



Milton Keynes 2007



Queen Elizabeth II, 1926 -2022



Aylesbury 2002

THE QUEEN IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



Stoke Mandeville 1969



Bekonscot Model Village 1934



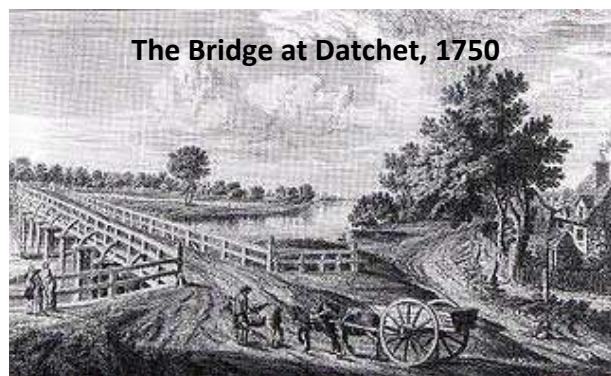
High Wycombe 1962

BLHN
COTTAGE INDUSTRIES
OF BUCKS

AAG
LECTURES AND
ACTIVITIES

CHILTERN
YOUNG
ARCHAEOLOGISTS' CLUB

MASS DIALS
REPORTING AND
RECORDING



The Bridge at Datchet, 1750

Registered Charity number **310525**

County Museum

Church Street

Aylesbury, HP20 2QP

TEL. **+44 (0) 01296 798015**

email:

bucksas@buckscountymuseum.org

The Society focuses on all aspects of the historic county, working to protect and record our heritage and historic environment. Historic buildings and ancient churches, documentary research and the landscapes of the past, local history – as well as archaeology and fieldwork – all are within our remit. We are just as concerned about the present as the past: our members are active in assessing the impact that HS2 will have on the county's historic buildings and landscapes. We were formed in 1848, over 170 years ago, and our collection is curated by the County Council in the Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury, an historic building in shared ownership between the Society and the Council.

PRESIDENT

Julian Hunt

VICE PRESIDENTS

Colin Dawes	Hugh Hanley
Michael Farley	Maurice Hart
Diana Gulland	Dennis Mynard

HOLDING TRUSTEES

Richard Gem	Michael Farley
Richard Marks	Julian Hunt

ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

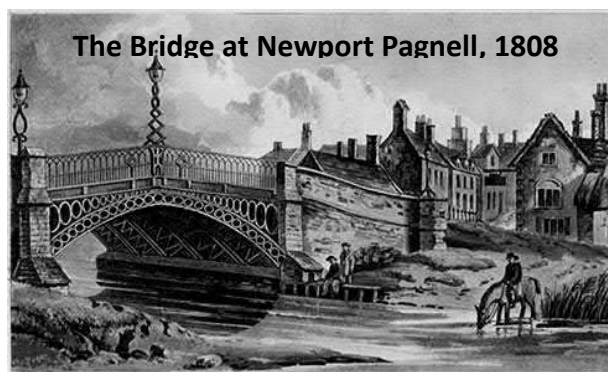
Pauline Hey	David Hillier
Andy Ford	Andrew Kemp
Lucy Lawrence	Marian Miller
John Sheldon	David Saunders
Ros Tyrrell	

CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Eliza Alqassar	<i>Bucks County Archaeological Service</i>	
Nicholas Crank	<i>Milton Keynes Archaeological Service</i>	
Susan Gill	<i>Liberty Trust</i>	
Sam Mason	<i>Director Discover Bucks Museum</i>	
Sandy Kidd	John Dodd	Gary Marshall

OFFICERS OF COUNCIL

Doug Stuckey	<i>Chair of Council</i>
Peter Marsden	<i>Hon. Secretary</i>
Harry Ball	<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>
Sarah Gray	<i>Hon. Librarian</i>
Bob Zeepvat	<i>Hon. Editor of Records</i>
Nigel Rothwell	<i>Hon. Membership Secretary</i>
David Noy	<i>Hon. Archivist</i>



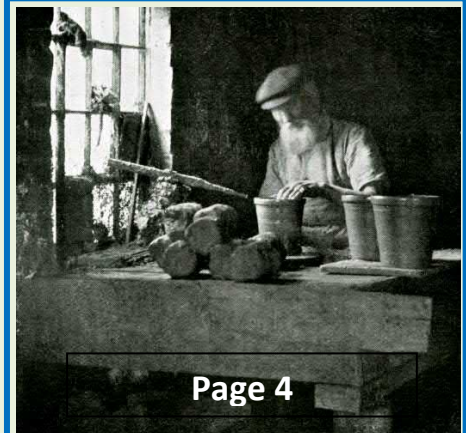
The Bridge at Newport Pagnell, 1808

The society's journal – *Records of Buckinghamshire* – is published in May every year with reports of discoveries from recent archaeological excavations, history buildings, local and industrial history and all aspects of times past in our county. Every member of the Society receives a free copy. Editor: Bob Zeepvat



CONTENTS

FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP	2
Chair of BAS Doug Stuckey	
NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED	2
Discover Bucks Museum	
WELCOME	3
New Members	
HON ARCHIVIST	3
Report	
BLHN	4
Cottage Industries of bucks	
THE JOAN ELDING PRIZE	6
Sandy Kidd of English Heritage	
BENJAMIN DISRAELI	6
A Buckinghamshire MP	
NEW PUBLICATION	7
Brill Book from Farley	
MIKE'S MUDDLED MUSEUM	8
And Puzzles	
DIGITISING RECORDS OF BUCKS	9
Past Issues Online	
ACTIVE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP	10
Report and Programme	
HON MEMBERSHIP SEC	14
Youth Participeation and Report	
MASS DIALS OF BUCKS CHURCHES	16
Can You Help? Send a Report.	
OUR LIVING VILLAGE	18
Project Update	
DISCOVER BUCKS MUSEUM	20
Director's Report	
CHILTERN YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' CLUB	22
Activities	
BRONZE AGE HOARD	24
Found near Hambleden	
BUCKINGHAM	26
A "Quiet" Country Town	



Page 4



Page 11



Page 12



Page 24



A FOCUS ON SOCIETY FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP.

Over the past years BAS Council has kept a steady focus on Society finances, ensuring that we continue to discover, record, publish, explain and conserve the counties heritage by making best use of membership funds and any legacies that we may receive. Our greatest source of income is annual membership.

So first, let me extend a warm welcome to the new members that have joined during 2022. Their names are listed in the Hon. Membership Secretary's Report on page 3.

In this newsletter is a short paper, by our membership secretary, on youth participation in Archaeology/Heritage and the potential role/facilities we should have for BAS younger members.

As a member of our society can you give this article some thought please and feed any ideas or observations through to your Council via email:

bucksas@discoverbucksmuseum.org

We have this topic set for discussion at our January Council meeting.

The AGM approved a proposal to increase membership fees from 2023. These will take effect from October 1st 2022 (new members at that point includes the following year). The new annual fees are:

Ordinary Member	£24.00
Family Member	£26.00
Junior Member	£12.00
Affiliate Member	£26.00

If you have a standing order for membership, can you please change it before it becomes due. Thank you.

