

The first Newsletter was favourably received by Unit staff and it has therefore been decided to continue it. Local part-time archaeologists have requested that a copy should be sent to all local groups and societies and individual active field workers. In this way it is hoped that the Newsletter will form a means of communication between all those involved in archaeology whether on a part-time or professional basis in the new County of Oxfordshire. Contributions should reach the Unit before the last Tuesday in each month.

Current Excavations

Abingdon: Ashville Trading Estate. Members of the Abingdon and District Archaeological Society are continuing to trial trench this Romano-British site discovered during stripping by Bill Skellington. Volunteers for week-end work are required and they should contact John Carter at Abingdon 1102. Michael Parrington from the Unit is advising the Society.

Banbury: the Castle. Kirsty Rodwell's prior excavations have now been completed and she has begun writing-up. A watching brief will be maintained during construction. Two open days attracted approximately 500 visitors.

Hanwell: Charlie Chambers' excavations of medieval house platforms have now started and should continue until the Easter week-end and beyond. Work will continue Sunday - Friday each week (not Saturday) and volunteers are required. Transport from Oxford leaves Luther Terrace at 8.30 and returns at 6.30.

Mongewell: Grim's ditch. John Hinchliffe's excavations have shown the bank to be 0.50m high and the ditch 2.50m deep. Shards indicate that the bank and ditch were built in the Iron Age. Members of S.O.A.C. and the Wallingford and District Society have assisted with the excavations.

Oxford: All Saints. Humphrey Woods has continued his watching brief on the site and it now appears that the earliest stone buildings were domestic associated with an area. These buildings were converted by 1122 into the Church.

Blackfriars. Humphrey Woods excavations have now been completed. Two stone coffins were found in addition to the buildings referred to in the last Newsletter.

Publication Programme

Work continues by David Miles and Michael Parrington on the Abingdon sites, and Brian Durham is still working on 79-81 St. Aldate's. Sue Lunley-Smith has joined the drawing office to work on Oxford material. Mark Robinson continues to wrestle with the Appleford beatles.

Calendar for March, April and May

26th March	Staff Meeting.
26th March	O.P.S. P.A. Rahtz 'Techniques of Pottery Processing'.
30th - 31st March	C.B.A. IX Conference on Local Archaeology.
13th - 20th April	Visit of Leiden Archaeologists.
23rd April	Staff Meeting.
23rd April	O.C.C.M. 'Oxford in the past'. Lecture series. T.G. Hassall 'Monasteries and Friaries of Oxford'.
3rd - 5th May	External Studies Department Weekend Course - 'The Archaeology of Religion in Towns'.
7th May	Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee Meeting.
12th May	Provisional date for meeting on Field Surveys.
18th May	C.B.A. IX a.G.M.