

The Newsletter

of the

Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Society

Autumn 2017



Clay Pipe from Three Locks



Milton's Cottage



Flint Masonry



Quarrendon From the Air

QUARRENDON
Aylesbury's lost medieval village



A GUIDE to the remains of a once-flourishing but long-abandoned Buckinghamshire village and manor

BY MICHAEL FARLEY



Flint Arrowhead



Buzzard

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY NETWORK
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AYLESBURY VALE DC OFFICES

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LAND & PEOPLE

1. WHO OWNED BUCKINGHAMSHIRE IN 1798? Dr John Broad.

John, editor of Records of Bucks, is probably the leading academic historian of the county. His talk is based on a national study of land tax returns and land ownership. Within Bucks at a parish level there were substantial variations.

2. BUCKS AND PARLIAMENT 1820-1868. Dr Peter Salmon. Peter is the editor of two volumes of the prestigious History of Parliament. The volume covering 1820-1832 was published in 2009 and work is current on its successor 1832-1868. We are honoured that he has, in the last few months, brought work on Bucks forward for this talk

3. THE CONTINUING CONTROVERSY ON THE ORIGIN OF THE OPEN FIELDS AND RIDGE AND FURROW. Dr David Hall. David's maps of Ridge and furrow in Northants were on display at last year's conference. A recent book 'Champion, the Making & Unmaking of the English Midland landscape' is largely based on them. However, David did not appear as a joint author because he could not agree fully with their interpretation. The talk explains why.

4. TUDOR PLAISAUNCES TO CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES: DISCOVERING HIDDEN GEMS OF BUCKS GARDENS. Dr Sarah Rutherford. This talk is to be based on recent work of the BHGT, an organisation in which Sarah was one of the founding members. Nationally she is one of the leading garden historians. She has recently moved from English Heritage to a consultancy. In 2016 she was the author of a book on Capability Brown.

5. COSTING THE EARTH: BUCKS AND ENGLISH GARDENS SINCE 1660. Professor Sir Roderick Floud. Sir Roderick is one of the most eminent economic historians of the last 50 years. He has been editor of 4 editions of The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Britain. Currently he is using his skills as an economic historian to prepare a book on the cost of gardens, tapping into extensive records in Bucks and elsewhere.

6. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S TURNPIKE ROADS, 1706-1881. Peter Gulland. Peter's long awaited book on the subject is to be published this year. His talk deals with both the construction of the county's network of turnpikes and its lasting legacy.

BAS Newsletter Autumn 2017

Contents

Officers of the Society	2
The Society	3
BAS 170	4
Active Archaeology Group Report	5
Active Archaeology Group Winter Talks	10
BAS Programme of Lectures	13
Buckinghamshire Book Exchange	14
The Buzzard in Bucks	17
Berks Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust	18
A Buckinghamshire Poet: John Milton	19
Milton's Cottage: Paradise Maintain'd	20
Chess Valley Historical and Archaeological Society	21
Historical Association Programme of Events	23
Archaeology in Marlowe	24
Library and Archives Report	25
Geology: Flint in Bucks	26
Buckinghamshire Geological Society	28
Buckinghamshire Local History Network	Front Inside Cover
Centre for Bucks Studies	Back Cover

The **BAS Newsletter** is published twice yearly in Spring and Autumn. Contributions should be sent to the Newsletter Editor at the Library, County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP, or by e-mail to michaelghirelli@yahoo.co.uk

Printing is by **Waddesdon Church of England School**, School Lane, Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP18 0LQ.



President of the Society: Richard Gem

Vice Presidents:

Commander the Lord Cottesloe KStJ JP RN (retd)

Hugh Hanley

Colin Dawes AMA

Maurice Hart

Michael Farley BA FSA MIFA

Dennis Mynard

Diana Gulland

Holding Trustees :

Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher Bt JP

Dr Richard Gem OBE MA FSA

Professor Richard Marks MA PhD FSA

Michael Farley BA FSA MIFA

Honorary Officers of Council:

Peter Marsden

Chair of Council

Bronwen Lee

Membership Secretary

Doug Stuckey

Secretary

John Broad

Editor Records of Bucks

Harry Ball

Treasurer

Roger Bettridge

Archivist

Julian Hunt

Librarian

Elected Members of Council:

Eliza Alqassar

John Dodd

Yvonne Edwards

Michael Ghirelli

Sarah Gray

Pauline Hey

David Hillier

Sandy Kidd

Charles Le Quesne

Co-opted Members of Council:

Nicholas Crank

Milton Keynes Archaeology Service

Richard de Peyer

Bucks County Museum Trust

Michael Ghirelli

Newsletter Editor

Sarah Gray

Outings Organiser

Pauline Hey

Active Archaeology Group

Julian Hunt

Lectures Organiser

Kevin Quick

Webmaster

David Thorpe

Bucks Local History Network

Nigel Wilson

Local Authority Planning Liaison

Bob Zeevat

Associate Editor Records of Bucks

BAS



The Society

The Society (known as BAS, for short) was founded in 1847. It is the senior body in the County in the fields of Archaeology, Architecture and Local History. BAS organises a range of activities every year - a Winter Lecture Programme, outings, the Buckinghamshire Local History Network Conference, and the Society's Active Archaeology Group. The society publishes *Records of Buckinghamshire* and other publications that focus on various aspects of the history and archaeology of the county.



The Society founded the County Museum and still owns the main museum buildings and a large part of its collections, although the museum is now leased and run by the County Council.

CONTACTS

You can contact the Society at:
**Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society,
 County Museum,
 Church Street,
 Aylesbury.
 HP20 2QP**

Telephone:	01296 397200
E-mail:	help@bucksas.org.uk
Website:	www.bucksas.org.uk
General enquiries:	help@bucksas.org.uk
Chair BAS Council:	chair@bucks.org.uk
Library:	help@bucksas.org.uk
Membership:	membership@bucksas.org.uk

The next Annual General Meeting of the Society
 will be held on 12 May 2018



BAS – 170 years and still going strong!

Surely it was only yesterday that the society was founded by a group of earnest clerics who had a deep interest in church architecture and the preservation of ancient buildings. In 1847 you would have been most welcome amongst their number provided of course that you were a member of the Church of England and could find individuals to propose you.

To celebrate this significant anniversary we are holding a series of events aimed at raising our profile among the general public, apart from our own initial celebratory meeting on 9th December when Julian Hunt has arranged a series of short talks by members on the early history of the society. Following this in the course of 2018 there will be open-to-all lectures at four venues across the county which are currently being arranged, hands-on events at several town market days (suggestions for markets or other



*Church Street Aylesbury
before the age of the Car*

gatherings we might attend welcome) and Sarah Gray will be offering talks about the society to any interested local groups with which there may be associated displays. We also hope to be able to offer introductory lectures on Archaeology to secondary schools. Your help with any of these activities would be welcome; contact our BAS volunteer library staff at the museum (bucksas@buckscountymuseum.org) who will pass on your name to the individual organising the event.