Doug Stuckey
Honorary Chair BAS

A NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE DISCOVER BUCKS MUSEUM

On behalf of the Council of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, I should like to express our pleasure at the appointment of Sam Mason to the position of Director of the Discover Bucks Museum. Sam is now a co-opted member of the BAS Council, and his report is published on page 20 of this newsletter.

Doug Stuckey
Honorary Chair BAS



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN 2022

On behalf of BAS Council, Committee, and existing membership, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following who have joined the Society during 2022. We hope you find it interesting and enjoyable. We look forward to your participation in our activities and your support in furthering the aims of the Society. Please do get in contact with a Committee member if you would like to get further involved.

Anne Beavis,
Robert Llewellyn,
Rosemary Dearden,
Katherine Bailey,
Mark Bosworth & family,
Richard Byford,
Steve Clark & family,
Philip Clarke & family,
Valerie Dabbs,
Mike Faircloth,
Beth & James Foster,
Lesley Galloway,
Kate Harvey & family,
Stuart Jaggard & family,
Susan James & family,

Carolyn Jones,
Richard List,
Hermione & Nigel Longton,
Wayne Mahoney & family,
Dan Matthews,
Nicholas Mole, Putney,
John Murdoch,
Roger New,
Rose Pearce,
Ann Pitwell,
Lynda Simmonds,
Rachel Simon,
Dale Smith,
Julian & Sue Smith,
Leslie Wilkinson

Nigel Rothwell
Honorary Membership Secretary



REPORT OF THE HONORARY ARCHIVIST

The material received from the collection of Norman Saving has now been listed. An early 19th-century plan of the Shambles in Buckingham was found which has been of great interest to Buckingham historians.

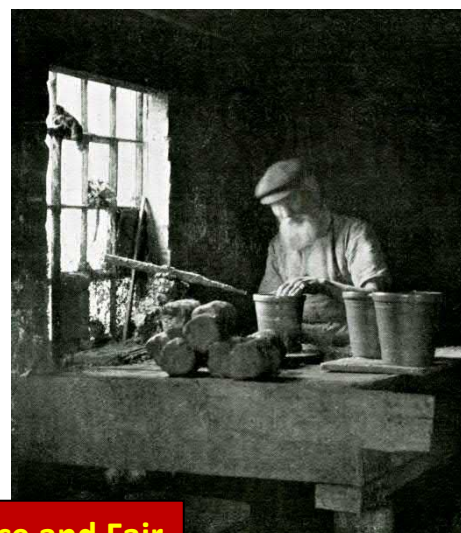
June Strong, formerly of Warmstone House, Waddesdon, has donated more material about her archaeological work around her old house, to add to a previous donation.

A reader has been coming to the Library most Wednesdays to use the Gurney notebooks for research on the Stone/Long Crendon area.

David Noy

4 The cottage industries of Buckinghamshire

Our annual **ONE-DAY CONFERENCE** with local speakers and **LOCAL HISTORY FAIR** with displays and stalls provided by history and archaeology societies and organisations from across the county.



POTTING

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY NETWORK Conference and Fair
♦ **Saturday 1 October 2022** ♦ **The Oculus, Aylesbury** ♦ **10am–4pm**

Conference timetable for the day

- 9.30am *Conference opens – coffee and tea provided*
- 10am *Welcome by John Lovelock, of Hedgerley Historical Society*
There will be opportunities for questions and discussion at the end of every talk.
- 10.10 **Pots and potters in Buckinghamshire**
– Mike Farley, of Bucks Archaeological Society
- 10.50 *Coffee/tea break: first chance to see displays and bookstalls*
- 11.10 **The lace industry in Bucks**
– Marian Swindells, of the Cowper and Newton Museum
- 11.50 **Straw plaiting in Bucks** – Veronica Main, of the Chilterns Conservation Board (a pre-recorded presentation)
- 12.30 **LUNCH BREAK** – buffet lunch available (see tickets overleaf)
This will be a 90-minute opportunity to focus on the displays and bookstalls by local history and archaeology societies.
- 2pm **The BAS Archaeology Prize** – announcement of this year's winner by Sandy Kidd, of Historic England
- 2.20 **Chair making as a cottage industry**
– Catherine Grigg, of Wycombe Museum
- 3pm **Needle making in Long Crendon**
– Julian Hunt, president of Bucks Archaeological Society
- 3.40 **Are we just careless with our industries?** – Peter Marsden
- 4pm *Conference ends*

For conference and lunch tickets – see next page



LACEMAKING



CHAIRMAKING



STRAW PLAITING

BLHN ♦ 2022

BLNH ♦ 2022

Potting, lace making, chair making, straw plaiting... these were all once major cottage industries in Buckinghamshire. Alongside work on the land, thousands of families depended on them for their livelihood. Without them, many would have gone hungry. Their history is part of our heritage...

A FACE-TO-FACE CONFERENCE

- The BLHN 2022 Conference and Fair will be in person only. The Oculus Centre in Aylesbury seats 200 people, so has space for social distancing for those who wish this. The displays and society stands – and the lunch area – will be in ‘The Street’, which is a large and airy entrance hall.
- Unlike 2020 and 2021, the conference will not be broadcast online via Zoom.
- The Oculus is Buckinghamshire Council’s conference centre in Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF. Gatehouse Road is on the Aylesbury ring road near its junction with the A41 for Bicester. Entrance to its free car park is opposite Sainsbury’s superstore and is clearly signposted. There are frequent buses from the town bus station, which is a short walk from the railway station.

CONFERENCE TICKETS IN ADVANCE

- **Conference and Fair only – £20**
This is without the buffet lunch, though you are welcome to bring your own food for lunch. Coffee, tea and fruit juice will be available free at breaks and at lunchtime.
- **Conference AND buffet lunch – £25**
- **Full-time students under 25 – FREE**, but please apply in advance (the buffet lunch is £5 extra).

► HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS:

- **ONLINE:** Get your tickets at <https://bas1.org.uk/blhn-2022-tickets>, with payment by credit card.
- **BY POST:** Please write, specifying which ticket(s) you require, to BLHN Conference, BAS Library, Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP. Enclose a cheque made out to ‘Bucks Archaeological Society’, and please remember to include your name, postal address and email.
- **Your payment will be acknowledged, but tickets will not be sent until two weeks before conference.**



THE HATMAKERS 1891 – painting by C A Smith



THE OLD NEEDLE HOUSE, Long Crendon, in 2021



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY THE JOAN ELDING PRIZE

REPORT OF THE PRIZE PANEL

The Prize Panel met on Friday 27th May to consider the nominations received by email and those identified by the panel. The four criteria for assessment were:

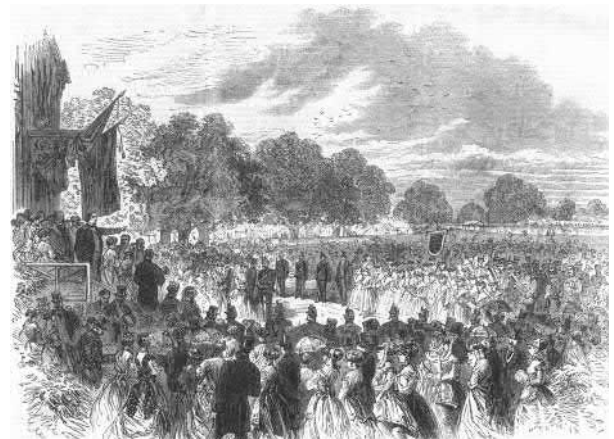
- Advancing knowledge of the county's archaeology
- Protecting or conserving some important aspect of the county's archaeology
- Promoting public awareness of, involvement in and enjoyment of the county's archaeological heritage
- Demonstrating enthusiasm and/or innovation

The announcement of this year's winner will be made by Sandy Kidd of Historic England at the BLHN conference at 2.00pm.

