

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

Plough Survey. George Lambrick is now assessing the feasibility study and preparing a report to be presented to the South Midlands Archaeological Working Party on Thursday, 6 March. This study has revealed the lack of technical knowledge about ploughing on the part of archaeologists, particularly as most excavations carried out on agricultural land have been earthwork sites. In their turn the farmers and the NFU know very little about archaeology, though they have been very helpful during the study.

Towns Survey. 'Historical Towns in Oxfordshire: a survey of the new county' is to be the title. Aerial photographs of the towns in Oxfordshire will be taken on the next suitable, clear day for inclusion in the survey.

### PUBLICATION

Abingdon, Ashville. Harwell has taken some carbonised grain samples for C14 dating. Dee De Roche is working on a fabric type series for the Iron Age pottery. She is also looking at material from Appleford to establish parallels.

Abingdon, Barton Court Farm. Specialist reports are being prepared. The coin report, by Kathy King at the Ashmolean Museum, has revealed that most of those found at Barton Court are Theodosian and therefore rare when compared with Roman coins from other parts of the country. Most of the coins were found in the 'smithy'. Robin Spey is plotting a distribution map of the coins.

Abingdon, Lombard Street. This site, excavated in 1972, uncovered medieval material. The pottery, which is similar to that found in Broad Street, Abingdon, is being examined and plans are being drawn of the site. Amongst later material some Oxford fabrics have been identified.

Alchester. From about a thousand snails, Mark Robinson has been able to identify 40 different species. He has been able to establish that one of the first century ditches temporarily held stagnant water and that the 3rd and 4th century ditch contained permanent water and was a moat.

Appleford. Bob Wilson has been examining the animal bones and has been able to state that cattle and sheep were reared and, to a lesser extent, pigs and horses. He has also found evidence of red deer and dogs. It appears that the sheep were slaughtered at a less mature stage than the cattle.

Berinsfield, Wally Corner. The Ashmolean Museum has conserved and restored the material for the exhibition at Gold Fields, London. Drawing and conservation is being carried out on the rest of the material from the site.

Reports for Oxoniensia. The following reports are being prepared by Richard Chambers: Hanwell, Beaconhill Cemetery, Summertown, Ducklington.

#### FUTURE EXCAVATIONS

Oxford, St. Thomas's Area. As part of the City's Central Area Development Scheme there may be an opportunity to excavate 12th century suburbs covered by St. Thomas's. Plans to develop the site of the present coal yard may lead to excavation of the site of Rewley abbey.

Oxfordshire. Churn Long Barrow, North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch, road schemes and Wallingford are all possible sites for excavation in 1975. In Abingdon the site of Longfords in Stert Street is a possibility and also a return to Barton Court Farm. Later on in the year it is hoped that excavation at the Wally Corner site, Berinsfield, will be resumed.

#### OTHER NEWS ITEMS

The Abingdon and District Archaeological Society is holding an Archaeological Jamboree on 11 May in the Abbey Buildings, Abingdon. There will be an exhibition of finds from Ashville and other sites excavated by the Society. Demonstrations of flint knapping and, it is hoped, pottery making are among the attractions. Entrance 10p; open 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Excavations in Oxfordshire 1974 reprinted from CBA Group 9 Newsletter, Number 5, 1975, gives an account of the Unit's activities during 1975. Copies of this are available from the Unit at 20p each, including postage.

#### CALENDAR FOR MARCH AND APRIL

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Monday 10 March  | The President: 'The earliest brasses', Ashmolean Museum, 8.15 p.m., OUAS.  |
| Tuesday 11 March | Janet Davidson: 'Origins and the role of "Hill Forts" for three Polynesian Societies', Institute of Archaeology, 5.00 p.m. |
| Tuesday 25 March | Kirsty Rodwell: 'Oxfordshire Towns Survey', Rewley House, 5.00 p.m.  |
| Tuesday 29 April | Staff Meeting.   |