But, there is one activity in particular that you might be interested in contributing to directly yourself. In order to raise public awareness of the society's

own collections which are now managed by the County Museum Service and the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, we invite you to select a particular item or site relevant to your area with which the society has been involved or which are amongst its collections, and write a short piece on the subject for your local newspaper, parish magazine, etc.. For example the article might be along the lines of: 'Person w dug a hole in place **X** in y and found **Z**. this item is now in e.g. the County Museum'. Or 'a fascinating map at e.g. the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies shows **X** which long ago disappeared and y is now in its place'. Or ' **X** who lived at **Y** was an important member of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and he/she published in its journal the *Records of Buckinghamshire* a fascinating article on **Y**. The piece would of course need an accompanying image and a reference to our anniversary. You will have got the idea by now. Try your hand ... no special expertise required! Before submitting anything for publication please contact Charles Lequesne (lequesnec@btinternet.com) who will be monitoring the output for us. He would also be grateful for suggestions about publications/websites etc that might welcome such content.

Mike Farley



Autumn 2017

Since the last Newsletter, we have been quite busy, around the county and sometimes neighbouring counties. We are still working on writing up our completed projects – progress may be slow, but it is happening. Our earlier projects are first then the more recent ones.

Hobbs Hill – this is now just a matter of writing up our work, and is in progress.

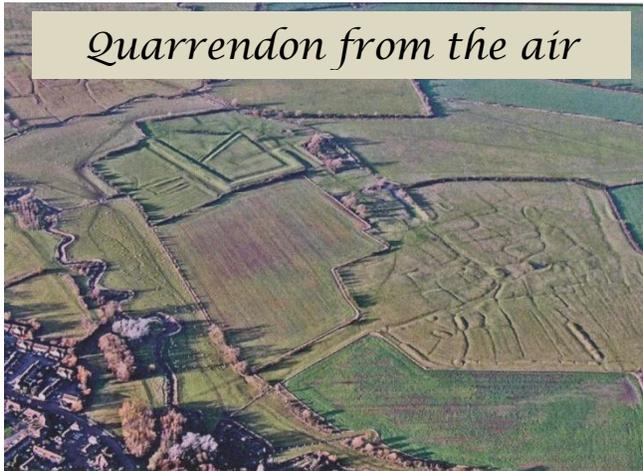
Hogshaw – With Kris Lockyear from UCL we have done the remaining geophysics, but there are some difficulties processing the data, which Kris is in the process of resolving. Once we have his report, we can look at the

possibility of asking Historic England for permission to put a trench in, to clarify what the geophysics shows.

Cholesbury – With Kris Lockyear we have completed the geophysics at this site, but again Kris is encountering some difficulties processing the results, which will hopefully soon be resolved.

Coleman's Wood - we did the measured survey of the earthworks as requested, and referred to in our previous report. Stuart King found it helpful. He continues to work on this site.

Quarrendon – Washing finds from the field walking of the alternative field was not very informative (though Mike Farley's guidance on identifying pottery was helpful), but we were able to walk part of the original field in early April and wash the finds on 27th June. Mike Farley had removed a



large amount of tile (now under his patio!). The remaining finds did not add a great deal to our knowledge, except that the absence of Roman finds was striking, and there were fewer finds overall than we had expected, being close to both the deserted medieval village and the Tudor manor house. Some of our group were able to participate in the very successful Quarrendon

Open Day on 9th July, aimed at local residents, because of the lack of parking. The Quarrendon booklet sold well, and there was a lot of interest in the site as a whole.

Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal – there is nothing further to report at present.

Cheddington Airfield – no further work is planned but the project is still being written up.

Three Locks Pumping Station – this is on the Grand Union Canal at Soulbury, between Leighton Buzzard and Stoke Hammond. We were invited by the Canal and Rivers Trust to investigate this Grade II listed site, which is currently undergoing restoration. It is the pumping station for a flight of three locks, originally built as a set of narrow locks, but due to increased traffic on the canal, widened in the 1850s. The original pump did not have sufficient power to manage the increased volume of water required by the wider locks, and so needed to be supplemented. We have traced a whole series of flues and drains under the present floor, and have connected some of them up (working round piles of bricks from a wall that had been taken down because it was unsafe). In somewhat cramped conditions (spoil heaps were repeatedly moved), we have established that



Clay pipe with fox motif from Three Locks

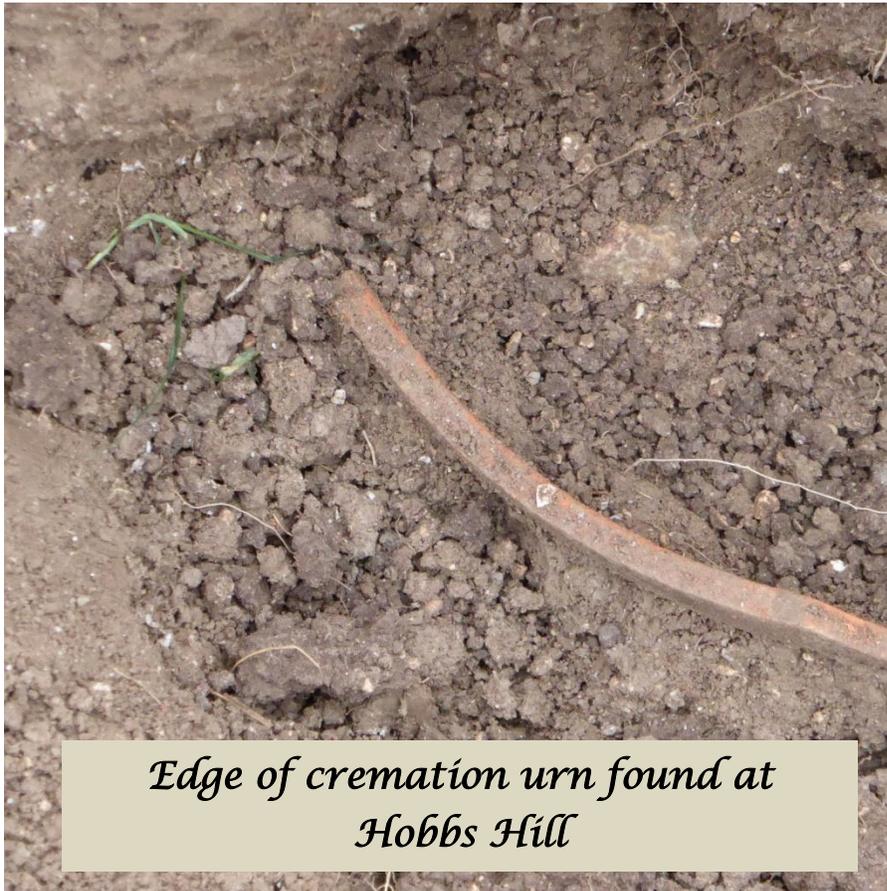
there were two boilers installed, but have not fully defined their relation to each other. Under a clearly disturbed area of the brick floor, we discovered the junction between drains from the two boilers, and their connection to a drain port visible in the outer wall. Much of what we found was previously unknown,

and the group received several compliments on our professionalism and skills. We failed to locate the chimney (though an old photograph seems to suggest that it was rather smaller than we would have expected). We are not planning further excavation - though this is our favourite site due to the proximity of the Three Locks pub immediately opposite on the other bank of the canal – but we do still need to do some research in the archives to try to understand the sequence of events properly, and pass this information on the Canal and Rivers Trust.