BENJAMIN DISRAELI PRIME MINISTER AND MP FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

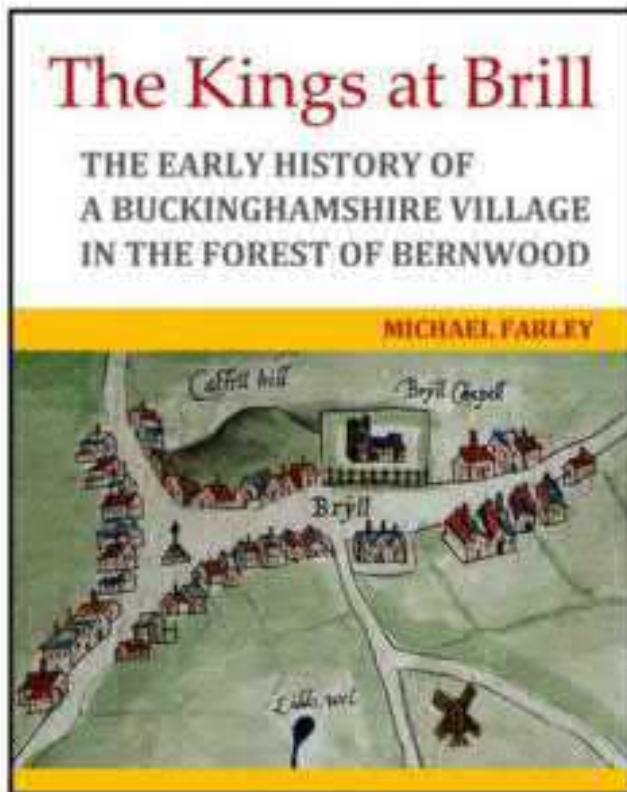


**DISRAELI SPEAKING AT THE COUNTY HALL,
AYLESBURY 1852**



**DISRAELI OPENING THE INDUSTRIAL
EXHIBITION AT HALTON 1868**

Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister of the UK in 1868, and again between 1874 and 1880, was MP for Buckinghamshire from 1847 to 1876. His father Isaac had purchased the manor and lands of Hughenden near Wycombe in 1847,¹ and Benjamin, needing a residence in his rural constituency, took ownership of the manor on the death of his father. On being raised to the peerage, Disraeli took the title **Earl of Beaconsfield**.



Before 1066 King Edward the Confessor built hall on his manor at Brill in Buckinghamshire

He and his successor kings lodged there over the next 230 years when hunting in Bernwood Forest. Henry III made it a court fit for his new queen, Eleanor of Provence, adding chambers, kitchens and chapels, and guarding the court with a gatehouse and swing-bridge.

In this book **Michael Farley** gathers all the evidence – from the royal household's own documents, from church records, from later maps and personal accounts, from recent

archaeological investigations. This is a vivid picture of life in Brill's medieval royal manor.

The book concludes with a mystery: where exactly in Brill was the kings' house? Here is all the evidence...

The Kings at Brill

THE EARLY HISTORY OF A BUCKINGHAMSHIRE VILLAGE IN THE FOREST OF BERNWOOD

by Michael Farley

Large-format paperback | 240 pages | 71 colour photographs and maps, index and bibliography
ISBN 978-0-9957177-9-4

Publication May 2022 | **Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society**

£18.00 plus £4.00 postage and packing

To buy on-line now, go to: <https://bas1.org.uk/product/brill>

MIKE'S MUDDLED MUSEUM

Ashridge



Brill



The Society has at intervals made good use of Mike Farley's box of various archaeological bits, collected over the years, which gives members of the public a chance to handle 'real finds'. Needless to say it is bits of bone -which most appeal to children and for adults the piece of toilet seat (which few can identify!). The pictures are from a few past events. The 'museum's' next appearance will be in Aylesbury Market Square for a Heritage Open Day this September.

Chesham



Wycombe



Milton Keynes



Aylesbury



North Marston



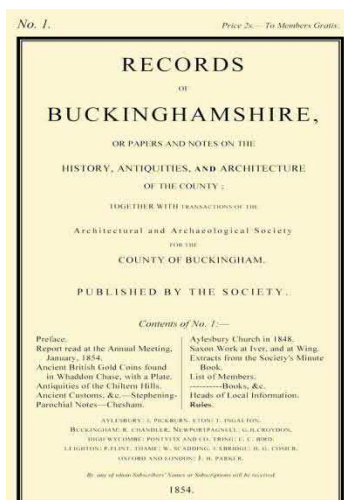
Can you identify these artefacts illustrated in other parts of this newsletter?

Answers bottom of page 15



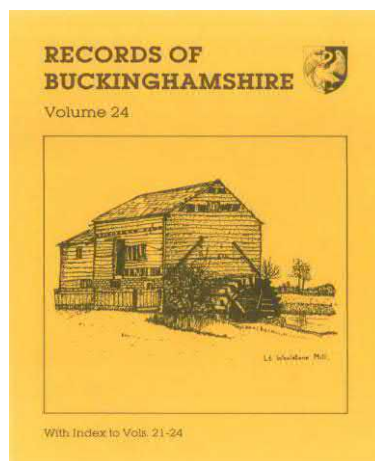


HOW WE ARE PUTTING THE RECORDS OF BUCKS ARCHIVE ONLINE

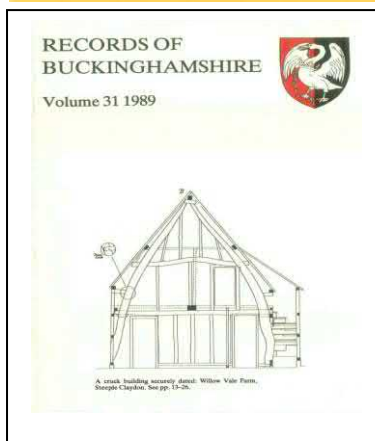


The first volume of *Records of Buckinghamshire* was published in print in 1854. Today, 167 annual volumes later, its archive is a valuable historical asset in its own right. An index compiled by successive society librarians, updated and continued today by Diana Gulland, links the research and analysis of local historians and archaeologists over a long period. Now the archive is about to take a huge step forward. By this time next year every volume – around 1,600 articles and reports – will be freely and openly available online.

