

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

### Surveys

Oxfordshire Parish Survey. The successful inaugural meeting on 12th May of the Parish Survey will be followed by a further meeting on 30th June to work out the practical arrangement of the survey. Although a large number of parishes have already been claimed there are still many more awaiting to be allocated. If you did not attend the first meeting why not come along on 30th June and get involved?

Towns Survey. Kirsty Rodwell's preliminary assessment of known sites and finds from Oxfordshire towns has shown how little work has been done up to now in most of them. Kirsty would like to hear from anyone with archaeological information in any of the new Oxfordshire towns if the information is not already contained in the O.C.C.M. Sites and Monuments Record.

### Excavations/observations

Abingdon: Ashville Trading Estate. The Abingdon and District Archaeological Society, assisted by Mike Parrington, are now working on an area 21 x 28 m. which is covered with Iron Age and other features. More volunteers for Sunday workings are still required.

Abingdon: Barton Court Farm. David Miles has an area 20 x 3 m. open south of the main Romano-British villa. The site is producing more large quantities of fourth century material, including coins and a bone comb.

Appleford. A further Romano-British well/water hole with water-logged deposits, including a shoe, has been found.

Banbury Castle: Kirsty Rodwell's watching brief has now been concluded. The eastern side of the gate has now been located.

Crownmarsh: Grim's Ditch. Contractors have begun work on the site and John Hinchliffe reports that the greater part of the area surrounding the excavation seems to have been quarried away.

Hanwell: Charlie Chamber's excavations have been concluded with the exception of a small amount of recording. In addition to the excavation of the features mentioned in the last Newsletter, the village boundary ditches have been sectioned.

Oxford: Blackfriars. Brian Durham carried out a small trial trench in the car park west of Albert Street (south). This trench contained various intersecting walls and confirmed Humphrey Woods's observations during G.P.O. work in the vicinity.

Wallingford: St. Michael's Church, New Road. The Wallingford and District Archaeological and Historical Society's training excavation is continuing under the supervision of John Weare of the Society, advised by Tom Hassall.

### Future Excavations

Farnoor: An excavation will take place during July jointly between the Thames Water Authority, the Unit and the Oxford University Archaeological Society. The site is adjacent to a presumed Deserted Medieval Village, and it appears to contain Roman and earlier features. The site directors will be Mike Hall of

T.W.A. and George Lanbrick of O.U.A.S.

Stanton Harcourt: Excavations here may be on a more limited scale than envisaged in the last Newsletter.

#### Publication

Appleford: John Hincliffe has now produced a type series of ten fabrics. The sequence that John has worked out for the fabrics seems to fit the horizontal stratigraphy. Mark Robinson has completed the beetles for the 2nd and 4th century wells.

Crowmarsh: Grim's Ditch. The Research Laboratory has begun work on the thermo-luminescence for the slug plates and snails taken from the critical layers. Mark Robinson reports that the snail evidence seems to indicate that throughout the process of silting the ditch was kept clear of foliage.

Oxford: Regina Haldon's type series of late Saxon and medieval pottery is progressing. A sample of 50 sherds of St. Neot's type ware is to be used as part of a research project on this type of fabric using neutron activation. The work will be carried out at Bradford by Richard Hunter.

#### Safety and Insurance

At the staff meeting on 22nd May Mr. K. Chamberlain, Chief Safety Officer, Oxfordshire Building Safety Association, gave Field Officers a talk on safety. Mr. Chamberlain and his staff are available at any time to advise the Unit on safety. Literature on safety is available from the Unit.

All volunteers are reminded that they are covered by the Unit's personal accident policy. Salaried staff can obtain cover through the County Council's own scheme and staff who have not made their own arrangements are urged to take advantage of this scheme.

#### Oxfordshire Archaeological Committee Meeting, 8th May 1974

At the last meeting of the Committee various decisions were taken which will effect Unit staff:-

##### 1. Advisory Committees

There are to be a series of Advisory Committees, probably eventually to cover each District of the new county. These committees will act as a forum for discussion between the Unit and local interests. The first of these committees, the M.40 Committee, is already in existence, but it will remain solely concerned with the motorway at present. The next committee to be formed will be one for the South Oxfordshire District.

##### 2. Field Officers' Reports

At each Committee meeting one field officer will be asked to attend in future to give the Committee a report on his activities.

##### 3. Short-term contracts

It is hoped that some progress can be made on the question of contracts for long-term volunteers at the next Management Committee meeting.

##### 4. Editorial Board

An Editorial Board consisting of the Committee officers, plus selected members of the Committee has been set up to create uniform standards of final reports.

Calendar for June and July

13th June	Abingdon Excavation Committee meeting.
17th June	O.A.C. Management Committee meeting. Trevor Saxby, 'The Talayotic Culture of the Balearic Islands', O.U.A.S. 8.15 p.m.
25th June	Staff meeting. Richard Bradley. 'The Analysis of Flint Industries'. Rewley House, 5 p.m.
30th June	Oxfordshire Parish Survey. Informal meeting of O.A.U. Liaison Officers.
30th July	Staff meeting.