Ivinghoe Aston Cremation Burial – a metal detectorist working in a field about a mile from Ivinghoe Aston, located a piece of metal (with bone stuck to it – perhaps part of the cheek piece of a helmet). As he dug it up, he also

8

found potsherds from probably 3 pots and bits of burnt bone. On realising that his find was unusual, he acted correctly and contacted Arwen James (Finds Liaison Officer) and Brett Thorn from Aylesbury Museum. Brett identified the potsherds as Romano-British. He was able to get consent from the landowner for a limited excavation (1m square) to extract the rest of the burial, which was done on 16th May. Having removed the rest of the cremation burial, and defined the grave cut, we were tidying up in mid-afternoon when we encountered a second cremation, only about 0.5m from the first, but mostly in the baulk of the excavation. We removed some



*Edge of cremation urn found at
Hobbs Hill*

potsherds and bone fragments from this one, but as it was quite late in the day, and our permission did not allow us to extend the trench, we backfilled it and left. We hope the farmer will allow us to return and complete lifting the second burial. The hay in the field has now been cut, but there are sheep grazing, so we do not know when, or even if, we may be able to return.

Bones – A small group of our members continues to work on cataloguing the human bones in the museum collection at Halton, and are still making interesting discoveries.

Other Societies' Sites - We have contacts with other societies who welcome our input.

Frith Hill near Great Missenden – the Chess Valley Archaeology and History society is planning an excavation following a geophysical survey. For details contact Yvonne Edwards yvonnehedwards@btinternet.com

Maids Moreton – north of Buckingham. The Community Archaeology project continues to investigate ‘The Mound’, which may be the remains of a 12th century house. Excavation had been taking place in August and anyone interested in future - contact Susan Fern suzor16@hotmail.co.uk

Wing Heritage Group – The test pit programme around the village continues, though there have been only a few test pits dug this year for a variety of reasons. Several archaeologists from Cotswold Archaeology have shown interest in the group, and one has attended some of the test pit digs. A display on the work of the group, including the history of the village and discoveries made by the Family History subgroup, was set up in the car park of the Cock Inn, as part of the Festival of Archaeology, and was quite well attended – maybe we will get more offers of test pits in local residents gardens as a result. Anyone interested should contact Sarah Roe sarah.roe01@gmail.com

Verulamium – the geophysics project to map as much as possible of the Roman city of Verulamium continues. A paddock close to the museum was investigated in March – with difficulty – the ground was very rough and well populated with nettles as well as rabbit and badger holes. It revealed less than we hoped. However, throughout August work will continue on the Gorehambury site, close to the Roman theatre. We completed the magnetometry last year and are currently doing resistivity and ground penetrating radar – and getting some excellent results. View the results on <https://hertsgeosurvey.wordpress.com> Work is done, weather permitting, every day from Wednesday to Sunday, from about 10am. Anyone interested should contact Ellen Shlasko hertsgeosurvey@gmail.com

Many of our members belong to more than one society, and it is not always possible to keep up with what other societies are doing. If any AAG member wants the activities of another society to which they belong to be mentioned in the Newsletter, then please contact Pauline paulineahey@btinternet.com

Indoor Activities

CBA South Midlands - Pauline represents amateur archaeology in Bucks on this group – please tell her of anything that needs to be raised with the group. The Spring Conference was held in Haynes, and covered work that has been going on in Bedfordshire, which was very interesting. The autumn conference will be on Sunday October 15th and will be in Oxfordshire (venue TBA), and will concentrate on discoveries in Oxfordshire. Do

remember that CBA SM is able to give grants to amateur groups for various purposes to further their activities.

Pauline Hey

AAG Winter Talks Programme

It is intended that this will be a mixture of talks and more practical sessions – though the practical sessions seem more difficult to organise than talks. So far, we have:

Sept 19th – Mike Farley; a practical session on pottery identification

Oct 17th - Bob Zeepvat; a talk on Wulfhere's People, which Bob was going to do in February, but had to pull out of. It should be worth waiting for.

Nov. 21st - John Morris of the Chiltern Woodland Trust talking on the Chiltern Woodlands, which relates closely to quite a lot of our work.

Dec 19th – Christmas Social with presentations on the various activities we have been involved in throughout the year, including some recent discoveries by Stuart King.

Jan 16th Andy McGrandle on LIDAR surveying (he will refer specifically to the Chiltern AONB)

Feb onwards, not yet confirmed, though there are several possibilities under consideration.

Everyone is welcome at our indoor meetings – held at the Museum on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm (entrance by the side door from the path by the church) from September to May. We charge £1 for tea/coffee and biscuits.

And finally – remember our blog – <http://basaag.blogspot.co.uk> which is not always fully up to date, but will give an idea of what we have been doing.

Pauline Hey

Open Day at Quarrendon Sunday 9th July

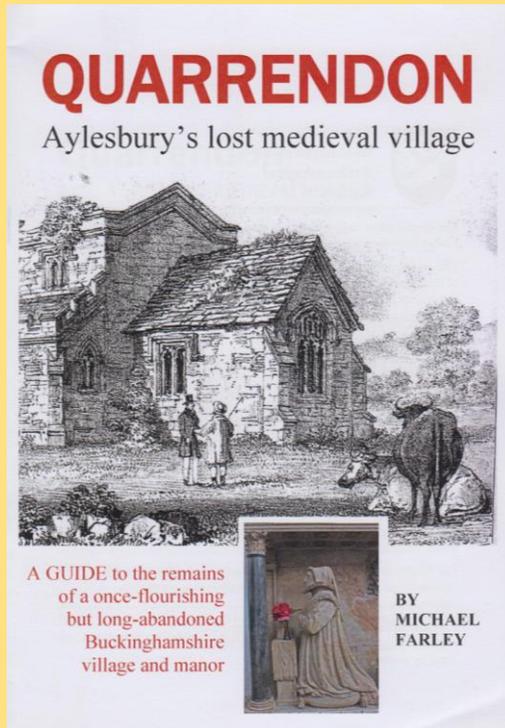
This event was organised by the society in conjunction with the Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust. Many members will have visited the site of this important 'deserted medieval village' (which also contains the site of a house belonging to Sir Henry Lee, a Tudor courtier), is a scheduled ancient monument on the outskirts of Aylesbury on the west side of the River Thames. More than ten years ago, after much lobbying by the Society and with the active support of Sandy Kidd (at that time County Archaeologist), Buckinghamshire County Council undertook the work of creating a trust to take on the site's ownership. The land had formerly belonged to the diocese of Oxford which had sold a large area of farmland here for development. Whilst negotiations were proceeding a new ring-road was being constructed nearby and the large housing estate of Berryfields was being built. Once the land had been transferred, the trust, under the direction of Michael Woods, commenced the long task of turning a rather neglected piece of farmland into an area where the monument could be permanently protected and biodiversity encouraged.

