

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

Excavations on this site have now finished and construction work has begun. Michael Parrington is in the process of preparing a report on the site. Attempts have been made at aerial photography of the Ashville site but weather conditions have prevented any good results.

ABINGDON - Barton Court Farm

David Miles is supervising work on this site which resumed at the beginning of March. A trench has been dug in the south-east area of crop mark in the main available area of excavation and a corn drier (? late Roman in date) has been uncovered. Site reveals that it was mainly a working area and there is not much evidence of animals. Post holes have been discovered which possibly may turn out to be buildings. A pit at one end of the site has revealed stone walling of ? Roman period. Ditches in the south of the area may be found to be part of an arable field system.

Wendy Lee and Richard Thomas (trainee) have also been working on the site.

FARMOOR

The jaw bone of a mammoth found by George Lambrick at Farmoor has been the centre of much publicity during this month. Mark Robinson has been looking at samples of snails taken from the site. The Iron Age snail samples, and some of the Pre-Iron Age samples, have shown a great majority of aquatic snails which may suggest that the site was flooded during this time.

CUXHAM

Richard Chambers has been to look at a building site which was the site of a medieval building, but the ground is very disturbed and nothing positive has been identified.

OXFORD - Blackfriars

George Lambrick has virtually completed his report for this site and it will be submitted for publication in the next edition of Oxoniensia.

OXFORD - St. Aldates

The report is in the final stages and it is hoped that it will be included in the next Oxoniensia.

OXFORD - Botley By-Pass

George Lambrick has visited the site, together with Tim Allen of the O.U.A.S. and they have found evidence of a 14th century building. It is thought that there is probably a small moated site at Dean Court Farm.

SHIPTON BARROW

Richard Chambers has excavated human remains on this site which were disturbed by treasure hunters last autumn. Two burials have been uncovered - one on top of the other - and an iron buckle close to the burials of ? Saxon date.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Martin Jones, Environmentalist, will be leaving the Unit at the end of March to go to New Zealand for a year.

There is to be a public enquiry into the Wallingford Castle site from 6th-9th April.

Abingdon Society has finished excavations at Sunningwell and will begin work on Stert Street, Abingdon, on 4th April 1976. Volunteers will be made very welcome!

Michael Parrington would like to hear from members of the Unit who would be interested in producing newspaper articles for the Abingdon Herald each week.

Diane Collins attended a meeting at the Woodstock Museum regarding computerization of archaeological material. She felt this emphasized the need to introduce a workable card index system into the Unit and will be working on this over the next month.

Measure for Pleasure

A Report from our own co-respondant in the field -

Sunningwell February 29th 1976

The following strange events occurred at Chandlings Sunningwell whilst two members of the renowned Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society were conducting a surveying and levelling assignment. It appears that during the course of their exertions a loud noise, or as it was described to this reporter, a bang, distracted their attention from the job in hand. Leaving all they departed hastily in the direction of the A.34 Oxford to Abingdon road in the hope that they would be in time to rescue one of those now fangled automobile drivers from his wrecked machine. Or so the story goes.... Upon their return they were appalled to find that two thirty meter tapes and all their calculations had been chewed and in part eaten by several beasties of the bovine variety. (Bob Wilson, please note)

This is the story as far as it concerns us or the man from the Pru, but this intrepid reporter, who has himself worked near the said beasties, cannot help but wonder whether the close

proximity of a large and over grown wood and the inescapable fact of February 29th was not more likely to be the cause of the rapid retreat of at least one of the nameless pair.

John Carter.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL AND MAY

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
30 April	Rescue Committee Meeting at Oxford including a visit to the Unit.
1 May	Berkshire Archaeological Society AGM.
1-2 May	Weekend conference on 'Reformation and Renaissance Oxford', OUDES, Rewley House
7 May	Course on Oxford Archaeology by T. Hassall begins at Rewley House (5 lectures)
14 - 16 May	Weekend school, 'Deserted Medieval Villages', Knuston Hall, Northants.
19 May	Professor A. C. Renfrew - 'Revolution in Pre-History', Abingdon and District Archaeological Society.
25 May	Staff Meeting.