

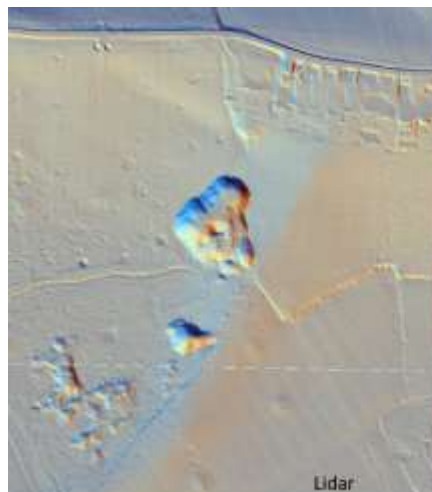
# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2023

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### BLHN • 2023

Celebrating and Valuing Bucks' Unsung Heritage  
The Bucks Local Heritage List

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY NETWORK Conference and Fair  
Saturday 7 October 2023 The Oculus, Aylesbury 10am-5pm

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## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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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 County Museum, Aylesbury, an historic building in shared ownership between the Society and the Council, and at the Buckinghamshire Archives.

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Registered Charity number **310525**  
County Museum  
Church Street  
Aylesbury, HP20 2QP  
TEL. **+44 (0) 01296 798015**  
email: [bucksas@buckscountymuseum.org](mailto:bucksas@buckscountymuseum.org)

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### **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

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#### **ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Pauline Hey	Andy Ford	Andrew Kemp
John Sheldon	David Saunders	Jackie Kay
Michael Ghirelli		

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#### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Eliza Alqassar	<i>Bucks County Archaeological Service</i>	
Nicholas Crank	<i>Milton Keynes Archaeological Service</i>	
Sam Mason	<i>Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust</i>	
Sandy Kidd	John Dodd	Gary Marshall
Lucy Lawrence		

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#### **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 and Lectures Organiser</i>
Bob Zeepvat	<i>Hon. Editor of Records</i>
Nigel Rothwell	<i>Hon. Membership Secretary</i>
David Noy	<i>Hon. Archivist</i>

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BAS Website

<http://www.bucksas.org.uk>

Active Archaeology Group

[bucksasaag@gmail.com](mailto:bucksasaag@gmail.com)

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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

The BAS Newsletter, The County Museum, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP.

e-mail the editor at [Douglstuckey@aol.com](mailto:Douglstuckey@aol.com)

Printed versions are available on request

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## Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Prize 2023

Nominations have been received (thank you) and appraised.

The prize will be awarded at the Buckinghamshire Local History Network Conference on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY NETWORK

◆ **Conference and Fair** ◆ **Saturday 7 October 2023**

## Putting our local heritage on the map

◆ **The Oculus Conference Centre, Aylesbury** ◆ **10am–4pm**

Hundreds of heritage assets valued by local people make up the character and identity of Buckinghamshire. These may be objects, buildings, archaeology, parks, gardens or works of art. They may have little or no protection: over time our special places can be lost. The county's new **LOCAL HERITAGE LIST** raises their profile – that's this year's conference.

### TIMETABLE FOR THE DAY

- 9.30am *Conference opens – coffee/tea*
- 10am *Welcome by John Lovelock, of Hedgerley Historical Society*
- 10.10 **Our county's new Local Heritage List** – Lisa Harvey, of Bucks Heritage and Archaeology Team
- 10.35 **Democratising our heritage?** – Nigel Rothwell, of Bucks Archaeological Society
- 11.00 **Defining our historic landscapes** – Lucy Lawrence, of Bucks Council Archaeological Service
- 11.25 *Questions and Answers, with the three morning speakers*
- 11.40 **COFFEE/TEA BREAK: first chance to see displays and bookstalls**
- 12.00 **Buckinghamshire's Arts and Crafts buildings** – Chris Collier, of the Amersham Museum
- 12.25 **Our parks and gardens heritage** – Claire de Carle, of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust
- 12.50 *Questions and Answers*
- 1.00 **LUNCH BREAK** – buffet lunch available (see tickets overleaf)
- A 90-minute opportunity to visit displays and bookstalls by our history and archaeology societies**
- 2.30 **The BAS Archaeology Prize** – presentation of this year's winners by Sandy Kidd, of Historic England
- 2.55 **The Maids Moreton Mound Project** – Lyn Robinson
- 3.20 **The New Town Heritage Register for Milton Keynes** – Simon Peart, of Conservation and Archaeology in Milton Keynes
- 3.45 *Questions and Answers, with the afternoon speakers*
- 3.55 **Conclusions & thanks** – Lucy Lawrence, of BCAS



LOCAL LANDMARKS

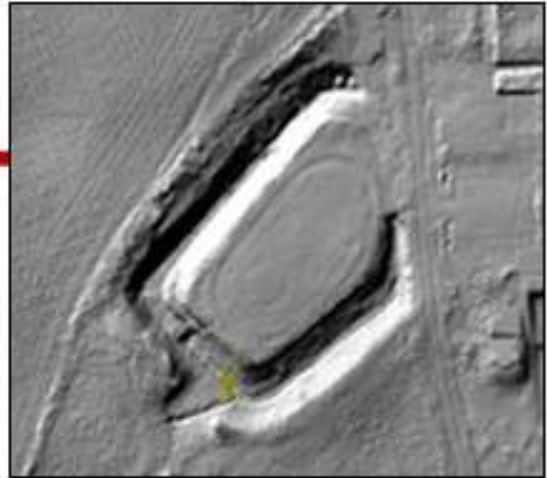


SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS

# BLHN ♦ 2023

## LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE AND FAIR

- The BLHN 2023 Conference and Fair will be held at Buckinghamshire Council's Oculus Conference Centre in Aylesbury, whose hall seats 200 people.
- The **LOCAL HISTORY FAIR**, with local history and archaeology society stands featuring displays on their local heritage assets and society publications, will be in 'The Street', the building's large and airy entrance hall.
- Coffee, tea and fruit juice will be available free at breaks and at lunchtime for everyone attending. The buffet lunch is optional (you can bring your own) – see below.
- The Oculus is part of the council's Gatehouse Centre in Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF, which 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.



