS - 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 8.00 p.m         |
| 27 March      | A Day School on Garden History - OUDES, Rewley House  |
| 30 March      | Next Staff Meeting.   |
| 21 April      | Mr. B. Hobley - 'Recent Excavations in the City of London'. Abingdon & District Archaeological Society.             |
| 24 - 25 April | The Offshore Islands - Britain in European Prehistory - OUDES, Rewley House   |
| 27 April      | Staff Meeting   |