Public understanding of the site and access to it is an important objective of the trust, but there is of necessity a fine balance to be struck between this aim and the need to graze livestock on the grassland here. Unleashed dogs and sheep, for instance, don't mix, nor motorbikes and earthworks! Lacking parking, at present the monument can only be reached by an energetic twenty-minute walk from a road. Although some of the trust's land is familiar to local dog walkers, most of those who live in the surrounding estates are completely unaware of the site's existence and significance, so the open day was aimed specifically at informing local residents, and also recruiting voluntary wardens to assist with the site's management.

A leafletting firm delivered over 4500 leaflets to local homes and it has been estimated that nearly 500 people turned up on the Sunday. Fortunately it was a sunny day. Visitors were entertained by displays and activities provided by the Trust, the County Archaeological and Environmental Services, 'Tudors' in costume, a hedgelayer and of course BAS which provided a popular 'Muddled Museum' display and a bookstall

(which sold among other publications a new booklet about the site). Stationed at strategic points across the monument were pairs of informed 'Ask Me's, provided by the County and BAS, who chatted about the site to the many interested visitors. The organising committee is most grateful to the many individuals who helped to make this a most successful occasion.

Michael Farley



This illustrated guide presents the hidden history of Aylesbury's lost mediaeval village – and tells you where to find it.

**Available from
Bucks Archaeological Society
County Museum
Church Street
Aylesbury
HP20 2 QP**

Price - £2.00 with £1.00 post and packing

Legend tells that St Osyth was born at Quarrendon 1300 years ago. Before 1066, it was a manor and village of 20 families. William the Conqueror gave the manor and village to Geoffrey de Mandeville. It was valued at £8. 400 years later, farming sheep for wool gave greater profit, so the villagers were evicted. It was Sir Henry Lee who built a great house and splendid garden. He died childless, and slowly the buildings fell to ruin. Now there remain grassy mounds, a moat with no manor, and the low crumbling walls of the chapel.

Saturday 11 November 2017
Chalk, Backbone of the Chilterns
Dr Haydon Bailey

Saturday 9 December 2017
The Bucks Archaeological Society 1847-2017
Various speakers
Wine and mince pies to follow

Saturday 13 January 2018
Thomas Williams the Copper King
Julian Hunt

Saturday 10 February 2018
The History of Shardeloes
Edward Copisarow

Saturday 10 March 2018
The History of Thame
Peter Gulland

Saturday 14 April 2018
Favourite Buckinghamshire Churches
Michael Hardy

*All lectures are held at 2.30pm at the County
Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP
Refreshments are available after each meeting.
Julian Hunt*

Buckinghamshire Book Exchange

Over the years the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society has received bequests and gifts of books which duplicate those held in the Society's Library at the County Museum, Aylesbury. These duplicate books have often been sold to members at regular lecture meetings and the funds thus raised used to further the aims of the Society. The Buckinghamshire Book Exchange aims to offer such books to the wider membership and will, it is hoped, continue to be a regular feature in the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Newsletter. Please note that the Library is open each Wednesday from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Books are offered to members and their friends at very modest prices and readers are encouraged to offer duplicate or unwanted books to the Society to be offered in the Spring and Autumn issues of the Newsletter.

Members wishing to purchase items from the Buckinghamshire Book Exchange should send their order to

**The Library Team,
Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society,
Buckinghamshire County Museum,
Church Street
Aylesbury HP20 2QP**

Please make cheques payable to the **Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society**, adding £2.50 postage on each item.

Alternatively, members can reserve volumes by telephoning the Library on **01296 397200** and collecting volumes in person.

Please note that the Library is open each Wednesday from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Allen, Denise: *Buckinghamshire Archaeology from the Air*, 1979 £3.50

Ashford, L.J.: *The history of the Borough of High Wycombe from its origins to 1880*, Routledge, Kegan Paul, 1960. £10.00

Bradbrook, William: *History of Fenny Stratford*, 1911 £10.00

Branigan, Keith: *Latimer: Belgic, Roman, Dark Age and Early Modern Farm*, 1971 £5.00

Davis, K Rutherford: *Britain and Saxons: The Chiltern Region, 400-700*. £5.00

- Ditchfield, P.H.** (Ed.): *Memorials of Old Buckinghamshire*, 1901. £10.00
- Eland, G.** *In Bucks, a second and enlarged edition of Old Works & Past Days in Rural Buckinghamshire*, Aylesbury, 1923. £7.50
- Eland, G.** (Ed.): *Papers from an Iron Chest at Doddershall, Bucks*, 1937 £5.00
- Eland, G.** (Ed.): *Shardeloes papers of the 17th and 18th centuries*, O.U.P., 1947. £5.00
- Elletson, D.H.**: *Chequers and the Prime Ministers, Robert Hales*, 1970. £5.00
- Elliott, Douglas J.**: *Buckingham, the loyal and ancient borough*, Phillimore, 1975. £7.50
- Ercolani, Lucian R.**: *A furniture maker, his life, his work and his observations*, Ernest Benn, 1975. £7.50
- Fitzgerald, Kevin**: *The Chilterns*, Batsford, 1972 £2.50
- Friends of the Vale of Aylesbury**: *Country Like This*, 1972 £5.00
- Hanley, Hugh & Hunt, Julian** *Aylesbury a Pictorial History*, 1993 £5.00
- Hardy, William Le**: *Bucks Sessions Records 1705-1712*, Aylesbury, 1939 £7.50
- Hay, David & Hay, Joan**: *Hilltop villages of the Chilterns*, Phillimore, 1971. £5.00
- Hodgkin, L.V.** *Guilielma wife of William Penn*, Longmans, Green & Co., 1947. £7.50
- Hunt, Julian**: *A History of Amersham*, 2001 £6.00
- Hunt, Julian**: *Buckingham a pictorial history*, Phillimore, 1994. £5.00
- Hunt, Julian**: *Buckinghamshire's Favourite Churches*, 2007
- Hunt, Julian**: *Chesham a Pictorial History*, 1997 £5.00
- Jackson, C.C.** *Radnage in honour of Her majesty's silver jubilee*, 1976 £5.00
- Jenkins, J. Gilbert** *Chequers, a History of the Prime Minister's Buckinghamshire Home*, 1967. £5.00
- Keen, D.J.**: *Prestwood Historical Guide*, 1978 £5.00
- Kemp, Betty**: *Sir Francis Dashwood, an eighteenth century independent*, Macmillan, 1967. £7.50
- Lister, Norman**: *Building conservation in Milton Keynes, a photographic index*, Milton Keynes Development Corporation, 1971, £7.50