STRUCTURES IN THE LANDSCAPE

**HAVEN'T SEEN THE NEW LOCAL HERITAGE LIST YET?**

**– GO NOW TO**

<https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/buckinghamshire>

## CONFERENCE TICKETS IN ADVANCE

- **Conference AND lunch – £26**  
includes a buffet lunch of sandwiches, rolls, cakes and fruit.
- **Conference and Fair only – £20**  
You are welcome to bring your own food for lunch, and there is a Sainsbury's superstore just across the road from the conference centre.
- **Full-time students under 25 – FREE**, but please apply in advance (the buffet lunch is £6 extra).

## ▶▶▶ TO GET YOUR TICKETS:

- **ONLINE:** Get your tickets at <https://bas1.org.uk/blhn-2023-tickets>, with online card payment.
- **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.**

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QUERIES please phone 01296 696303 or email [chair@bucksas.org.uk](mailto:chair@bucksas.org.uk)

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This summer has been an exceptionally busy time for our members and leaders with a varied programme of activities and lots of hands on practical archaeology.

We were sad to have to say goodbye to some of our loyal members who have been with our Branch for many years. However, this has enabled us to significantly reduce our waiting list and to bring in new young people from across the region. (So if you know of any youngsters keen on history and archaeology, then we will happily add their names to our wait list.) We have also been fortunate to be able to recruit two new volunteers to our leadership team, who both work within the archaeology and heritage sectors.

Congratulations to our Young Leader, Rosie O'Toole, on winning the 2023 Marsh Community Archaeology Award for Young Archaeologist of the Year, for the second time, an amazing achievement. Rosie is also a Young Leader at Aylesbury YAC and has been an active member of both clubs since she was 8. Unfortunately we have to say au revoir to her as she heads off to university, to study archaeology of course!

In early summer we welcomed Bryony Hudson, Director of Amersham Museum, to talk about the history of medicine and engage our members in role play investigating medical practitioners of the past. The "quack doctor" proved to be the most untrustworthy according to the youngsters, good to know that they can recognise fake news. The following month we had Lucy-Anne Taylor visit to talk about the archaeology of Anglo Saxon music and demonstrate replica Anglo Saxon musical instruments. She enjoyed the session so much that she has agreed to join us as a Leader.

A big thank you to a BAS member who contacted me to offer a collection of back issues of archaeology magazines for the YAC Branch. We were delighted to accept as many as we could store, and they make an excellent resource for us. We are always on the lookout for small artefacts to create resource handling sets, so please do get in touch if you ever need to downsize your collections.

Traditionally, we have had a summer break before resuming meetings in September, but this year we have been delighted to have our members participate in a variety of community archaeological activities across the wider region. From heatwaves to torrential downpours, nothing seems to deter our enthusiastic group.

**June:** YAC Leaders have the opportunity to take part in training days organised by YAC/CBA. This year, some of our Leadership team went to Greenwich Park to learn more about landscape archaeology (and to proudly show off our new T-shirts donated by our sponsors, HeritageDaily.) It was one of the hottest days of the year so we all wished that the Greenwich Anglo Saxon barrow cemetery had more shade...





**July: At Uffington White Horse:** Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Ridgeway National Trail. We were invited by the Ridgeway Trust and National Trust to scour and hammer new chalk into the Horse as a YAC event, working together with the North Wiltshire YAC Branch. Unfortunately it was one of the wettest and coldest days of summer so we all got soaked. An excellent introduction to archaeologists having to work in all weathers!

**August:** We were pleased to be able to excavate again with old friends from AOC Archaeology, now at Cranford Park community dig in Hillingdon. This year we were excavating an iron Age site in the park and luckily it stayed dry for us.



**August again:** We returned to the University of Reading excavations at the Cookham Abbey Anglo Saxon site to find out what progress has been made since our visit in August 2022. An excellent set of activities was provided by one of the students for all the members of Chiltern and Reading YACs. From trowelling in a special "practice" trench, reassembling broken pot puzzles,

learning the basics of osteoarchaeology to providing extra help in cleaning real finds from the dig.



One of our members was also one of the 3 winners of a national CBA/Dig it! competition to attend the excavation here, and they were excited to be able to dig alongside the university



students in the real trenches (in the afternoon once the YAC Branch members had left).





In March 2024 we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Chiltern YAC. This is a significant achievement as not many YAC Branches thrive for so long.

Chiltern YAC are unaffiliated to any museum or heritage site, so we are always keen to engage with outside speakers, crafts people, sites of interest and of course any opportunities for excavation or other archaeological activities. These activities will help us to keep encouraging youngsters to discover the delights (and mud) of archaeology and history. If you could help us identify any of the above, or are interested in volunteering or for more information please contact us at: [chilternyac@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chilternyac@hotmail.co.uk)

Janet Rothwell (Chiltern YAC Co-Leader)

<https://www.yac-uk.org/clubs/chiltern>

**HERITAGE**  
SPONSORED BY **DAILY**



## Heritage Open Day, Aylesbury Muddled Museum, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 2023

The BAS contribution to the Heritage Open Day on 9<sup>th</sup> September was to have a stall on Aylesbury market, where some of our publications could be on sale and we could display Mike Farley's 'Muddled Museum'.

We were near the top end of the market, with our own gazebo (thankfully, on an extremely hot day), and tables for the books and for the Muddled Museum, as well as a small space for two members of the History Society to be able to publicise their activities. As well as Mike Farley, BAS members present and helping were Doug Stuckey (mostly, but not exclusively, in charge of the bookstall), Julia Wise, Pauline Hey and Allan Burnett.



The Muddled Museum consists of a number of artefacts, and a few fossils, which Mike has collected over a number of years. These are laid out on a table, with labels for the various periods from prehistory through to 'Recent – 1800 to Yesterday'. The sections are divided by thin wooden slats – but the artefacts and fossils are not necessarily in the right places. Visitors to the stall are invited to pick up and handle the items, and to try to work out what

they are, and whether or not they have been put in the right place (and if not, where they should be), with society members available to discuss the items and where they fit chronologically. Some items are fairly easy to identify, others are much more difficult, and there are one or two that we do not know what they are. Some very interesting conversations take place as visitors talk to us about their experiences, and a small number do decide to join BAS. The children are usually a bit disappointed that we can't provide any dinosaurs, but often ask very good questions.



