

OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT NEWSLETTER

INCLUDING OXFORDSHIRE PARISH SURVEY NEWS

No.3 - March 1978

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

Subscriptions for the 1978 issues of the Newsletter are now due and if these have not already been paid we should be grateful to receive your cheque for £1.00 in due course.

ABINGDON, Barton Court Farm

Alistair Whittle's analysis of the pottery from Neolithic features at Barton Court Farm showed the majority to be Grooved Ware. A preliminary radio carbon date of  $4030 \pm 80$ bp has been obtained from one of these pits which was rich in botanical remains.

Mark Robinson reports that examination of the moss packed between the stones of the deep Roman well showed it to have been collected from a wood growing on limestone. Interesting finds from it included seeds of wild strawberry and oak leaf spangle galls.

ABINGDON, The Vineyard

Examination of the burnt bone fragments with the R-B flagon suggests a cremation burial. This indicates that the nearby E-W inhumation is of Roman period also. Another fragment from the probable medieval drier or oven looks suspiciously like part of a human mandible (?residual, not cooked!). Does this mean the presence of an R-B cemetery?

BENSON

Maureen Mellor and Richard Chambers have identified more pottery from the fieldwalking in Benson parish organised by Gordon Miles. Pottery sherds from Neolithic, (identified by Mr H Case), Iron Age, Romano-British, Saxon, Saxon-Norman, Medieval and Post-medieval periods were present adding much new material to finds distribution and density maps of the parish. Yet again Gordon Miles and the Bensington Society have successfully demonstrated the type and quantity of information that can be obtained by fieldwalking.

BERINSFIELD, Mount Farm

Excavations are now proceeding on the southern part of the site where there is a complicated mass of features of early Iron Age to Roman date, and some earlier neolithic material. The latter has included finding a sherd of ?grooved ware pottery and a fine leaf shaped flint arrowhead associated with it. Another pre-Iron-Age but undated feature being excavated is a small oval "ring-ditch" surrounding a crouched burial which has been badly disturbed by later Roman ditches. One of these late ditches contained two extended inhumations, and also produced the first piece of recognizably late Roman (3rd/4th century) pottery. The plan of the area is still rather confused but in outline there again seems to have been occupation from the early Iron Age through to the

Roman Period with some earlier activity as well, and once again considerable continuity is evident in the layout of the site from the mass of recut and parallel ditches dating at least from the middle Iron Age. A fair number of post holes have been found, but they do not clearly form any building plan; possibly some of them represent fences on the same line as the ditches.

#### BICESTER, Kings End Farm Housing Development

Building development continues on this site. Mr Biebrakh has recorded further Romano-British material a little to the east of the features recorded last year.

#### BUSCOT, Buscot Lock

The construction of a new weir around the lock revealed an old channel of the Thames. Mr Wilson, the lock-keeper notices a layer of peat in it and samples were taken by Ms Hilary Wade and Mark Robinson. It contains evidence of a post-glacial woodland flora.

#### PARISH SURVEY INFORMATION

An information sheet on graveyard recording is now available for those who require it. Its principle purpose is to reiterate the advice on planning and photography that was given in the May 1977 edition of this newsletter.

The next parish survey meeting is to be held on the morning of Saturday 27th May at Rewley House. This will be an afternoon school on the recognition of Post-Medieval Pottery.

#### CALENDAR MARCH/APRIL 1978

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| 15-17 March 1978   | Weekend School at Rewley House on Conservation Techniques - Organised in Association with Oxford Polytechnic.  |
| 17-19 March 1978   | Aethelred the Unready - A conference to mark the 1000th anniversary of his accession to the throne, organised in association with Manchester University Extra-Mural Department. Details from Rewley House. Tel: Oxford 52901                                   |
| 18 March 1978      | Parish Survey Day School 'An Introduction of Flint Implements' at Rewley House. Details from Rewley House, as above.   |
| 20th March 1978    | Oxfordshire Family History Society present Mr Stephen Emlyn Jones, Projects Coordinator for the Federation on "Family History Projects and the Federation's Coordinating Role". 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. at British Council Building, 1 Beaumont Place, Oxford. |
| 1st-2nd April 1978 | CBA Group 9 Annual Report Conference, weekend school at Rewley House. Details from Rewley House, as above.   |