- Markham, Sir Frank:** *History of Milton Keynes Vol 1 to 1830*, White Crescent Press, 1986. £5.00
- Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit:** A guide to the medieval landscape of Milton Keynes, [1984] £2.50
- Parrott, Hayward:** *Aylesbury Town Yesterdays*, Kylin Press, 1982. £7.50
- Plaisted, Arthur H.:** *The manor and parish records of Medmenham, Buckinghamshire*, Longmans, Green & Co., 1926. £10.00
- Plaisted, Arthur H.:** *Parsons and parish records of Medmenham*, Longmans, Green & Co., 1932. £10.00
- Plaisted, Arthur H.** *The romance of a Chiltern village*, Medmenham, 1958. £10.00
- Read, Susan & Empringham, David:** *Chiltern Images*, 1992 £5.00
- Rose, Walter:** *Good neighbours, some recollections of an English village [Haddenham] and its people*, C.U.P., 1943. £5.00
- Rowse, E. Clive** *Medieval wall painting*, Shire Publications, 1996
- Scott, Valerie G. & McLaughlin, Eve:** *County Maps and Histories of Buckinghamshire*, 1984
- Slough W.E.A.:** *A town in the making, Slough, 1851*, Berkshire County Council, [1974] £5.00
- Smith, Gloria Jarvis:** *A Jarvis tapestry: the Early History of a Buckinghamshire mainly from Tudor to Victorian times*, 2003
- Stanton, A.H.:** *On Chiltern Slopes, the story of Hambleden*, Bail Blackwell, 1927 £7.50
- Stonor, Robert Julian:** *Stonor, a Catholic sanctuary in the Chilterns from the fifth century till today*, 1951 £7.50
- Tate, W.E.:** *A hand-list of Buckinghamshire enclosure acts and awards*, Aylesbury, 1946 £5.00
- Vaughan, Karl:** *Aylesbury Then and Now*, 2012. £5.00
- Verney, Sir Harry:** *The Verneys of Claydon*, History Book Club, 1968. Signed by author. £7.50
- Viney, Elliot & Nightingale, Pamela:** *Old Aylesbury*, 1976, reprint 1977.
- Viney, Elliot:** *The Sheriffs of Buckinghamshire*, 1965. £5.00
- Warr, Edith B.:** *Early School Days in Beaconsfield, a History of the Church of England Schools, 1854-1914*, 1968 £5.00



The Buzzard in Bucks

A plaintive kyaa-kyaa mewing sound from the spinney a hundred metres away across the field is a reminder that a pair of buzzards have nested there regularly for at least ten years. I have become accustomed to seeing them patrolling the skies in broad circles seeking their prey of small birds, mammals and carrion, and sometimes even large insects and earthworms at times of dearth. They are easily distinguished in flight from the red kites that have become such a common sight since their reintroduction to Bucks more than twenty years ago – the buzzards have shorter tails rounded at



Head of Buzzard

the end, very different from the distinctive V shaped tail borne by the kite. I am always uplifted and excited by the sight of these buzzards above our home. When I lived in the Hertfordshire Chilterns in the 1960s, there was never a raptor to be seen in the sky other than the occasional hovering kestrel. We had to travel across to Wales or the South West, or up to the North to see any. Years of persecution by gamekeepers and farmers had

driven the birds of prey from southern and eastern England in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries until the species started to recover after the Second World War. Even then, rabbit populations were decimated by myxomatosis, so reducing an important food source, while birds of prey were also affected by the use of organochlorine pesticides that affected their reproduction. Populations and range remained restricted until the late 1960s when these pesticides were withdrawn. At the same time, there was a reduction in illegal killing, and buzzard numbers started to increase slowly in SE England, and now are commonly to be seen flying and nesting over most of Bucks.

Thankfully, buzzards are a success story. To ensure their continued success, Wildlife Trusts work closely with farmers and landowners to

promote wildlife-friendly practices. They are working towards a 'Living Landscape': a network of habitats and wildlife corridors across town and country which are good for both wildlife and people. You can support this greener vision for the future by joining your local Wildlife Trust.

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



By becoming a member of your local Wildlife Trust today, you will not only be helping to look after havens for wildlife and protect rare species at risk from vanishing, but you will also be giving all local people, especially children, a chance to explore and connect with nature. As the threat to wildlife grows, we rely on our members' support now more than ever to help with our vital conservation work. Join today and together we can ensure our precious local wildlife is protected for future generations to enjoy. We promise to spend your donations wisely with 77p in every £1 going directly towards our work to save our local wildlife.

Contact:

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Road, Littlemore, Oxford, OX4 4XT.
Tel 01865 788 300 or www.bbwt.org.uk

High Speed Rail 2 and Calvert Jubilee Reserve

High Speed 2 and East West Rail railways will affect Calvert Jubilee, because both projects will take land from the nature reserve. HS2 Ltd is currently (June 2017) carrying out investigative work on ground conditions in the north-eastern side of the reserve. Disruption from these investigation works will be limited and should not affect visitors' enjoyment of the site at this stage.

Calvert Jubilee This tranquil Buckinghamshire reserve is a delightful place to watch wintering wildfowl such as mallard, tufted duck and pochard. Its large 'lake' was created by clay extraction for the brick industry. Later, part of the site was a municipal rubbish tip. Steep banks were carefully sculpted to form shallows in front of two bird hides while the creation of three floating raft islands have enabled common terns and waterfowl to nest away from local foxes. There are also kingfishers here. In winter, a lucky birdwatcher might see bittern, smew, scaup, goldeneye, goosander and glaucous gull. Listen out for chiffchaffs, blackcaps and willow warblers. Dense reedbeds have been planted at the shallower, northern end of the lake, and a small pond has been created to attract frogs and other amphibians.

Location: 6.5 miles east of Bicester, OX27 0BG. Map reference SP 682 252

A Buckinghamshire Poet

John Milton.

In 1665, with the plague raging in London, John Milton and his wife settled in Chalfont St Giles in the cottage at owned by his friend Thomas Ellwood. They stayed only a year in Buckinghamshire village, and one might imagine that Milton, who was surely very much an urban man, an intellectual, a political campaigner and polemicist, poet, theologian and philosopher, very much involved in the political foment in the capital, might find life in a rural backwater dull and unchallenging. Yet he made good use of his time at Chalfont, for it was here that he wrote his great epic masterpiece *Paradise Lost*, and indeed commenced on the sequel, *Paradise Regained*. We might guess at his his delight on entering the cottage garden from these lines from *Paradise Lost* where Adam and Eve enter their “blissful bower” in Eden provided by the Divine Creator.