There were people around the stall nearly all day, with a bit of a lull around lunchtime. We did not attempt to count how many there were but a rough guess would be about 70 people in all, many staying for 15 to 20 minutes looking at and talking about the artefacts.

During the afternoon, we were visited by the Mayor, complete with his gleaming chain of office.

The book stall took just over £40 – despite the card reading machine refusing to function for a large part of the day.

All in all, it was an interesting and useful day for everyone.



©Aylesbury Town Council

Pauline Hey



## BAS Summer Outings 2023 Bradenham 18<sup>th</sup> Sept

The weather was kind for this visit led by Marian Miller with the support of Michael Hardy. Nearly all of Bradenham is owned by the National Trust and both buildings and environment showed their influence. For those unfamiliar with the village, it is sited below a substantial area of Chiltern woodland with an enormous sloping village green, and set back from the present Princes Risborough to Wycombe road. The upper (north-eastern) slope is dominated by St Botolph's and the Manor House, the north-western side by a series of interesting



buildings including the castellated 'White House' whose frontage reminded many of Missenden Abbey. The southern end of this group had a most welcome pub/restaurant/tea shop!

The southern frontage of the Bradenham green had a hint of the old road and led to a few cottages. The green itself was fronted by a couple of two large, but different, chunks of Denner Hill stone. Examples of the fine version could be seen in the church wall. Such stone was commonly used for paving setts elsewhere. The coarser version containing pebbles had a more limited function. Nearer the present main road was the old village forge which no longer functioned as such but serviced by a carpenter volunteer!

Behind the 'tea shop' was Lower Manor Farm with interesting barns. Here we struggled for a few minutes to reconcile the annotated nineteenth-century plan kindly provided by Marian with the existing layout but it was well worth the effort!

It would be impossible to do justice to Michael's splendid account of the origin of the church, his description of its surviving structural features, monuments and its fine windows. Suffice it to say that it certainly supplanted 'Pevsner'! Incidentally it might be thought that Sarah Gray's dog which appears in the accompanying figure was ignoring our speaker whereas there is little doubt that he was actually just admiring the west window...

Marian's research on the structure of the buildings and accounts of the lives of those who, one way or another, had influence on the village's development, was impressive. Among the facts she provided about the manor house (see picture) was reassurance that Elizabeth I really did 'sleep here' but unfortunately in an adjacent building now demolished! Many thanks to both Marianne and Michael for organising such an interesting afternoon.

Michael Farley



## **Saturday Lecture Programme** **(Discover Bucks Museum 14:15 and on Zoom)**

### **Saturday October 21st: An extended history of Long Crendon**

**Speaker: Julian Hunt (BAS President)**

Julian has continued his studies into the early development and industrial history of Long Crendon village. Following on from the society outing to the village in August 2023, Julian will add more detail to a village that has multiple Manors and retained its medieval Court House.

***Register now for the online lecture [Here](#)*** (We will email the Zoom meeting invitation to you).

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### **Saturday November 18th: The Vernons of High Wycombe**

**Speaker: Jackie Kay (BAS Council member)**

Jackie has been exploring the lives and surviving legacies of members of the Vernon family who were hugely influential in the development of the town of High Wycombe in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She will outline the local (and international) impact of three cousins: Arthur, Robert D and Walter L, were born in High Wycombe within a few years of one another in the middle of the nineteenth century but led surprisingly independent lives.



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**Saturday December 9th: Buckinghamshire Horse mills****Speaker: Mike Farley (BAS Vice president)**

Mike will present his studies on the remains of Horse Mills in our County and what they were used for.

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**Saturday January 13th 2024: TBA**

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**Saturday February 10th 2024: Curcus monuments in the Landscape****Speaker Dr David Saunders**

David updated the Active Archaeology Group with some of the latest research into Curcus monument earlier in the year. After more research he will present his thoughts on these enigmatic structures to us.

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**Saturday March 9th 2024: TBA**

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**Saturday April 13th: Pest/Plague Cottages****Speaker Alison Wall**

Alison will present her studies on Medieval isolation cottages (preparations for a forthcoming book) . How society handles a pandemic, ancient and modern (Covid) methods.

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**Saturday May 11th: Short presentation after AGM. TBA**

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## **A Chiltern Pit worth Digging?**

Every Thursday I join a small group of retired colleagues for a couple of hours walk in the Chilterns area. We have often come across unexpected holes and depressions in the terrain which we have decided are probably old chalk pits, flint quarries or brick-clay pits, or even the often-mentioned WW2 bomb craters.

Recently we walked through Sandwich Wood, just north of Little Kingshill and about a mile from Great Missenden. To our surprise we came across a really remarkable hole in the ground, about 75m across and perhaps 15 metres deep - much more impressive than anything we have seen before.

Back home, I studied all the maps I could find, both current and historical, but none showed any sign of our hole. Aerial and satellite photos just showed the tree tops. However, I discovered that there is a LiDAR survey of the Chilterns which effectively peers through trees and shows the level of the surface beneath. This survey clearly shows the site and its extent.



Image copyright Chilterns Conservation Board. Reproduced with permission from Chilterns AONB.

Further research gave a little information. The closest relevant reference I could find was to a 'Medieval marl pit near Little Kingshill', dating from the 13th Century and 'about 75m across'. See <https://heritageportal.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/Monument/MBC25170>

Their map shows the site to be just outside and to the east of Sandwich Wood, but in fact there is no sign of anything significant at the quoted map reference. However, a note does state: 'NGR (=national grid reference) from source but may be wooded area to west.' The source is actually an unpublished document from 2004 by Mike C J Davis, who was on the committee of Bucks Archaeological Society. His article is called 'The Landscape of Missenden Abbey', but all marl pit references seem ultimately derived from the text of The Cartulary of Missenden Abbey, dated 1263 to 1292. This is a collection of land charters and deeds, written in Latin, and refers to a 'great marl pit' in Groynesdene near Peterley. The name Peterley still exists in the area but Groynesdene does not.

