

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

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### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

To be held on Saturday 11 May 2023 in the meeting room at the county's Discover Bucks Museum in Church Street, Aylesbury, starting at 2.00pm.

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**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

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.

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



**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	Andrew Kemp	John Sheldon
David Saunders	Jackie Kay	Michael Ghirelli

**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	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 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>

BAS Website  
Active Archaeology Group

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

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

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## Notices

### Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Prize

The prize for 2023 was given to the team at Seer Green and Jordans who built ‘**Our Living Village**’ an outstanding development of a community heritage website. Which you can visit [here](#).

Having considered the average duration of Historical research projects and Archaeological investigations/publication the prize will move to a bi-annual basis.

Nominations for the 2025 prize will open in October this year and close at the BAS AGM in May 2025.

### BAS Members Insurance

In the 2024 AGM there was a discussion regarding the upper age limit of BAS Membership Insurance, which was Stated at 80. BAS Council has investigated this and found that although this age limit is stated in our policy, it does not apply to or members. So there is no upper age limit to our membership insurance.

### Bucks Local History Network Conference 2024

Planning for this year conference is well advanced, the conference will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>, at Aylesbury Methodist Church. The theme for this 25<sup>th</sup> Conference will be ‘Food for Thought’ – Agricultural change and specialisation in Bucks. Further advertising for this event will start in June.

### Records of Buckinghamshire Vol 64

Records volume 64 will be available at the AGM. Distribution costs are high so can you please collect your copy and any others that you would be willing to deliver. Labels will be provided in Post code order to assist with distribution control.

If you are willing to distribute RoB 64 in your post code (or streets within your post code) and will not attend the AGM then please let me (Doug Stuckey) know at [bucksasaag@gmail.com](mailto:bucksasaag@gmail.com) and we can arrange for delivery of the required copies to your address.

Records of Bucks will **only** be distributed to fully paid-up members (as at April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024).

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## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

To be held on Saturday 11 May 2024 in the meeting room at the county's Discover Bucks Museum in Church Street, Aylesbury, starting at 2.00pm.

The meeting will be held both in-person at the museum and simultaneously online for members who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend in person.

### AGENDA

- Item 1. Apologies for Absence**
- Item 2. Minutes of AGM of 13 May 2023**
- Item 3. Matters Arising**
- Item 4. Officers' Reports for 2023**
- |                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Honorary Secretary:                 | Peter Marsden  |
| Honorary Treasurer:                 | Harry Ball     |
| Honorary Editor of <i>Records</i> : | Bob Zeepvat    |
| Honorary Librarian:                 | Sarah Gray     |
| Honorary Archivist:                 | David Noy      |
| Honorary Membership Secretary:      | Nigel Rothwell |
- Item 5. President's Remarks on 2023**      Julian Hunt
- Item 6. Votes of Thanks**
- Item 7(a). Election of the Society's Officers**
- Proposed for election:
- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| (i) Honorary Chair of the Society:       | Doug Stuckey   |
| (ii) Honorary Secretary:                 | Peter Marsden  |
| (iii) Honorary President:                | Julian Hunt    |
| (iv) Honorary Treasurer:                 | Harry Ball     |
| (v) Honorary Librarian:                  | Sarah Gray     |
| (vi) Honorary Editor of <i>Records</i> : | Bob Zeepvat    |
| (vii) Honorary Archivist:                | David Noy      |
| (viii) Honorary Membership Secretary:    | Nigel Rothwell |

**Item 7(b). Election of Ordinary Members of Council**

Council includes nine Ordinary Members, each eligible for re-election for a maximum continuous term of three years.

**Four serving members who were elected in 2022 and 2023 are therefore eligible for re-election. These are:**

Andrew Kemp, Jackie Kay, Michael Ghirelli and David Saunders.

One member, Lucy Lawrence, shares the co-opted position of Bucks County Archaeological Service. **There are therefore five vacant member positions on Council** and nominations are invited to fill these. Nominations may be proposed and seconded before or at the meeting.

**Item 8. Three changing roles on Council**

**Newsletter editor** from Autumn 2024 will be added to Sarah Grays role as Hon Librarian.

**Assistant Editor of Records** – Gary Marshall and David Critchley have taken on the Assistant editor roles in 2023 and we thank them.

Council needs a member with **Publicity/Advertising/ Social Media** knowledge.

**Item 9. Re-appointment of Honorary Auditor**

Mrs. Joan Dharamshi

**Item 10. Vice Presidents**

Vice-Presidents serve until their resignation or removal by an AGM. The Society's current Vice-Presidents are Colin Dawes, Hugh Hanley, Michael Farley, Maurice Hart, Diana Gulland and Dennis Mynard.

**Item 11. Any Other Business**

Any item of other business must be notified to the Chair of the Society in advance of the meeting.

**Close of Meeting:** The Society's next AGM is scheduled to be held on Saturday 10th May 2025 at 2.00pm.

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# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2023

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Held in the **Discover Bucks Museum**, Church Street, Aylesbury  
on **Saturday 21 May 2023**, starting at 2pm – simultaneously online via Zoom

## **1: Apologies for absence**

Rhian Morgan, Peter Marsden, Georgina Lomnitz, Carys Gadsden, Dr Peter Jarvis, Lyn Robinson, Sarah Tricks and Ken Willis.

**38 members attended in person with a further 25 online.** The attendee list is available in the BAS Library.

The Society's President, Julian Hunt, chaired the meeting.

## **2: Minutes of the AGM of 20 May 2022**

There were no minutes from the 2022 meeting as it was unexpectedly moved to the much smaller Hollis room (when the Wifi failed in the Lecture room). Although cramped the meeting took its usual form.

## **3: Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **4: Officers' reports for 2022**

Four reports from officers had been published in the Spring Newsletter:

- Nigel Rothwell, as Honorary Membership Secretary
- Pauline Hey, for the Society's Active Archaeology Group
- Harry Ball, Treasurers Report
- Sarah Gray, Librarian and Archive report

## **5: President's remarks on 2022: Julian Hunt**

Julian Hunt provided some insight into the contribution provide by members from High Wycombe during the formative years of this Society. His recent studies of the archives at High Wycombe had highlighted the role of John Parker in both his local society and BAS.

## **6: Votes of thanks**

The meeting voted its thanks to **Susan Gill**, for his time as representative for the Liberty Trust, **Lucy Lawrence** for he work on Council and to **Mrs Joan Dharamshi** for her inspection of the Society's annual accounts.

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**7a: Election of the Society's Officers**

- Honorary President – Julian Hunt
- Honorary Chair – Doug Stuckey
- Honorary Secretary – Peter Marsden
- Honorary Treasurer – Harry Ball
- Honorary Membership Secretary – Nigel Rothwell
- Honorary Librarian – Sarah Gray
- Honorary Archivist – David Noy
- Honorary Editor of *Records of Bucks* – Bob Zeepvat

The vote for all of these was unanimous.

**10b: Election of Ordinary members of Council**

Both Jackie Kay and Mike Ghirelli were nominated during the meeting and dually elected to Council for a 3 year term.

**11: Re-appointment of Honorary Inspector of Accounts**

Mrs Joan Dharamshi was proposed by Harry Ball, seconded by Sarah Gray and elected unanimously by the meeting.

**12: Vice-Presidents**

The Society's vice-presidents serve until their resignation or removal by a vote at AGM. The current vice-presidents are Colin Dawes, Hugh Hanley, Maurice Hart, Diana Gulland and Dennis Mynard. No changes were proposed or required.

**13: Any other business**

There was no other business, so the Honorary President thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

*Meeting notes from D Stuckey.*

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Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society				
<b>DRAFT</b>				
<b>Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023</b>				
<b>1. Accounting Policies</b>				
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments and in accordance with The Charities Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting for Charities (issued in 2005) and all applicable Accounting Standards. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the accounts remain unaltered from previous years.				
			<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>2. Total Resources expended</b>				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Record of Bucks (vol 63)	8138		8138	9167
Newsletter	71		71	70
Meetings	84		84	107
Excursions	20		20	60
BLHN conference		2228	2228	1863
HS2 conference			-	1450
Office and sundry expenses	1073		1073	1110
Grants ("Hidden Bucks")	2969		2969	0
Insurance	301		301	285
Subscriptions	214		214	116
Library purchases	116		116	383
Library equipment	619		619	0
Publications	96		96	2469
Software Licences	483		483	305
Website & Zoom costs	466		466	468
Joan Elding prize	440		440	590
	15090	2228	17318	18443
		2		

<b>DRAFT</b>	<b>Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society</b>			
<b>Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023</b>				
		<b>2023</b>		2022
<b>4. Investments: COIF accumulation shares</b>				
		£		£
Market value at 1 January 2023		44078		48435
Movement in valuation		5419		(4357)
Market value at 31 December 2023		<u>49497</u>		<u>44078</u>
Cost at 31 December 2023		5427		5427
<b>Investments forming more than 5% of assets</b>				
COIF Charities Fund accumulation units, market value £49497 represent 43.54% of the Society's assets				
<b>5. Funds Balances</b>				
Capital Fund		16097		16097
		£	£	£
Other restricted Funds				
Library Legacy Fund				
Balance at 1 January 2023		717		717
Net movement in the year		-		-
Balance at 31 December 2023		<u>717</u>		<u>717</u>
Professor Mead Legacy				
Balance at 1 January 2023		1755		1755
Net movement in the year		-		-
Balance at 31 December 2023		<u>1755</u>		<u>1755</u>
Bucks Local History Network Fund				
Balance at 1 January 2023		7354		6716
Net movement in the year		654		638
Balance at 31 December 2023		<u>8008</u>		<u>7354</u>
	Sub total	<u>10480</u>		<u>9826</u>
	Total	<u>26577</u>		<u>25923</u>
Contingency Reserve		64902		62406
Unrestricted Funds				
Balance at 1 January 2023		8066		10609
Transfer to contingency reserve (see note below)		(2496)		(2972)
Net movement during the year		<u>9586</u>		<u>429</u>
Balance at 31 December 2023		<u>15156</u>		<u>8066</u>
Total Funds		<u>106635</u>		<u>96395</u>
The contingency reserve provides for expenditure by the Society which may arise from any future changes in the operation of the County Museum. The reserve was increased by £2496 to recognise the effect of inflation in the year.				
		3		

<b>DRAFT</b>			
<b>Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society</b>			
<b>Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023</b>			
		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets			
Investments		49497	44078
Museum Premises & Ceely House		<u>13738</u>	<u>13738</u>
		63235	57816
Current Assets			
Sundry Debtors	1902		1547
Short Term Deposits	43662		39177
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1915</u>		<u>3438</u>
	47479		44162
Less			
Creditors - amounts due within one year			
Sundry Creditors	(2494)		(1050)
Deferred Income	<u>(1584)</u>		<u>(4533)</u>
	(4078)		(5583)
Net current assets		43400	38579
Net assets		<u>106635</u>	<u>96395</u>
Represented by			
Capital Fund		16097	16097
Restricted Funds		10480	9826
Contingency Reserve		<u>64902</u>	<u>62406</u>
		91479	88329
Unrestricted funds		<u>15156</u>	<u>8066</u>
		<u>106635</u>	<u>96395</u>
The freehold interest of the museum premises and Ceely House shown above is subject to a lease with over 90 years yet to run under which an annual rent of £1 per annum is payable			
Mr Douglas Stuckey, Chairman		Mr Harry Ball, Treasurer	