*Statue of Milton in
Temple of British
Worthies at Stowe*

*Thus taking hand in hand alone they pass'd
On to thir blissful Bower; it was a place
Chos'n by the Sovran Planter, when he fram'd
All things to mans delightful use; the rooffe
Of thickest covert was inwoven shade
Laurell and Mirtle, and what higher grew
Of firm and fragrant leaf; on either side
Acanthus and each odorous bushie shrub
Fenc'e up the verdant wall; each beauteous
flour
Iris all hues, Roses, and Gessamin
Rear'd high thir flourish't heads between, and
wrought
Mosaic: underfoot the violet,
Crocus, and Hyacinth with rich inlay
Broider'd the ground, more colour'd
then with stone.....*

Milton's Cottage: Paradise Maintain'd

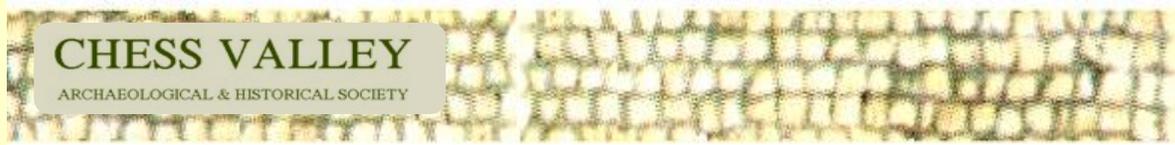
Milton's Cottage at Chalfont St Giles is a Grade 1 listed building. It is a timber framed construction with brick noggings infill, and must have been constructed some time in the sixteenth or early seventeenth centuries. The cottage was restored in the 18th century, when a two-storey wing was added. In the nineteenth century, there were plans to dismantle the building for shipping and rebuilding in the USA, but it was saved for the nation and purchased by public subscription in 1887, Queen Victoria herself making the first donation. It is now run as a museum by the Milton Cottage Trust CIO. It houses a range of priceless artifacts, including a first edition of *Paradise Lost*, the Milton chair, a lock of Milton's hair and an original proclamation, issued by Charles II, banning Milton's books.



Now there is a funding crisis. The Trust “- is able to cover running costs until December 2018” according to chair Simon Avery “but to ensure we remain open to the public after that, new sources of funding must be found”. The charity has launched an urgent appeal to ensure the continuing operation of the museum at Milton's Cottage. They are also launching the Paradise Maintain'd Endowment Fund to raise funds to help protect and preserve Milton's Cottage in perpetuity. Its target is to raise £3.5 million – the level of endowment required to achieve financial self-sufficiency.

For further information about how to support Milton's Cottage please contact the Business Director, Kelly O'Reilly, on 01494 872313 or businessdirector@miltonscottage.org.

You can also join the sister charity, The Friends of Milton's Cottage, www.friendsofmiltonscottage.org.uk



Meetings Programme 2017-18

All meetings are in the Lowndes Room, Chesham Town Hall, Chesham on the third Friday of the month. They begin at 8.00 pm, and are open to both members and non-members. For speaker events, members pay £2 and visitors £4. The Open Evening includes refreshments and is £4 to all attendees.

Friday, 20th October 2017

King of the Birds! Changing Perceptions of Eagles in Britain's Past. Matilda Holmes, Consultant Archaeozoologist. The changing importance of these fascinating birds, from the symbolic and medicinal to their use for raw materials and representations of social status.

Friday, 17th November 2017

Wulfhere's People Bob Zeepvat, Bancroft Heritage Services. Wulfhere was Mercia's first Christian king. The talk describes new findings from the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wolverton, Milton Keynes, which was once in Mercia.

Friday, 19th January 2018

The Griffin Warrior, Pylos, Greece Marion Wells, CVAHS. "One of the most spectacular archaeological discoveries in Greece in more than half a century" (Smithsonian.com)

Friday, 16th February 2018

The Home Front in Buckinghamshire in WWI Anne Marshall, CVAHS. How civilians in Buckinghamshire helped to win the war, featuring the stories of named individuals.

Friday, 16th March 2018

Members Evening. CVAHS members will describe the work and achievements of the society during the past year.

Friday, 20th April 2018

AGM and Chairman's talk (title to be decided) Julian Hunt.

*News from
Buckinghamshire Gardens
Trust
Research & Recording Project*



Having just finished celebrating Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in 2016 the Bucks Gardens Trust has embarked on another exciting project to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of Humphry Repton. We have been fortunate to secure an HLF grant to fund the project, which involves researching the 15 or 16 sites he was thought to have worked on, to find out '*What did Humphry Repton do for our Parks and gardens in Bucks*'. We hope to publish a booklet on the subject and to make all our findings widely available via our website. There will be events across the country as well as in Bucks during the year, again these will be posted on our website.

Repton of course was famous for his 'red books' which included his proposals, sketches and watercolours (some with flaps showing before and after images). We have managed to track down four of these for Buckinghamshire sites, however others are much more elusive and are probably lost. It is a bit of a long-shot but, if you happen to have any information regarding the whereabouts of the red books for the following sites we would love to hear from you: Bulstrode, Gayhurst, West Wycombe, Tyringham or Wycombe Abbey.



Humphry Repton Image of Stoke Park from Peacock's Polite Repository, courtesy of the Nigel Temple Collection, The Gardens Trust

We currently, have a couple of vacancies for experienced researchers who would like to be part of our fascinating and rewarding on-going project. For more details see our website and contact the project co-ordinator, Claire de Carle claire@decarle.plus.com 01844 237701

We shall also have a stand at this year's Local History Network on Saturday 30 September, so come along and find out what we have been up to and see information on the 50 plus gardens in Bucks that we have researched so far.

**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BRANCH
PROGRAMME 2017-2018**

Meetings are held on Wednesdays at **8.00 pm** in the **Friends' Meeting House, Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury HP20 2RT** (except where stated otherwise).

2017

18 Dr Philip Woods, New York University in London

OCT **Reporting the Burma Campaign: war correspondents and media management in the Burma campaign, 1942-1944**
(Preceded by the Annual General Meeting at 7.30)

15 Dr Graham Twemlow, Decorative Arts Historian
NOV **Art and Design in the Chilterns**

20 David Stopps and Stephen Daghish, Music promoters and managers
DEC **Aylesbury - A Music Town**

2018

17 Dr Rachel Stone, University of Bedfordshire
JAN **Charlemagne's Web: Building an Early Medieval Charter Database**

21 Nick Millea, Maps Librarian, Bodleian Libraries, Oxford
FEB **The message in the map: what is the cartographer telling us ... and why?**

21 Prof Lawrence Goldman, Institute of Historical Research, London
MAR **Disraeli and the Transformation of the Victorian Conservative Party**

18 John and Lindsay Mullaney, Hidden Abbey Project, Reading
APR **Reading's "Hidden Abbey Project" – Discovering Henry I's Abbey: a talk with illustrations and music**

16 Dr Foteini Spingou, Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies,
MAY University of Oxford
Brides and Diplomacy: Bridal Gifts in 12th-century Byzantium and France

16 **SATURDAY AFTERNOON Outing: Halton House**
JUN A visit to Halton House, Wendover, with Trixie Brabner, Archivist
2:00pm (details will be supplied to HA members nearer the date)

Admission to meetings is **free** to full and associate members of the Historical Association (with exception of summer outing).