Marl pits are small, artificial depressions that dot the landscape of many parts of the UK. They are the remnants of the ancient practice of marling, which involved digging out and spreading a lime-rich subsoil called marl over the fields to improve their fertility. Marl was a natural clay and chalk fertiliser that sweetened the acidic soils and provided nutrients for crops. Marling was first introduced by the Celts and continued until the 19th century, when modern artificial fertilisers replaced it. Marl pits can often be recognised by their regular shape, with three steep sides and a shallower access ramp. They were usually quite small - about 5m deep - and with a central ramp for removal of the marl by cart. Many remain as ponds, but I can find none that are the size of the pit in Sandwich Wood.

Although Land Registry documents show this is privately owned land, there is a right-of-way footpath that skirts about one third of the wooded site. Access to the bottom is possible via some trails which are not overly steep. Perhaps these are the remains of the original access ramps. Photos generally fail to give a true impression of the size and depth of the site.



Can anyone provide further information about the history of this pit? There is a study of the Prestwood area written by amateur historian Tony Marshall. He suggests that our hole is just an old chalk pit and the Missenden Abbey marl pit is the other side of Nags Lane in an area called Stonyrock. However, the Stonyrock site is much less impressive - not really a 'great pit' - and the authoritative publication Great Missenden Historic Town Assessment lists it as a chalk pit. It does not refer to the Sandwich Wood workings. Further, a study of geological maps suggests Stonyrock is sited on chalk bedrock, whereas much of Sandwich Wood has overlying sediments which could be marls. Tony Marshall suggests the term 'marls' can include just chalk, but I can find no supporting evidence for this.



As a student, very many years ago, I took part in an archaeological dig in the Roman city of Chichester, but otherwise I have no archaeological expertise. I would be interested to hear whether anyone with greater knowledge would consider a dig in Sandwich Wood to be worthwhile. Is there much to be found in the bottom of a putative marl pit?

Mike Saalfeld  
[mikesaalfeld@gmail.com](mailto:mikesaalfeld@gmail.com)

Notes, links and references:

<http://www.bucksrecsoc.org.uk/BRS-VOLUMES/brs-vol-02.pdf>

THE CARTULARY OF MISSENDEN ABBEY

*Grant by Hugh de Plessis of a piece of land situate on the south, next to Nairdwood, for the purpose of making a dyke between the said wood and the fields adjoining Peterley from **the great marl-pit at Groynesdene** up to the piece of ground before the gate of Peterley.*

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40274955>

"Marling in British Agriculture: A Case of Partial Identity". *The Agricultural History Review*. 41 (2): 97–110.

<http://www.thehomeofcricket.com/prestwood/chapter3.html#ix2993>

*This particular pit was alongside what is now Nags Head Lane, just west of Stonyrock Plantation.*

[https://heritageportal.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/api/LibraryLinkWebServiceProxy/FetchResource/50100/full\\_50100.pdf](https://heritageportal.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/api/LibraryLinkWebServiceProxy/FetchResource/50100/full_50100.pdf)

‘Great Missenden Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Assessment Report’

*Chalk pit shown on 19th-20th century maps west of Stonyrock*

*The valley along which this lane ran was known as "Groynesdene" (grynde "depression"), which may refer to its steep sides (although they are not exceptional for the area) or more likely to a large ancient pit where flints, chalk and chalk-rock for building were extracted. This pit survives as a scrubby dell and gave its name to the nearby Stonyrock Plantation.*



## HS2 Archaeological reports

### Recent reports received at Bucks HER

BAS Council discussed the large number of Archaeological reports expected from HS2 and other development activity in the next couple of years. Our societies Records of Buckinghamshire may publish some of these and include summaries (when provided). However, these reports are not easy to follow up. David Saunders undertook on behalf of BAS to Liaise with Bucks Council Archaeological service and record reports as they arrived and, where possible, provide a link to the report [for ease of access].

Here is Davids first list (we propose to build an expanding list on the BAS web site).

## Recently received reports in Alphabetical order of report title:

### **ASHWELL'S FARM VENT SHAFT** Chalfont St Peter Evaluation 2019

Report for Archaeological Monitoring at Chalfont St Peter Vent Shaft Temporary Access Road (Site Code 1C19ASHAM)

### **ASHWELL'S FARM** Chalfont St Peter Evaluation 2017

Over the course of investigation carried out in 13 test pits, no archaeological features or deposits were identified. Although topsoil sieving did produce a very small assemblage of typical rural locations, it is too small to reach any conclusions.

### **BARTON HARTSHORN BARTON TO MIXBURY CUTTING** Barton Hartshorn Geophysics 2019

Geophysical Magnetometer Survey at Barton Hartshorn, Barton to Mixbury Cutting, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire identified anomalies which could be archaeological in origin although the anomalies are amorphous and are of uncertain origin.

### **BUCKS RAILWAY CENTRE** Quainton Evaluation 2019

### **BURY FARM SOUTH HEATH** Great Missenden Geophysics 2019

### [CALVERT CUTTING Steeple Claydon Geophysics 2019](#)

Magnetic survey identified no anomalies deemed to be of archaeological interest and it would appear that the site has low potential to contain below ground remains of interest.

### **CALVERT DEPOT** Steeple Claydon Geoarch 2019

### **CALVERT DEPOT CALVERT CUTTING** Steeple Claydon Evaluation 2018

### **CALVERT DEPOT CALVERT CUTTING AREA 2.5** Steeple Claydon Evaluation 2018

[CHALFONT ST PETER VENT SHAFT Chalfont St Peter Geophysics 2018](#) A fluxgate gradiometer survey reflects the survey area presents use as paddocks with strong ferrous anomalies associable with the lines of fencing and a stables block together with scatters of ferrous anomalies consistent with debris associated with paddocks. Other anomalies reflect the natural deposits of gravel associated with the superficial geology. No anomalies of probable or possible archaeological origins have been identified.

### **CHALFONT ST PETER VENT SHAFT TEMP ACCESS RD** Chalfont St Peter Monitoring 2019

13 test pits were carried out which identify no archaeological features or deposits. Although the topsoil sieving did produce a very small assemblage typical of rural locations, it is too small to reach any conclusion.