The majority of the 167 printed volumes have already been scanned. A few of the earliest, where the once-white paper and once-black ink have both faded to different shades of brown, are proving tricky. But a team of 15 society members are now working together to check and process every article file and illustration.

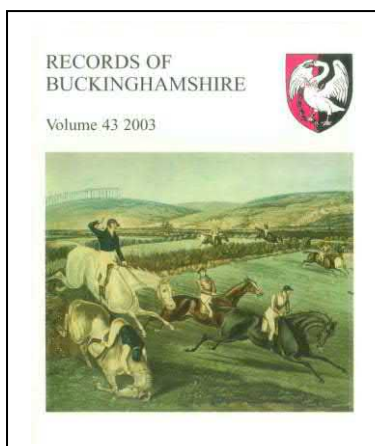


The *Records* digitisation project in fact started in a small way 12 years ago, when the first annual volumes – from 1919 – went online through the society's website. But progress was slow, and until recently looked like it might take another 20 or more years to complete. The team has been at work now for two months. When they started, 52 of the 167 annual volumes were available on the BAS website. Now a further 19 are ready to go online and 36 more are in various stages of preparation. Only 62 of the 167 volumes are still 'waiting in the wings'.



Added impetus was given to the digitisation of *Records*, oddly enough, by the HS2 high-speed rail project. For the past five years increasing numbers of archaeologists have been investigating historic sites and buildings along HS2's line of construction. Increasingly they sought access to *Records of Bucks* as an aid to their research.

Clearly online access to the archive would make this easier. So the society put together a bid to the HS2 Community Support Fund. This defined a project to complete the online archive and make it publicly available, not just through the society's website but also via the national Archaeology Data Service (ADS) hosted by the University of York. Our first proposal was rejected – but at the same time we were encouraged to make amendments and try again.



The second, more detailed proposal was accepted, with a grant of £6,801 approved towards the purchase of software and to pay the ADS deposit fee.

The digitisation team's target is to complete the project by February 2023. By this time next year the whole *Records of Bucks* archive will be available for historians and archaeologists, amateur and professional, local and indeed internationally, wherever there is online access.

Peter Marsden, Honorary Secretary, BAS



The AAG's activities since the last newsletter have continued to centre around the Great Linford Park Ha-ha. We have now been working there for two years – but in our defence, we are only there one day a week, and we have had quite a lot of interruptions due to Covid and various kinds of adverse weather.

We were able to get the arrowhead mentioned in the last newsletter X-rayed, and this demonstrated that it was constructed from a hollow tube, flattened and tapered at the pointed end, and cut into towards the base, to form the barbs (*Figure 1*)

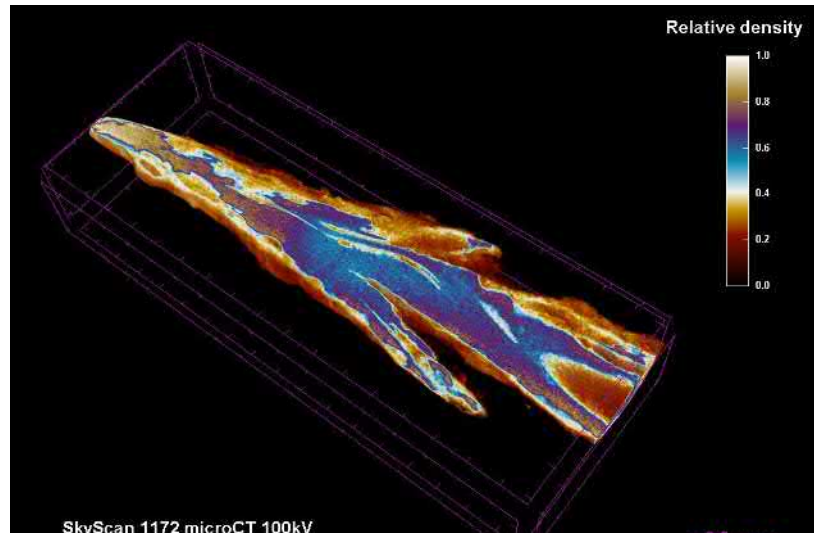


Figure 1: Arrowhead 3D cutaway

We have continued to work on Trench 1 where the wall is clearly built in a pre-existing wide ditch which appears to be medieval. It is however proving difficult to work out exactly what the sequence of construction was – the wall is not in the middle of the ditch, and there has been backfilling behind it for stability. In front of the wall the sequence is confusing and we have not yet fully understood it.



Figure 2: Trench 3

single wall, not a double one as is the case in T1 and T2, but were able to rebuild it, using Doug's photographs and drawings and it remains our longest stretch of good wall construction. (*Figure 2*)

Trench 5, to the south of T3 (*Figure 3*) came down on stone, some of it dressed, very quickly, and

Trench 3 is now dormant. We did dismantle part of the wall in order to confirm that its construction was a



Figure 3: Trench 5

eventually provided a good length of reasonable wall construction. This also appears to be a single wall.

While working on this trench, we also put in Trench 6, between the now closed T2 and T3 with a view to finding the point at which the wall changed from double to single. This one was lined up with the corner of the walled garden within the manor grounds, as being the most likely place for the change in construction. Unfortunately, it quickly came down on a service trench carrying electricity cables to at least one building within the manor grounds, and had to be abandoned, but not before it had produced one quite large pottery shard which has been identified by a pottery specialist from MOLA as being Iron Age. (Figure 4)



Figure 4:– Pottery shard from trench 6

Trench 7 was therefore started to the north of T6, between it and T2. This has again located the wall, which appears to be single, but which has also suffered a lot of damage from the roots of surrounding trees, and there has been quite a lot of rubble and clay tipped into the ditch in front of the wall, which, coupled with hard ground is making it difficult to define the wall clearly. We have just (Aug 30th) found a plastic bag embedded in the rubble, at a depth of around a metre, demonstrating that the rubble is mostly much more modern than the wall. There is still work to do in this trench.

Trench 8 was opened to the south of T5 to try to locate the end of the wall. We found no wall in this trench, so opened Trench 10, also south of T5, but closer to it, and located the wall, but not its end. We have therefore moved a pile of logs, and have just started Trench 11, where the logs were. The LiDAR images suggest the wall does indeed

end in this area, close to where the modern High St (which may follow an older road) now runs.

These trenches have produced a number of small finds, including our only coin – a silver sixpence of George V dated 1923 – none of which add very much useful information. (Figure 5)

We have also, to the north of T1, between it and the main access road into the park, opened Trench 9, to try to establish what happens to the wall at this point. We expected it to be heading north towards the section of



Figure 5 –Miscellaneous finds

(rather later) Ha-ha wall exposed several years ago by Cotswold Archaeology, at the edge of the area known as the Wilderness. However, having removed a lot of tumble – some possibly dumped in the ditch – we have located a well-built stretch of wall which appears to be curving away to the east, instead of continuing north. This will require further investigation.