Visitors (all ages) and Students WELCOME: ADMISSION £2

Associate membership of the Branch is £10 for the year from October 2017.

Please pay by standing order, cash or cheque, payable to Historical Association-Bucks Branch, with the slip below (and s.a.e. if you want a receipt).

Or you can download a form from the website.

.....
**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (BUCKS BRANCH)
ASSOCIATE SUBSCRIPTION 2017-2018**

To: Terry Bloxham (Hon Secretary), 138 High Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1RB
Tel: 01296 708926 **E-mail:** t.bloxham@vam.ac.uk (give name, address, email)

Archaeology in Marlow

calendar of forthcoming events 2017

8.00 pm
Thursday
28th Sep

**Garden
Room**
• Liston Hall



Members of AIM £3 Visitors £4.50

'Highwood: the Mound and other Enigmas' a talk by **Andrew Allum** of South Oxfordshire Archaeological Society (SOAG). In 2015 members of SOAG started to excavate a Roman site in Harpsden near Henley-on-Thames and they have uncovered Iron Age and Roman remains from between 0 and 400 AD. However, the site remains enigmatic. The talk will seek to explain the work carried out so far and suggest possible interpretations.

Main Hall
• Liston Hall
Members of
AIM/MAS £3
Visitors £4.50

8.00 pm
Thursday
12th Oct

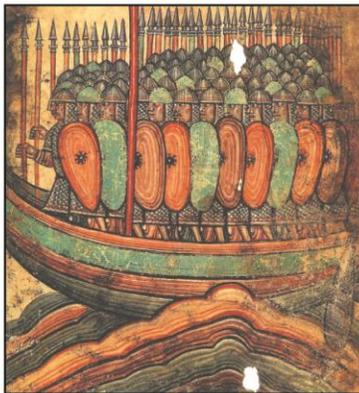
Kris Lockyear of UCL will be giving a talk entitled

'Verulamium Revealed'

This Arts and Humanities Research Council funded community archaeology project brought together a wide variety of groups within the county of Hertfordshire to investigate a selection of Iron Age and Roman sites in the St Albans area, via a magnetometry survey.



This is a joint talk organised by MAS.



'The Vikings'

A talk by **Barbara Askew** who will be exploring the world of the Vikings, who they were, where they came from and their roles as raiders, traders and invaders, with special emphasis on the Viking settlement of Britain. The talk examines Viking life and culture, arts and technology, ships, burial, hoards and jewellery.

This is a joint talk organised by AIM.

8.00 pm
Thursday
23rd Nov

Main Hall
• Liston Hall

Members of
AIM/MAS £3
Visitors £4.50

• **Liston Hall, Chapel Street, Marlow SL7 1DD** Free parking at the adjacent car park after 7.00p.m.

Contact AIM John Laker : 9 Spinfield Lane Marlow SL7 2JT Tel: 01628 481792
Visit us on the web, Facebook and Twitter www.archaeologyinmarlow.org.uk

BAS



Report of the Honorary
Librarian and Honorary
Archivist

The Library and Archives Team of Roger Bettridge, Sarah Gray and Julian Hunt have continued to open the BAS Library every Wednesday. They are joined by Garry Marshall who is listing uncatalogued collections in the Muniment Room, and Peter Longden who is updating the computer catalogue of books in the BAS Library. In addition, Marian Miller has delivered her catalogue of Diana Gulland's research on Aston Clinton House. The number of readers visiting the library and archives remains modest, but enquiries have also come from members and non-members by post and e-mail. Topics of interest included Thomas Edwards and his garden at Terrick House, the garden at Orchard House, Olney, the mill at Chalfont St Giles, the entrance lodge at Lilies, near Aylesbury, local springs and wells, and the Aylesbury prune. These have been answered from BAS collections or referred to BAS members with appropriate knowledge.

The executors of Eric Throssell have passed on to the Archive several drawings of Hartwell and other projects undertaken by this eminent architect. Julian Hunt's digital files on individual Buckinghamshire towns and villages have been added to the computers in the BAS Library. These include notes on Addington, Amersham, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Chesham, Coleshill, Colnbrook, Gerrards Cross, Great Missenden, the Kederminster Library, Lenborough, Little Horwood, Maids Moreton, Marlow, Newport Pagnell, Padbury, Shenley Old Rectory, Steeple Claydon, Stoke Mandeville, Stony Stratford, the Swing Riots, Temple Mills, Tring, Winchmore Hill, Winslow and Wooburn.

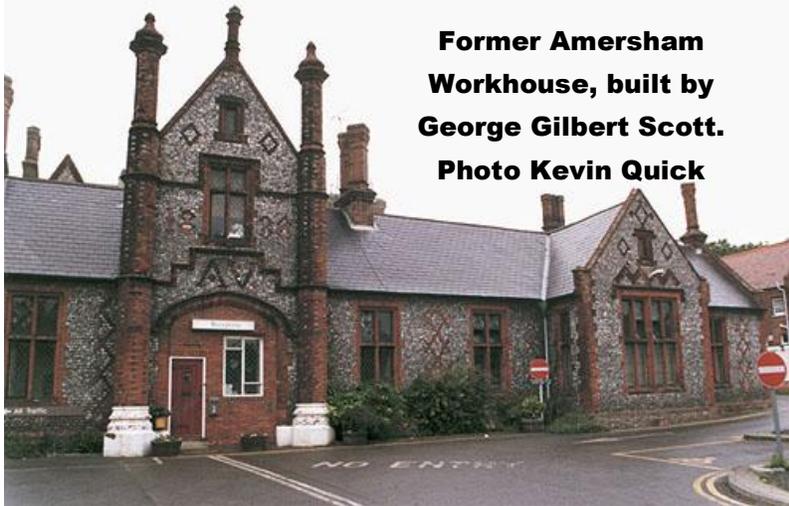
The Library Team took a selection of BAS publications to the Bucks Family History Fair at Aylesbury on 29 July. Sales exceeded £100 and *Historic Views of Buckinghamshire* and Jefferys' and Bryant's Maps proved particularly popular.

Geology: Flint in Bucks

You cannot live in south Bucks without being aware of flint. Follow a path across a ploughed field in the Chilterns, and you will see a scatter of these



Flint rubble masonry



**Former Amersham
Workhouse, built by
George Gilbert Scott.
Photo Kevin Quick**

off white nodular pebbles poking out of the soil. On some steeply sloping fields, the flints can be so thick on the ground that there may be scarcely any soil to offer a bed for sown grain. A dairy farmer once told me that one reason why he switched to arable was that cows often injured their hooves on the razor sharp flint fragments that poked through the pastures. Gardeners will often dig up flints from the brown clays that cover so much of the Chiltern plateau. So many of the mediaeval

churches have walls built partly of flint rubble, and who has not seen the numerous cottages and garden walls and older public buildings in which flint, often knapped to expose the grey glassy interior, has been regularly laid to give that distinctive appearance so beloved of estate agents' sales photographs?