[CROSSROADS FARM 1352 Quainton Geophysics 2018](#) Across the datasets, a number of anomalies have been identified which have uncertain origins. Some of them could be of an archaeological origin, however others may be a result of agricultural activities or may relate to natural geological variations in the ground. These trends should not be discounted as they may represent weak remains of former settlements that have been disturbed by recent agricultural or modern processes, or the remains may be of a character unsuited to detection through magnetometry.



**CROSSROADS FARM 1352B Quainton Geophysics 2018** Across the datasets, a number of anomalies have been identified which have uncertain origins. Some of them could be of an archaeological origin, however others may be a result of agricultural activities or may relate to natural geological variations in the ground. These trends should not be discounted as they may represent weak remains of former settlements that have been disturbed by recent agricultural or modern processes, or the remains may be of a character unsuited to detection through magnetometry.

**DECOYPOND WOOD CALVERT CUTTING GU EMBANKMENT SHEEPHOUSE WD HEWINS**  
WD Edgcott Geophysics 2019

**[DODDERSHALL DMV DODDERSHALL EMBANKMENT Quainton Test Pits 2019](#)**

Fieldwork Report for Test Pit Evaluation at Doddershall Deserted Medieval Village, Doddershall Embankment, Buckinghamshire Site Code: 1C18DDHTT.

**DURHAM FARM, WENDOVER DEAN** Wendover Geophysics 2019

**ELLESBOROUGH RD HOSPITAL WENDOVER GREEN TUNNEL** Wendover Evaluation 2019  
Evaluation trial trenching by INFRA in March 2019 identified a single shallow oval late Neolithic pit, 0.8m x 0.66m and 0.09m deep containing sherds of Grooved Ware pottery, animal bone fragments and worked flint in trench 23. A nearby shallow circular pit, 0.65m in diameter and 0.07m deep, containing worked flint, animal bone fragments and a bone awl may have been of late Neolithic to late Bronze Age date.

**ELLESBOROUGH RD HOSPITAL WENDOVER** Metal Detecting Survey 2019

**ELLESBOROUGH RD WENDOVER GREEN TUNNEL** Wendover Geophysics 2017  
Geophysical survey carried out in March 2018 by Magnitude Surveys in advance of groundworks for HS2 failed to identify any archaeological anomalies.

**FLEET MARSTON FARM WAYSIDE FARM GLEBE FARM** Fleet Marston Geophysics 2019  
Enclosures and linear features identified by geophysical survey and associated with surface scatters of Roman finds along the route of the Roman road, Akeman Street.

**GODDINGTON PADBURY BROOK TWYFORD ASSETS** Chetwode Geophysics 2020  
AWHb Final Report for Geophysical Magnetometer Survey at Goddington Padbury Brook (Twyford Cutting, Chetwode Embankment and Chetwode Cutting) and Manthorn Farm (Chetwode Cutting), Buckinghamshire (AC250/11).

**GROVE FARM\_SMALL DEAN NTH EMBANKMENT\_WENDOVER** Evaluation 2020

**HARTLEY FARM AND ROCKY LANE, SMALL DEAN SOUTH EMBANKMENT** Wendover  
Geophysics 2018

**ICKNIELD WAY, WENDOVER** Wendover Geophysics 2018

A fluxgate gradiometer survey has been successfully completed across the site. The results primarily reflect natural changes within the site's natural soils and geology, agricultural activity in the form of a former field boundary and an historic footpath which is still in use, as well as modern activity from underground services and neighbouring fencing and buildings. No anomalies of probable or possible archaeological origins have been identified.

**JONES HILL WOOD** The Lee Geophysics 2017, A fluxgate gradiometer survey has been successfully completed across the Site. The results primarily reflect natural soil and geologic variation. No anomalies of probable or possible archaeological origins have been identified. The effect of the magnetic field of the overhead power lines has had a slight impact on the data on the western edge of the field although not to the extent that it has masked any underlying anomalies.

**KINGS POND COTTAGE CHESHAM RD VENT SHAFT** Great Missenden Evaluation 2019

**LAND AT RAILWAY COTTAGE DODDERSHALL** Quainton Geophysics 2018

A number of anomalies have been identified which have uncertain origins. Some could be of an archaeological origin, however others may be a result of agricultural activities or may relate to natural geological variations in the ground. These trends should not be discounted as they may represent weak remains of former settlements that have been disturbed by recent agricultural or modern processes, or the remains may be of a character unsuited to detection through magnetometry. The fields located within Archaeological Character Sub Zone (ACSZ) 4, around Buckinghamshire Railway Centre have been reported to have some potential for Romano-British remains as well as medieval and post-medieval agriculture. This gives confidence to some of the anomalies having an archaeological origin.

**LAND EAST OF BISHOPSTONE** Stone Evaluation 2020

**LITTLE HALINGS WOOD TILEHOUSE LANE** Denham Evaluation 2018

**NORTH OF MOAT FARM** Chetwode Geophysics 2018

**NORTH OF NASH LEE CRO1438** Ellesborough Geophysics 2018

**NORTH OF NASH LEE CRO1438** Stoke Mandeville Geophysics 2018

**NORTH OF NASH LEE** Ellesborough Geophysics 2018

**NORTH OF NASH LEE, STOKE MANDEVILLE** Stoke Mandeville Geophysics 2018

**NORTH OF TWYFORD MILL 1440** Twyford Geophysics 2018

**NORTH OF TWYFORD MILL 1440A** Twyford Geophysics 2018

**NTH OF ILLET'S FARM BRACKLEY STH CUTTING TURWESTON VIADUCT** Turweston Geophysics 2020

**PARK HILL, SOUTH HEATH** Great Missenden Geophysics 2018

**PUTLOWES COTTAGES** Fleet Marston Geophysics 2018

Part of Fleet Marston Roman small town that extends along Akeman Street NW of a presumed fording point on the River Thames.