We have been encouraged by the Friends of Linford Park, who supply much appreciated coffee and biscuits almost every time we visit, and are fascinated by our discoveries, as is Peter Winkleman who owns most of the land we are working on.

Fergus the dog supervises, usually from a horizontal position, but appreciates being taken for an occasional short walk.

Above photographs are all courtesy of Doug Stuckey

When we eventually finish this dig, the Parks Trust want us to do another smaller dig at Stantonbury, to investigate what is thought to be a Tudor garden feature.

We have also been in touch with the Coleshill Common management group, who tell us that the middens are nice and dry, and would like us to go back for another look, and possibly to do a small dig. They have again had problems with people digging in an area not far from an old pub, in search of interesting bottles. While the bottles they are seeking are of little archaeological interest, they could be damaging other, more interesting material, and the management group has reported the matter to the police. We are aiming to put together a small group to go and look and perhaps dig a couple of test pits while the ground is dry.

As part of this year's Festival of Archaeology, the Bucks County Archaeology team held a day of displays and demonstrations at North Marston. The AAG had a display and we helped Mike Farley with his 'muddled museum' interactive display, as well as explaining some of our activities and trying to sell some of the BAS publications. We were a little disappointed at how few children were present, but it was suggested that, as it was early in the school holidays, many were likely to be away on holiday

WINTER SEASON OF TALKS

Our winter season of talks will start in September. Unfortunately we have to change back to Tuesday evening instead of Thursday, to accommodate the dance group, which caused us to change in the first place.

However, our first talk, which will be on Zoom, was already arranged, and remains on Thursday 8th Sept. when Rachel Wood of Fusion Archaeology, will be telling us about the Anglo-Saxon cemetery recently found near Wendover.

After that, all talks will be on Tuesdays, and we hope to have them live in the museum, but also streamed via Zoom for those too far away or otherwise unable to attend in person

October 11th will be Bob Zeepvat's talk on Great Linford Church – postponed from April due to technical problems. This is a very interesting church and is near our dig

On 8th November, Mike Farley will talk about identifying pottery, and will include a hands-on session, helping us learn how to identify some of the shards we find.

13th Dec will be our Christmas meeting when Doug Stuckey will provide another of his quizzes (no prizes, but some tricky questions, if he follows his previous format)

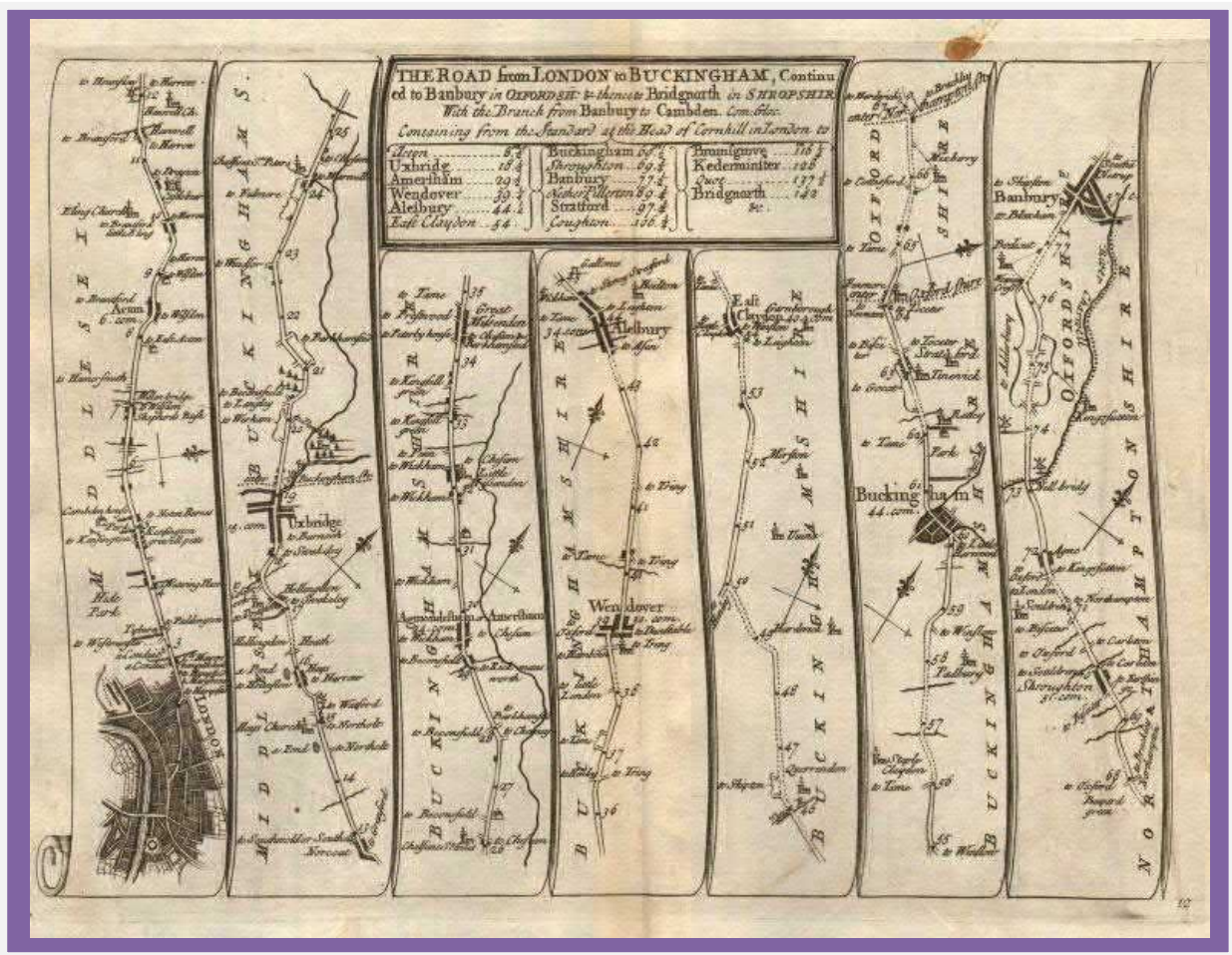
10th Jan 2023 will be Doug Stuckey telling us about some more Scottish archaeology, following on from his previous talks

14th Feb will be David Saunders telling us about Cursus Monuments of Bucks and the Great Ouse Valley, which he has been studying in some detail.

14th March will be James Wright on A Beginners Guide to Castles – which explains why most of what you were taught about castles isn't really true. This talk will be on Zoom, as James lives a long way away.

As yet the talks for April and May have not been booked, to allow space for interesting topics that turn up at short notice.

Pauline Hey



THE ROAD FROM LONDON TO BUCKINGHAM - 1719 - THE SENEX ROAD MAP



Youth And Young Person Participation In Archaeology In Bucks

Membership Summary

These have remained reasonably steady from mid-2021 to mid-2022, with current membership subscriptions totaling 390, plus an additional 12 Affiliate Society memberships.

Family members will know that in spring and early summer this year we conducted a short survey, to better understand our Family membership category, overall member numbers, and to provide some indication of our age demographics. Regular readers of the newsletter will also know that we have started featuring articles on the activities of the Young Archaeologists' Clubs within the county.

I committed to report back on our survey findings and am also using this opportunity to reflect on the level of interest and participation by younger persons in formal archaeological activities in Bucks. Ultimately, it is through encouraging and fostering their engagement that we will nurture and sustain the Society's aims in the longer term.

Young Archaeologists' Clubs

Bucks currently has two CBA sponsored YAC Branches, open to young persons aged 8-16: Chiltern, which meets at Jordans; and Aylesbury. These branches operate independently of any museum or heritage site, are entirely volunteer run (though Aylesbury YAC's leadership includes professional Archaeologists). Member numbers are limited by the number of leaders available, in order to meet CBA safeguarding requirements, with both groups having around 15 regular attendees, and both have substantial waiting lists. Both have regular monthly meetings and a diverse programme of archaeological and heritage related activities, but sometimes struggle with leader availability and access to practical onsite activities. Both branches can lay claim to fostering the CBA's Young Archaeologist of the Year in 2018 (see Autumn 2021 newsletter), and both have had some success in ex-members going on to study Archaeology at University.

There are over 70 YAC branches nationwide, with the next nearest branches outside of the county being at Reading, Spelthorne, Hillingdon and Wrest Park (and branches formerly existed at Milton Keynes and St. Albans). Interest in establishing 'After-school' YAC branches has recently been expressed at Marlow and Bourne End, and there is an initiative to start a new branch at Maidenhead.

Typical YAC meetings might involve a bit of historical, archaeological or heritage theory, engagement in practical activity, either onsite or indoors, and some craft related or 'experimental' archaeological activity. Over the past year YAC members have participated in excavation activity at Burnham Beeches, geophysics at Quarrendon, contributed to the BCAS Local Heritage List, and researched and produced a short film on Lace-making for the English Heritage youth-engagement 'Shout Out Loud' project (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Ideas for engagement in practical activity and offers of help, or external speakers, are always very welcome!

Chiltern YAC, with support from Aylesbury, hosted a stand at the BCAS run CBA 'Festival of Archaeology' event at North Marston in July 2022. As well as promoting youth engagement and participation, this stand offered opportunity for youngsters to use their creative skills to make their own 'pilgrim badge,'

fitting with the festival theme of 'Journeys,' and North Marston as a medieval pilgrimage destination. Although the event was visited mostly by an older demographic, about a dozen youngsters enthusiastically took up the challenge. Many of the older visitors were interested to learn about YAC, with some wishing such an opportunity had been available to them, or that proximity and place availability were not barriers to involving their younger family members now.

Family Membership Survey

Our BAS Family membership survey went out online to all Family memberships with a registered email address. In total 107 surveys were sent out with 69 completed, a very healthy response rate of 64%. My thanks to those who took the time to complete the survey. We learnt a few things from this (not least the limitations of a free SurveyMonkey subscription!). Mostly this provided hard data to support what we intuitively expected from our experience, that is, most of our Family memberships are couples, with a small minority being family units having young people living at home. We also know that our Junior membership category currently only has one member. We are now better able to characterize our actual member numbers, with our total personal membership subscriptions of 390 translating into an approximate total of just over 500 individual members. Of these around five members are aged under 12 and two aged 12-18.

It is likely that these findings also reflect our historical position, though we do not have the detailed records to support this.

The 2021 National Census shows the population of Buckinghamshire (including Milton Keynes) to be 840,100, a growth of 11% since 2011. This growth is reflected across all age groups, but is skewed in the 5-9 age group at 16%, and in the over 65s at 27%. For comparison, we have about 370 individual members who are resident in Bucks – this is less than 0.05% of the county population. Interestingly though, the gov.uk 'Heritage Taking Part Survey' for 2019/20 shows, consistently, that around 70% of the national population aged 16+ visit heritage sites year on year, suggesting that there is a greater interest in our aims than might be apparent from just considering our member numbers.

Way forward?

Whilst hardly being a rigorous or exhaustive study, these findings seem to illustrate that there is an interest and demand from the younger population within the county, but this is not reflected in the Society's membership or, understandably, our activities. The question then arises as to whether this is of importance to the Society and our aims *"to promote and to foster among the public the study of architecture, archaeology, geology, botany, genealogy, zoology, topography, heraldry, numismatics and the general and domestic and natural history and arts of the historic county of Buckinghamshire"*, and whether members are interested and motivated to address this?

This is an open question and your committee is genuinely interested in hearing members thoughts and ideas on the topic. Thank you for your continued support.

Nigel Rothwell
Honorary Membership Secretary

Answers to questions on page. From left to right:
Bronze age Palstraves from Hambledon
Pottery shard from Great Linford
Mass dial at Little Missenden Church
An interpretation of a John Schorne pilgrimage badge



Some years ago, when I visited All Saints Church at Hillesden in North Bucks, on the outside of the south aisle wall, on each side of the small doorway into the nave, I found two sundials carved into the masonry. One of these was immediately noticeable, a fairly elaborate and quite impressive feature made by George Francis in the latter half of the seventeenth century; the other was not immediately obvious, and it was only as I examined the mass of old graffiti engraved through the centuries into the masonry that I spotted it. It is an altogether cruder and simpler feature than the nearby sundial carved with greater care and precision by the seventeenth century mason. It looks as though it had been scratched with a simple metal spike or nail into one of the limestone ashlar blocks that make up the south wall of the church. It consists of a series of straight lines



radiating downwards from a central small hole drilled into the stonework. (See figure 1). its semicircular form has been lost as a result of the spalling from the surface of the masonry.

Figure 1 – Mass Dial at Hillesden Church

This smaller sundial is a mass dial. Mass dials are only to be found in mediaeval churches built before the reformation. Hillesden church was rebuilt in early Tudor times, probably during the reign of Henry VIII, not long before he severed the link between the English church and Rome. Until then, English religious life was under the authority of the Catholic church, and the clergy were required to say Mass once a day and to follow the Divine Office, reciting prayers at fixed times during the day at the canonical hours - *Matins* (before dawn), *Prime* (6am), *Terce* (9am), *Sext* (12pm), *None* (3pm), *Vespers* (sunset) and *Nocturnes* (after sunset). The radiating scratch marks on the south front of village churches through the kingdom perhaps enabled the priest of the passage of time so that he could perform his religious duties. The hole at the centre housed a spike called a gnomon, which cast the shadow from which the time could be estimated.

There are estimated to be about 3,000 mass dials throughout England and Wales. They are, or should be, located facing the sun at the south wall of the churches (remember that mediaeval churches were normally aligned along an east-west axis). Myself, I guess that they were scratched into the walls of the churches more as a result of a duty of obedience to church law than for the recognition of their usefulness in keeping time. How many days of the year in England are sunny and cloud free, even in summer, let alone short dull winter days? Moreover, from the fourteenth century on, gradually mechanical clocks were becoming more common, recording the passage of time with greater reliability and accuracy, though admittedly, there were unlikely to have been clocks in remote rural Hillesden..

Ben Jones of the British Sundial Society (BSS) is compiling a register of all the Mass dials in the country. There are more than 3,000 mass dials in England and Wales recorded in Ben's list which is far from complete. There are many more yet to be identified and recorded and is likely that hidden away on the south walls of churches, or elsewhere in the fabric of the buildings, there are yet more unobserved and forgotten - many of them in our county.

Ben Jones tells me that he believes there are some very interesting dials in Buckinghamshire that need photographing and recording, and others that are yet to be found, so he would be pleased if members of BAS might help out in contributing to the BSS list of mass dials. One that has already been entered into the BSS list is at Little Missenden church, a fine circular dial more impressive than that at Hillesden – see figure 2. Curiously, this one is actually within the church building away from the sun. Why? Sometimes the mass dials have been removed from the south front and re-used in building some new part of the church so that they come to be found in the sunless north side, or perhaps they would end up hidden away in the interior of the church after a south aisle was added to the nave.



British Sundial Society
Figure 2 – Mass Dial at Little Missenden Church

So, this is an appeal to BAS members to help the British Sundial Society in recording the mass dials of Buckingham churches (and perhaps of nearby churches in villages in neighbouring counties). Why not go out on a fine day with a camera and notepad on a mass dial hunt? Go on to the BSS website:

https://sundialsoc.org.uk/dials_menu/mass-dials

from which the following instructions have been taken.

Reporting

If you find a Mass dial, please send a good 'straight on' photograph of the dial labelled with the name and address of the church to Ben Jones massdials@sundialsoc.org.uk. Good photographs of any scratch/mass dial, even previously recorded dials, are much appreciated.

If possible, please could you complete as much of the [Mass Dial recording form](#) as you are able to: see [explanatory notes](#) for more information. The form can be saved for your own records and a copy sent, along with the pictures, to massdials@sundialsoc.org.uk. A more general picture of the church if it shows the dial and its location can be very useful.

[Ben Jones](#) – BSS Mass Dials Registrar.



UPDATE ON THE “OUR LIVING VILLAGE PROJECT”

The *Our Living Village* project is a progressive initiative led by the Seer Green & Jordans Society to capture the in-depth histories of these two communities in the south of Bucks. Rather than publishing these histories in the static form of a book, our aim is to make them available online to everyone in an attractive and dynamic format which can be continuously reviewed and augmented over time.

The current outputs from this community-led project can be viewed at www.ourlivingvillage.org. The website is attracting a high level of activity and very positive feedback, including recently the following comment from the Patron of the Chiltern Society, Earl Howe of Penn House:

May I just say, having worked my way through the Our Living Village website, that I think it is a triumph - absolutely excellent in every way - and I am bringing it to the attention of the Penn and Tylers Green Residents Society as an example which they might consider following.

This is very much an ongoing project, and three important new themes have recently been uploaded to the website:

1: Origins

This theme is a wonderful map-based narrative on the origins of Seer Green and Jordans, bringing together geology, topography, archaeology and history-based perspectives from antiquarian and historical maps. These maps – like the **Godolphin map of 1753** shown right - are used to vividly illustrate the shaping of our landscape and the development of our communities over time, using twenty contemporary maps which have been sourced, digitised and combined as part of the *Our Living Villaae* project.



2: The Manor of Seer Green

– Tales of Lords, Ladies and Liberties

This theme is based upon a magnificent piece of original research by Nigel Rothwell into the evidence for the medieval manor of Seer Green. For most of its existence, Seer Green was a small satellite hamlet of the important manor of Farnham Royal, and this research illustrates how its various Lords, Ladies and Tenants-in-Chief played significant roles in forging British national identity.

3: Our Village Pubs

- A study of the history of Public Houses in Seer Green and Jordans

The development of the beer-houses and pubs in our villages provides strong insights into the changing lives of their inhabitants. While the Quaker village of Jordans has, until recently, had very limited activity in this area, Seer Green undoubtedly has an extensive and colourful history. In fact, even allowing for its dramatic hyperbole, this rather remarkable article from the Bucks Free Press dated 25 June 1860 seems to indicate that it might possible have been one of the village's defining characteristics.



Williams&co jpg.

The Jolly Cricketers

ANNIVERSARY. – *The anniversary of the Baptist Chapel was held on Tuesday, the 12th inst. A sermon was preached in the afternoon by the Rev. J. Price, of Amersham, and a public meeting was held in the evening when addresses were given by the Revs. J. Price of Amersham, Beasley of London, and several laymen.*

This little village has, within the last ten years, been transformed from one of the most profane, immoral and irreligious of places to an abode of piety, love and all things of good report. They now appear to live and love as one family, and the little chapel seems to be the centre of their chief attraction. Intemperance and sabbath-breaking are very seldom met with, and almost every cottage is sanctified by its evening vesper; thus from being proverbially bad and a terror to the surrounding neighbourhood as a nest of fighters and highwaymen, it has become a little paradise, where these once affrighted neighbours now love to visit to be cheered with the scenes of piety and love. It is truly a striking instance of the power of the gospel, with only such instrumentality as Sabbath School teachers and a town missionary.

Surely not too many villages can claim to have undertaken the remarkable transformation from a nest of fighters and highwaymen, living in the most profane, immoral and irreligious of places, into a little paradise!

Alan Kell, Seer Green & Jordans Society

ourlivingvillage@hotmail.com

REPORT- PREPARED BY SAM MASON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE 3RD SEPTEMBER 2022

DISCOVER BUCKS GALLERIES:

Further work has been completed since the last report-

- **Another panel for the Lenborough Hoard has been installed** (now 2 of 5). Remaining panels to be installed throughout Sep / Oct. This involves the galleries being closed for the day for each panel to be installed. We aim to complete these on Monday's when we are closed to the public.

- **Projector tests have been completed.** This has flagged up a few issues, namely with the level of content that the interactive features will be able to show (less than originally planned) and the activation of them (the cameras do not track hands very well). These issues are being discussed internally and we are looking at the capability of the projectors alongside the level of content.

- **Wildlife galleries have now had objects installed.**



We are now waiting for sign-off and printing of the information labels which we are expecting in Sep/Oct. The invertebrates case currently has a small, temporary display and the main display is being arranged off-site, planning for install once all missing specimens have been collected (likely to be Dec).

- **Generic background sounds have been installed.**

These are temporary as further sounds/changing soundscapes will be introduced later on.

VISITOR PROGRAMME:

The galleries have been well-received and greater levels of feedback are being captured. Qualitative feedback includes comments on how nice the refurbishments of the galleries are and how the pricing structure is very reasonable!

A digital feedback terminal has been installed which has been instrumental in obtaining good quality feedback, including: where our visitors are coming from, where they heard about us and demographic information about our visitors.

Visitor footfall across the summer has been excellent and we are currently welcoming around 1,000 visitors per week throughout the school summer holidays. This has been roughly a 50/50 split between visitors to the RD gallery and those to the museum and exhibition.

Further emphasis is to be put on room hire potential in September, including hiring our spaces for meetings, exhibitions and other personal events.