What is flint? It is composed of two of the most common elements making up the earth's crust – silicon and oxygen. It is silicon dioxide, the same chemical compound as quartz, but it is unlike that mineral in one very important way: quartz has a regular crystalline arrangement of its constituent atoms, whereas flint is said to be cryptocrystalline, with the bonds between the atoms oriented in random multiple directions. It is this quality that gives flint its distinctive mechanical qualities – most notably that when it is broken, instead of the flat shiny surfaces characteristic of quartz,



Flint artefact showing conchoidal fractures

it has what is called a conchoidal fracture: pieces flake off the main body of the fragment leaving a rounded hollow scar with small curving ridges reminiscent of a seashell – or conch. How flint is formed is something of a mystery. In England it only occurs in the chalk rock laid down in the cretaceous era. Chalk is the accumulation on the seabed of innumerable microscopic shells called coccoliths, and it is suggested that hollows in the chalk layers formed by burrowing creatures or sponges, were filled by mineral concretions that gelled to form the irregular shaped pebbles.

There is an important characteristic of flint – when it is fractured, razor sharp edges are produced. It is this property that has made flint so important in human history. Various minerals

such as flint, chert, or obsidian have been used for hundreds of thousands of years by human or humanoid creatures to make sharp edged tools. Flint is the best and most effective minerals or rocks for the making of stone tools, whether crude hand held hacking and cutting implements, skillfully crafted arrowheads and spearheads, or finely polished. An accomplished craftsman could shape the irregular nodule, repeatedly striking the flint with another stone, or perhaps an antler or piece of bone to produce the final shape.

Flint tools are commonly found in excavations of stone age sites – the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods of human occupance of Bucks. It can be a small pleasure in a fieldwalking exercise to find lying on the surface of the bare soil some such artefact brought up by the plough. Of course, in later periods of human history, as the Bronze and Iron Ages followed, stone tools no longer are to be found.



**Flint Axe
above.
Arrowhead
right.**



Gunflint

However, one type of flint artefact sometimes may be turned up from the soil. Nicely squared or rectangular flints were used in firearms right the way through to the nineteenth century. A metal, mechanism would strike the flint to generate a spark, so igniting the powder charge of a flintlock weapon.

Flint is characteristically a mineral found in South Bucks where the cretaceous age chalk is predominant. But it is a surprise in North Bucks to find occasional scatters of flint fragments littering the fields.

Sometimes, I dig up flint in my back garden here in a region of Jurassic outcrops near Buckingham town, some thirty kilometres from the Chiltern chalk escarpment. How did it get here? There are two possible explanations. In the first place, the flint may have been deposited by glacial ice or by fluvio-glacial meltwater. Ice sheets that once covered so much of Midland England had swept up masses of rock fragments and clay and sand and dumped them across the landscape. Some of this material included flints. Another explanation is that in the distant past, the chalk now forming the Chilterns once extended north and west covering the whole of the county. Chalk is a soluble rock affected by water charged with carbon dioxide, so that over North Bucks it was dissolved away. The flint nodules were not soluble, so remained as a residual scatter on the land surface long after the disappearance of the chalk in which they had been formed.

The Buckinghamshire Geology Group aims to record, conserve and promote the geology of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

The BGG (previously called Bucks Earth Heritage Group) is part of the Geo-Conservation UK network which means that we are interested in the rocks, fossils and landscapes of Buckinghamshire. Our volunteers find the activities great fun and very rewarding. The group are always looking for new members (no prior experience or knowledge necessary) and we extend a warm welcome to anyone wishing to join the many activities.

The Buckinghamshire Geology Group

Contacts:

Chairman: Mike Palmer (for general information, events information): 01296 624519 or e-mail: [Mike Palmer \(mpalmer@buckscountymuseum.org\)](mailto:mpalmer@buckscountymuseum.org)

Membership Secretary: Julia Carey (for joining information): e-mail: jcarey@buckscc.gov.uk

Records: Julia Carey, BMERC Manager (for records, site information, Local Geological Sites (LGS) sheets, listings) 01296624519 or e-mail: jcarey@buckscc.gov.uk

Treasurer & Geologist: Jill Eyers (for geological information, site advice or education) write to: *13 Pusey Way, Lane End, Bucks, HP14 3LG, or e-mail: j.eyers@btopenworld.com*

Forthcoming Events:

Saturday October 7th 2017, 10:30am

Walking in the Ivinghoe Hills geology and landscape at a gentle pace suitable for all. Leaders Phil Clapham and Jill Eyers, options for a short or longer walk will be offered. For Details contact Jill Eyers: at j.eyers@btopenworld.com or call 01494 881325.

Saturday November 4th 2017, 10:30am-4:30pm

GA Festival of Geology University College London, Gower Street, London. WC1E 6BT. Free public event. Family friendly. The Bucks Geology Group is hoping to have an exhibit.
www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/festival.html

Saturday November 11th 2017 2:30-3:30pm

The Geology of the Chilterns and the Possible Impact of HS2 Talk by Dr Haydon Bailey, Geological Advisor to the Chiltern Society and vice president of the Geologists Association. Bucks County Museum. This is a joint meeting with the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society.

Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies

Search our catalogue online at archives.buckscc.gov.uk.

1872 Beer House List In November 1872, the Clerk of the Peace ordered the Chief Constable of Bucks to draw up a list of all the licensed houses in the county. The work was carried out with great speed, the completed list being submitted just over a fortnight later. It gives the pub name, its owners and occupier as well as how long it has been licensed.

Licensed marriages in the Archdeaconry of Buckingham Those wishing to pay a fee were able to avoid the publicity and delays involved in marrying by the calling of the banns by obtaining a licence from the Archdeacon of Buckingham. Paperwork from around 15,000 of these marriages survive, generally in the form of bond or allegation.

Sharing Wycombe's Old Photos (SWOP) Access thousands of historical images of High Wycombe and the surrounding area, including a large collection of images held in Local Studies at High Wycombe Library.

Educational resources

In recent years the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies has been developing services for schools which can bring local archives into the classroom to complement the topics taught at different Key Stages in the National Curriculum. These are on hold at present but we hope to restart them soon. Our [web based learning packs](#) are still available as are our Victorians, Tudors and World War I educational resources. Resources have been produced to accompany the workshops but they can also be purchased separately. In addition the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies has other purchasable resources which may be of use to teachers and pupils alike.

Making Victorian life a real experience Hard copy resource pack to accompany workshop of same name. Free with workshop but can be purchased separately for £15.

Victorian crime and punishment CD Rom to accompany workshop of same name. Free with workshop but not available separately.

Tudor Buckinghamshire CD Rom to accompany workshop of same name. Free with workshop but can be purchased separately for £9.99 from the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies or the County Museum.

Buckinghamshire Soldiers in WWI: Not Forgotten A CD which starts with a selection of documents presented in PowerPoint which illustrate different aspects of the war as it affected the Buckinghamshire regiments. This is followed by documents reflecting the lives of three different Buckinghamshire soldiers from very different walks of life.

Price £5 from the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies