

April 1976

Anyone wishing to send contributions to the Newsletter should send copy to 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EP (Tel. 43888) before the last Tuesday of each month.

ABINGDON - Ashville Trading Estate

Michael Parrington is progressing well with the report on this site and hopes to complete this by July 1976.

ABINGDON - Barton Court Farm

David Miles has been supervising work on this site which should continue for the next six weeks. They have completed excavation of one new area which has so far revealed that the paddock was used for growing grain and burying babies! There is a possible building at the side of the trench which will be investigated further in the near future. There are post holes across the site which are ? Iron Age or early Roman date. These form a definite curving arc and could possibly represent part of a corral.

Diane Collins has also been working on the site washing pot that has been found. Wendy Lee has been drawing the pot and has a few finds left to do.

Bob Wilson has been sieving through the top soil of 3-4 ditches and has come across a lot of pottery. A scattering of small fish bones has been found in the south boundary ditch.

ABINGDON - Stert Street

The Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society is working on this site under the supervision of Michael Parrington. Members of the Society have found four superimposed buildings to date - ? 12th century - and also a mid-Victorian well!

FARMOOR

Mark Robinson has finished examining the samples taken from this site - the most exciting discovery has been the presence of a ? Roman applecore! Early next month Mark hopes to be able to go to the Institute of Archaeology in London to examine the wood specimens in more detail. He also hopes to have the seed and beetle samples done by the end of May, and his report will be forthcoming.

OXFORD - Blackfriars

George Lambrick has completed this report with the exception of the glass and floor tile reports.

OXFORD - Castle Street

A medieval hall-house has been discovered during the demolition of houses in Castle Street. Brian Durham will be keeping an eye on this for further developments.

WITNEY BY-PASS

Richard Chambers has completed his report for this site and will be submitting it for publication in the next edition of Oxoniensia.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

As from 1st May 1976, the Unit will be operating from new premises at 46 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford. OX1 2EP. The telephone number will remain the same, i.e. Oxford 43888.

Now that the Wallingford Castle Enquiry has been completed it seems appropriate to publish the following poem written by Peter Fowler during the height of last summer's furore over Wallingford Castle

In Fortress House there lived a rogue
Who tried to bash a castle,
But he had reckoned without the might
Of bold Sir Thomas Hassall.

Now it's the Fortress under seige
The castle's merely threatened;
- Rescue and the CBA,
Their Guardians' appetite wettened.

But it's only part of our heritage,
There's plenty more of that;
Let's change our minds and
Dig cheap finds to build an architects flat.

But Does are very timid beasts,
Apt to start and flee.
- Let's hope that's right
Because we've the might
To prick its AAC.

It wouldn't be nice
To have no advice
From its Committees Advisory;
So lets all dispute
That Confidential Minute
And set Wallingford Castle free.

CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE

- 10 May OUAS - Dr. Richard Bradley 'Maunbury Rings, Dorchester: the Excavation of and Excavation. Ashmolean Museum 8.15 p.m.
- 14 - 16 May Weekend School; 'Deserted Medieval Villages', Knuston Hall, Northants.
- 17 May OUAS - Roger Jacobi Esq. 'New Thoughts on the Mesolithic' . Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.
- 19 May Professor A.C. Renfrew 'Revolution in Pre-History', Abingdon and District Archaeological Society.
- 24 May OUAS - Stephen Johnson Es. 'A Roman Frontier in Spain?'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.
- 25 May Staff Meeting at 46 Hythe Bridge Street, 2.30 p.m.
- 31 May OUAS - Alexander McKee Es. 'The Excavation of Henry VIII's Carrack 'Mary Rose'' . Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.
- 7 June OUAS - Dr. Norman Hammond 'Searching for the Origins of Maya Civilisation in Yucatan'. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.
- 14 June OUAS - John Martin Esq. (The President) 'Reading Between the Layers: an Introduction to Geo-Archaeology. Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m.