**RAILWAY COTTAGES DODDESHALL** Quainton Evaluation 2018

**RIVER THAME THAME VALLEY VIADUCT** Stone geoarch 2020

**ROAD BARN FARM, WENDOVER DEAN** Wendover Geophysics 2018

**ROAD BARN FARM WENDOVER DEAN VIADUCT** Wendover Geophysics 2017**ROCKY LANE WENDOVER** Evaluation 2019

**SEDRUP FARM** Stone Evaluation 2020, Features reveal Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Post Medieval and modern activity. A significant find of Pleistocene fauna (small mammals, amphibians and snails) was made towards the eastern edge of the site. Trial trenching from this phase of work identified multiple areas of Bronze Age to Iron Age field system activity relating to an unlocated settlement location within the vicinity of the Site. Within the north to south linears, pottery recovered was exclusively dated from the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age period (BC 1100- BC 400AD150) to the Late Iron Age to early Romano British period (BC 100 -AD 250). These comprised a variety of local low status coarse wares.

**SEDRUP FARM AYLESBURY EMBANKMENT** Stone Geophysics 2019

Recent geophysical surveys of the Site undertaken as part of the HS2 project revealed several large banks across the Site along with areas of extant ridge and furrow ploughing at the north of the site.

**SHEPHERDS FURZE GREAT POND FARM CALVERT CUTTING** Steeple Claydon Geophysics 2020**SOUTH HEATH CUTTING**, Great Missenden Geophysics 2019

**ST MARY's, STOKE MANDEVILLE** Evaluation 2019, Excavation work in Stoke Mandeville enabled archaeologists to discover the remains of a Norman church with some other unusual discoveries together with a wealth of other incredible finds including a set of incredible rare Roman statues.

**ST MARY's, STOKE MANDEVILLE** Stoke Mandeville Hist Building Recording 2019

**STANDALLS FARM STOKE MANDEVILLE BYPASS AYLESBURY STH CUTTING** Stoke Mandeville Geophysics 2018, A fluxgate gradiometer survey has been successfully completed across the site. The results primarily reflect the survey area's present use as arable fields, with strong ferrous anomalies associable with overhead powerlines, boreholes, and buried services. Other anomalies reflect the natural variation within the superficial geology. Some anomalies of possible archaeological origin have been identified within Area C23001, identified as a rectangular enclosure.

**STH OF CHALFONT LN WEST HYDE** Chalfont St Peter Evaluation 2017

**STOKE MANDEVILLE BYPASS** Stoke Mandeville Evaluation 2019, Evaluation trial trenching carried out by L-P Archaeology from July to September 2018 in advance of construction of HS2 railway and bypass, recovered unstratified finds of Early Iron Age pottery.

**THREE BRIDGE MILL CALVERT CUTTING TWYFORD ASSETS** Twyford Geophysics 2019

Archaeologists working on the HS2 project in Twyford, Buckinghamshire, have discovered a very rare early Roman anthropomorphic or humanlike wooden carved figure in a field in Buckinghamshire. As a team of archaeologists were investigating at Three Bridge Mill, the team came across what they initially thought was a degraded piece of wood from a water-logged ditch. As they continued to excavate it a humanlike, or anthropomorphic, figure was revealed.



**TURWESTON CUTTING** Turweston Geophysics 2020, No remains of a definitive archaeological nature were identified in any of the datasets although a number of trends were identified which correlate with ditches and banks identified from an interpretation of the LiDAR data. These trends have a good possibility of being archaeological in nature.

**TURWESTON GLEBE TURWESTON MANOR TURWESTON CUTTING** Turweston Geophysics 2019

**UPPER STH FARM QUANTON ST EMBANKMENT CUTTING\_DODDERSHALL EMBANKMENT** Quanton Geophysics 2019 A number of anomalies have been identified which have uncertain origins. Some of them could be of an archaeological origin, however others may be a result of agricultural activities or may relate to natural geological variations in the ground. These trends should not be discounted as they may represent weak remains of former settlements that have been disturbed by recent agricultural or modern processes, or the remains may be of a character unsuited to detection through magnetometry. Trends of an uncertain origin in field 6A and 6B have been affected by the field's use as a carpark, however some of the anomalies could be archaeological in origin. These fields are located within Archaeological Character Sub Zone (ACSZ) 4, which is characterised by fields around Buckinghamshire Railway Centre; which is reported to have some potential for Romano-British remains as well as medieval and post-medieval agriculture. This gives confidence to some of the anomalies having an archaeological origin.

**UPPER WENDOVER DEAN FARM** Wendover Evaluation 2019

**WAYSIDE FARM EAST** Fleet Marston Geophysics 2018

**WELLWICK FARM WENDOVER GREEN TUNNEL** Wendover Evaluation 2019

**WHADDON HILL FARM NTH** Stone Geophysics 2018

**WHITETHORN FARM STOKE MANDEVILLE STH EMBANKMENT** Stoke Mandeville Evaluation 2019

**WOODLANDS FARM COTTAGES 1343** Grendon Underwood Geophysics 2018

The survey has identified former field boundaries and ridge and furrow cultivation and hence an insight into use of the landscape prior to construction of the two railway lines. However, little else is apparent and there is variation in contrast and hence likely detectability of the ridge and furrow. This could imply that background magnetic susceptibility may locally be low enough to influence the detection of some features of archaeological interest.

**WOODLANDS FARM COTTAGES 1351** Grendon Underwood Geophysics 2018

The survey has identified former field boundaries and ridge and furrow cultivation and hence an insight into use of the landscape prior to construction of the two railway lines. However, little else is apparent and there is variation in contrast and hence likely detectability of the ridge and furrow. This could imply that background magnetic susceptibility may locally be low enough to influence the detection of some features of archaeological interest.

**WOODLANDS FARM COTTAGES 1351A Grendon Underwood Geophysics 2018**

The survey has identified former field boundaries and ridge and furrow cultivation and hence an insight into use of the landscape prior to construction of the two railway lines. However, little else is apparent and there is variation in contrast and hence likely detectability of the ridge and furrow. This could imply that background magnetic susceptibility may locally be low enough to influence the detection of some features of archaeological interest.

**WOODLANDS FARM COTTAGES 1472 Grendon Underwood Geophysics 2018**

The survey has identified former field boundaries and ridge and furrow cultivation and hence an insight into use of the landscape prior to construction of the two railway lines. However, little else is apparent and there is variation in contrast and hence likely detectability of the ridge and furrow. This could imply that background magnetic susceptibility may locally be low enough to influence the detection of some features of archaeological interest.



## Penns Potted History

A BACK ROOM, once known as “the snug”, at the Red Lion pub in Penn has recently undergone a remarkable transformation. Muralist Diane Stewart, seen here with palette and brush in hand, was commissioned to paint a mural there, by licensee, Louise Holdcroft. Passionate about local history, Diane in turn consulted local historians Miles Green and Ron Saunders at a detailed level over what it might contain. The end result, after a couple of months of planning and 285 hours of actual painting, at a first glance, just looks like a collection of books of the sort you sometimes find in pubs gathering dust on open shelves. Your first reaction might be the same as mine was: “What’s the point of a library of books that can’t be read?”



I had been drawn to visit the pub in the first place by an online guide to the mural which lists the book titles, so I thought I knew what to expect. But only when you see it for real can you begin to appreciate its full value. Within the severe design constraints of what can plausibly be fitted onto each book spine, Diane has created a very visual index to a potted history of the local area, with each book spine a potential conversation—opener. Every pub should have one!

Clever use of colour helps the casual browser spot titles likely to be of interest to them. For example, anyone interested in women’s rights is likely to notice a set of books with the suffragette colours on them and perhaps wonder why so many activists made Penn their home; the depiction of the French flag similarly drew my attention to a volume about the Emigré school established in Penn by Edmund Burke — if only someone would actually write that book, I’d like to read it!

For those of you who are not naturally drawn to reading every book on a shelf, there are a few quirky objects competing for your attention. I recognised a miniature bust of Disraeli almost immediately, but it was a surprise to see a model of a gargoyle of his political adversary, William Gladstone, and thereby learn that one can be found in Penn. It is thought that Sir Philip Rose first commissioned the likeness which wears a fool's cap and has a rat's body. There's an element of irony for bibliophiles who may fondly remember past visits to the nearby Penn bookshop which sadly closed its doors a few years ago. I asked the artist if her creation was in any sense intended to pay homage to its passing, but it would seem not.



Fellow past customers, though, may like to know that there is once again a book—related reason to visit Penn, even if the books on display at the Red Lion can't be read (and in some cases haven't yet been written). It's not all dusty history either. You might just find yourself sipping a pint alongside one of the featured local celebrities.

Of course, while researching this article, I felt obliged to do my bit for the hospitality industry. I tested the quality of the cappuccinos on offer — and I have to say I also enjoyed one of the best lunches I have had in a long time. I just wish the village parking arrangements were a little bit easier for us townies to understand.

Jackie Kay, (photos Calum Stewart)



## AAG REPORTS

Autumn 2023

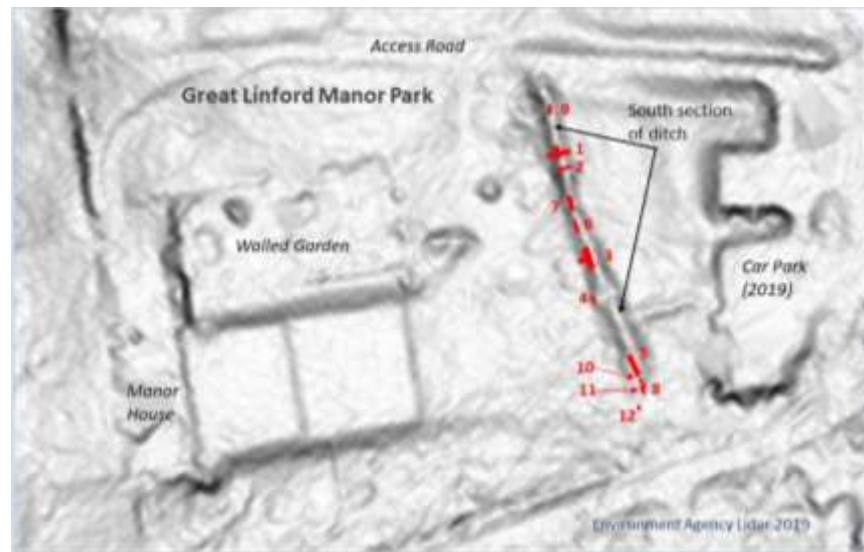
### Great Linford Manor Park

We are still working at Great Linford Manor Park, despite our expectations that we would have finished by May or June. Most of the earlier trenches have now been fully recorded and backfilled, but Trench 5 awaits final recording, then backfilling, as do Trenches 8, 10 and 11. Backfilling is quite hard work, especially when the spoil heaps have had many months in which to consolidate and start growing a crop of weeds, but is nevertheless much quicker than opening up the trenches in the first place.



To remind readers of the location of the trenches, the diagram which was in the previous Newsletter is repeated below.

Fig 1  
Positions of the trenches.



Trenches 8, 10 and 11 had shown the Ha-ha wall, mostly in quite good condition despite the tree root damage in places, but curving gently towards the west, possibly along the line of the original boundary of the manor house garden.

We wanted to find the southern end of the wall, to see if there was some kind of terminal feature, as some of the old maps suggested. This area of the manor ground is quite wooded, and there is no obvious sign on the surface of the ditch associated with the Ha-ha in the more northerly section.

It was therefore a case of assessing the direction the wall was likely to follow, and finding a space among the trees where digging would be possible. Having opened Trench 12 and located the wall we then tried to follow its direction, to try to establish where and how it ended. T12A completely missed the wall, and found only a few stones, so we put in T12F at right angles to the direction that we expected the wall to run, and long enough to ensure we would locate it. We did, but at the extreme western end of the trench – and only about 20cm away from the unsuccessful T12A. We had about a metre of wall, in good condition, running across the trench, but showing no signs of an end, so we put in T12C, rather closer to the modern boundary wall, and further to the south than the trench marked 12 on the Fig1.

We located the wall, a little further to the west than we had expected, and found at least 6



courses of well-built stone, with a single course of bricks, which appeared to be Georgian, on top. We also located a colony of burrowing bees in the corner of the trench, so were unable to look for the back edge of the wall until they decided to move a few weeks later. However, the Ha-ha wall appeared to run into another wall, of slightly different construction (bigger stones and no bricks), running at right angles to the Ha-ha wall.

Fig 2 Ha-ha wall in Trench 12C

This wall has a large (paving stone size) slab of stone lying flat close to its upper surface, with only two other quite big stones on top of it. Both of these stones and some of the others in the vicinity show chisel marks, which appear to be from initial shaping of the stone for use in the wall. In the angle between the two walls, there are two large stones sticking out, looking like steps, and indeed we have been using them as such. Perhaps they were steps for workmen to access the wall for maintenance, but their position could be merely coincidence.

This trench (12C) was initially 1m wide by 4 m long, but has been extended both westward and southward to try to clarify what we have found. It is now about 5m by 4m after the latest southward extension, which is not yet fully excavated. However, the westward extension has located the back edge of the wall, and made it clear that the main continuation of the wall is to the south. We are now only about 2m from the present boundary wall, which borders the road (more or less on the line of an old track).



Fig 3 Back edge of wall running southwards.

We cannot extend to the east because of a large tree, and both west and south encounter many roots and the remains of dead trees, as well as a lot of very dense blue clay, which appears to have been used to help waterproof the wall in places along the whole of its line.

There is an overburden of around 50 to 60cm of topsoil across most of the wall at this end of the site, much of it including clay (different from the blue clay lower down). This layer has contained a lot of broken glass (some pieces do fit together), assorted bits of metal (mostly nails), and a few bits of pottery, including the neck of a stoneware bottle. We hope to be able to conclude the exploration of this trench soon, then complete the recording of all the remaining trenches and backfill them, preferably before the winter sets in.

Figs 1 and 3 are courtesy of Doug Stuckey. Fig2 is by Pauline Hey

### **Stanton Low Manor Garden**

As the excavations at Great Linford Manor start to wind-down we have agreed with the Parks Trust (and Nick Crank) to start an excavation programme in Stanton Manor Gardens, about 1 mile north west of Great Linford, beside the river Great Ouse.



The Stanton manor site, south of the ruined St Peter's Church, has been occupied since the late 11<sup>th</sup> Century with the current grounds being laid out in the 1650's for a new Manor House. The Manor was destroyed by fire and the site abandoned in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



The site has been investigated before with a survey by Historic England (Records of Bucks V45 page 169) plus excavations by Headland in 2014 providing key information on the new manor location and construction ([Headland report](#)). Elements of the large terraced garden still need to be investigated and an AAG community dig will open a series of Trenches to examine key points in the garden.



Our first Trench is on the terrace edge next to a feature called a 'prospect mound' – we have found evidence of terrace construction over older debris but as yet we have to find any form of structured access to the mound.

The Manor garden is regularly used as an area for exercise and dog walking, so we plan to have only one trench open at time. Since commencing in July, we have had one open day with Parks Trust and shown the limited finds at a recent Heritage Day. The site feels remote and rural for Milton Keynes. Our planning document for this excavation can be found [Here](#).

We will have more news in the BAS Spring 2024 newsletter.





## **AAG Tuesday Evening Meetings**

It now seems a long time since the last few of the 2022/2023 season of evening talks for the AAG (as listed in the last newsletter) took place. All were excellent talks and well received, but it is already almost time for the Autumn/Winter 2023/2024 season of talks to start.

Once again we will be meeting in the museum, but also streamed via Zoom, on the second Tuesday of each month, with refreshments available for those who make it to the museum. The side door from St Mary's Square will be open from about 7pm and the meetings will start at 7.30pm. Full details will be available on the website, and all are welcome to attend.

The first talk was on **12<sup>th</sup> September**, when Julian Newman of Cotswold Archaeology will be telling us about the excavations done at Chetwode Mill in advance of HS2. These excavations resulted from a desk-based study done by BAS members, several of whom were not AAG members

On **October 10<sup>th</sup>**, Kris Lockyear from UCL, will be talking about geophysics, particularly the ongoing work at Verulamium (St Albans), but also other sites of interest.

On **November 14<sup>th</sup>** Paul Tate from LBDAHs will talk about the search for the 13C Holy Well at Old Linslade, and the interesting discoveries made there

On **December 12<sup>th</sup>** we will have our now traditional Christmas 'Party', with a new quiz – on castles – by Doug Stuckey, as well as short talks by some of our members on what they have been up to during the year. We hope enough people will want to come to the museum for this meeting to make it worthwhile to ask people to 'bring a plate, with something on it', so that we can share a little festive cheer.

On **January 9<sup>th</sup> 2024**, Doug Stuckey will be telling us more about the interesting archaeology across the middle of Scotland, some of which is only just being discovered thanks to advances in techniques such as LiDAR

On **February 13<sup>th</sup>** James Wright, buildings archaeologist, of Triskele Heritage, will talk about Hidden Historic Houses, which will help us work out the (possibly surprising) date of an old, and often much altered house. James will be speaking on Zoom as he lives a considerable distance away, but we will still have the meeting in the museum and streamed on Zoom.

March, April and May have not yet been arranged.

Details of all the talks can be found on the website. All are welcome to attend either in person at the museum, or via Zoom.

Pauline Hey 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2023 and Doug Stuckey



## Buckinghamshire in South Africa

A paperback by Lynne Cryer, *The 1820 Settlers*, published in Cape Town in 1987, describes the struggles of those from the UK who undertook a 90 day sailing trip in order to colonise a settlement to be called Albany on an area of land some 400 miles east of Cape Town and within Algoa Bay. It had been publicised as a land 'which may literally be said to flow with milk and honey.' Needless to say among the problems encountered by the settlers were that the native inhabitants (the Xhosa in particular) did not exactly welcome the incomers!

Settlers about  
to land in  
Algoa Bay  
(from Bryer  
1987).



The reason for bringing this interesting book to the attention of readers is that among the emigrants was one Jeremiah Goldswain, a Buckinghamshire sawyer. An account of his experiences, *The Chronicles of Jeremiah Goldswain*, was published in 1946. One quotation is provided by Lynne Cryer:

*'Sunday we left Great Marlow about eleven oclock just as the Bells were ringing for Church. They Town ware thronged with specttaters to see us start from the Greyhound Inn and menney of them brought us on our way as far as Bissum [Bisham] ... At this place my Father and Mother left me and it was a verey hard struggle for me wen I recved my Mothers Last blessing and she reminding me that I was her onley Child and fealing her emotions wen she inbraced me for they last time.'*

MF