Exhibition:

The *Feel the Force* science exhibition has been very popular with visitors, particularly those aged around 5-12 years of age. The exhibition was bought in and is focused on being interactive which has increased our 'dwell-time' to around 3.5 hours. The *FTF* exhibition has been enhanced with our in-house additions to it, namely the *Science Festival* aspect, which continues in the Learning Zones, Hollis Room and outside. These additions have been aimed at younger children and has filled the gap for those slightly too young to appreciate the *FTF* exhibition. It closes 3rd September.

The next exhibition: *Beautiful Bucks*, features work by one of the county's best-known landscape artists,



Brian Bennett, who demonstrates an intimate knowledge of our local landscape. Brian Bennett, now in his 95th year, was born in Olney, Bucks and has devoted much of his life to painting scenes in the Chilterns. His oil paintings capture his love of the landscape through the changing seasons and the wildflowers and plants which make such a contribution to its beauty. Around 30 of Brian Bennett's works will be on display and these will be for sale. To accompany Brian Bennett's paintings, there will be a selection of landscapes from the

museum's collection from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including work by John Piper and John Nash. The exhibition open 17th September and runs until 5th November.

EVENTS:

The museum has run some wonderful events over the Summer, including: 'Tree of Life' art sessions, Storytelling, Festival of Archaeology, a variety of events for Bucks Culture Weekend and a 'Brush Party', for the popular Whizzfizz Fest.

Upcoming events include:

- **Sat 17th September**- Heritage Open Day (Aylesbury's Astounding Automobile)
- **Sun 2nd October**- Silver Sunday Art session
- **Mon 24th – Sat 29th October**- Half-term Halloween events
- **Sun 30th October**- Festival of Light
- **Sat 12th November**- Bucks Archives Event (Remembering WWI)

STAFFING:

Other than myself joining the organisation, no other new staff since your last meeting!

On that note, thank you to all that I have met so far- everyone has been so welcoming and I look forward to working with you all in order to progress the museum forward and achieve new things together.

PROJECTS / FUNDING:

The *Bucks Heroes* project is still underway and Hannah (project lead) is beginning to record new stories and oral histories alongside acquiring new contemporary objects.

An application for the MEND (Museum Estate Development Fund with Arts Council) was submitted. Unfortunately, we have not been invited to submit a full application for funding to upgrade the toilet facilities as the condition report for them doesn't yet agree that they are urgent.

An application for DCMS Wolfson fund was submitted for upgrades to storage at Halton. I expect to hear back from this around the end of October.

The NPO Investment application was submitted before I joined- we should hear about this at the end of October.

Sam Mason
Chief Executive



IN THE SPRING BAS NEWSLETTER we highlighted the short film that our Branch were creating as part of the *From Ordinary to Extraordinary Project* run by English Heritage's '[Shout Out Loud](#)' (SOL) team and the national Young Archaeologists' Club. We are happy to say that our film was completed and launched on the CBA YouTube channel as part of the CBA 2022 Festival of Archaeology. Here is the link if you would like to see what our members found out about the lives of the child workers in the Victorian Chiltern lace industry:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIQ_Fw9pwxw&t=7s

After all our historical research we have spent the last few months getting back to archaeology and here are some highlights from our varied activities which have kept us all busy.

APRIL

Our members excavating in Burnham Beeches organised by the Chiltern Conservation Board "Beacons of the Past Project" in conjunction with The City of London Corporation, and managed by Dr Wendy Morrison.



JUNE

Practicing spear throwing using atlatls, following a session on Grim's Ditch in May, with Lucy Lawrence, Archaeology Officer at Buckinghamshire Council.

JULY

Chiltern YAC and Aylesbury YAC Leaders join together in setting up a hands on activity at the Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Day in North Marston, as part of the CBA Festival of Archaeology. Celebrating John Schorne and the medieval pilgrimage destination.





Some interpretations of the John Schorne pilgrim's badge!

AUGUST

Some of our members and families joined with Reading YAC in a visit to the excavations at the Anglo-Saxon Abbey at Cookham, run by the University of Reading.



More fun than washing up at home...
Helping wash the samples in the flotation tank.



More trowelling practice

LEADERS, TRAINING DAYS

Some of our YAC Leaders have also been busy attending the Leaders' Training Days across the country organised by YAC / CBA to help us with ideas for running Branch sessions for our members.



MAY

Ice Age Journeys: we visited Creswell Crags in Derbyshire to learn about the Late Upper Palaeolithic period (c. 50,000-10,000 BC). Here, experimenting with reproducing Ice Age art.

JULY

Marvellous metals: exploring the journey of metal through time. Part of the Festival of Archaeology 2022 and held in Bradford Industrial Museum. Here Dr James Dilley of Ancient Craft is revealing the palstave axe he had just cast in a live demonstration.



Chiltern YAC are a small group unaffiliated to any museum and we are always keen to engage with outside speakers, crafts people, sites of interest and of course opportunities for excavation or other archaeological activities. If you could help, or are interested in volunteering or for more information please contact us at: chilternyac@hotmail.co.uk

Janet Rothwell (Chiltern YAC Co-Leader)

BRONZE AGE HOARD FOUND NEAR HAMBLEDEN

On the Sunday of the Royal Platinum Jubilee (June 5th) members of the national organisation Metal Detectives Group were sweeping the area of fields and mixed woodland on the ridge above the Hambleden Valley. One of them found three Palstaves just beneath the topsoil in a line, approximately 2.5m, 1.5m and 1m from the hoard.

Then they hit a bigger signal and uncovered a small group of palstaves deeper in the subsoil. They immediately covered the group and called for archaeological assistance.



A small excavation team was assembled at short notice. On Wednesday June 8th, the finders and farm management took two members of Oxford Archaeology and a BAS's Active Archaeology Group member to the hoard site. The top of the bronze 'axe' group was uncovered at a depth of 29cm beneath a very flint rich top soil. The 2m square excavation showed no sign of a solid container for the hoard. There was a line of darker organic soil in an arc to the south of the group – soil samples were taken by Oxford Archaeology

for possible analysis. (15cm scale) The hoard was carefully cleared of its soil in situ, ready to be lifted. The five palstaves exposed in the top layer were all different in style and size with some showing signs of use while others had not been cleaned of their casting marks. From their type and style, the axes are dated to circa 1000 BC.

Oxford Archaeology took photos of the hoard to produce a 3D photogrammetry model – we also measured and drew the alignment of the hoard.



Once exposed the palstaves gave the impression of having been deposited on top of the underlying clay but had been pressed into the clay at some time.

Once the top layer had been lifted, then a ninth palstave was visible, pressed deeper into the clay. No other objects were found in the excavated area.

The palstaves were taken by Oxford Archaeology for

registration with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and further investigation. The whole exercise was calm but all were aware of the risk to the site if/when it became public knowledge. All of the excavators and land owners were impressed by the preservation of the hoard and the first-rate actions of the detectorists.

Doug Stuckey
Hon Chair BAS

BUCKINGHAM – A “QUIET” COUNTRY TOWN



VISIT OF QUEEN VICTORIA AND PRINCE ALBERT 1845



MARKET DAY AND MOTOR TRAFFIC AROUND 1970