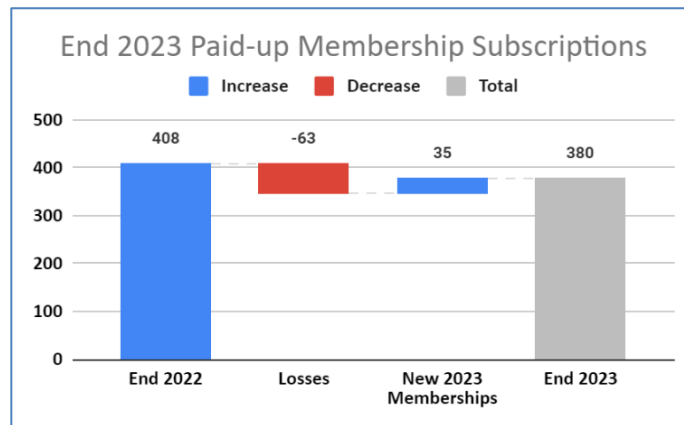
<b>DRAFT</b>			
<b>LIBERTY MUSEUM TRUST FUND</b>			
<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023</b>			
		2023	2022
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>			
Donations		0.00	0
Dividends	COIF Income Shares	154.48	154
Interest	COIF Deposit Fund	86.57	19
	Business Instant Access Account	13.57	1
		-----	-----
		254.62	174
		-----	-----
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>			
		0.00	0
		-----	-----
	Unrealised Surplus (Losses) on Investments	473.56	(678)
	Net Movement of Funds for the Year	728.18	(504)
	<b>ACCUMULATED FUND B/F</b>	8,619.60	9,124
	<b>ACCUMULATED FUND C/F</b>	£9,347.78	£8,620
		-----	-----
<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
	COIF Income Shares (Cost £2,000)	5,627.05	5,154
	COIF Deposit Fund	2,061.65	1,975
	Lloyds Bank - Business Instant Access A/C	1,633.91	1,476
	Current Account	25.17	15
		-----	-----
		£9,347.78	£8,620
		-----	-----
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
		0.00	0
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		£9,347.78	£8,620
		-----	-----
Represented by:-			
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>			
	Accumulated Fund at 1 January 2023	8,619.60	9,124
	Net Movement of Funds for the Year	728.18	(504)
		-----	-----
		£9,347.78	£8,620
		-----	-----
Trustee			



## Report of the Honorary Membership Secretary

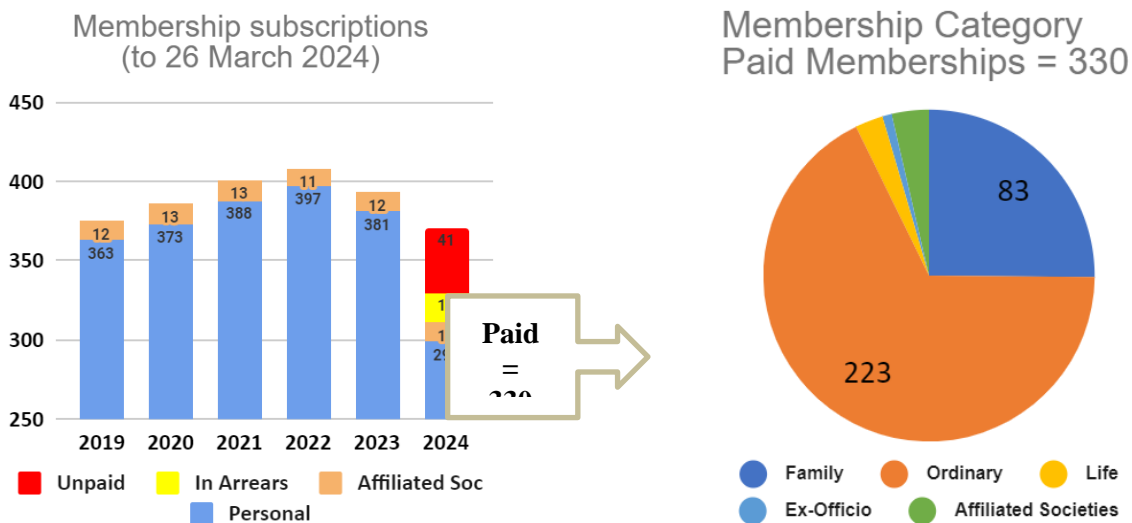
**End 2023 Membership:** Overall our total membership subscriptions reduced slightly in 2023. Members will recall that the 2022 AGM agreed an increase to subscription rates for the first time in many years. The request for members to adjust their payment arrangements accordingly had a small impact on member numbers, causing some of our longer-term members to reassess whether they were still able to fully participate in society activities. It also had an impact on the collection of subscription payments, as, despite repeated requests, some members have still not updated their payment arrangements. This requires additional work to collect arrears.

The change in total paid-up membership numbers to end 2023 is illustrated below. We know that our Family membership means we have an additional approximate 100 members on top of the number of paid subscriptions.



**2024 Renewal:** Membership subscriptions are always due for renewal at the beginning of January. For the 2024 membership year invitations to renew were sent out in late December to those members who have not set up auto-renewal. Where members were in arrears, correspondence also invited members to pay any 2023 shortfall and to amend their payment arrangements for 2024. Follow-up reminders were sent again to any member whose payment was still outstanding, in February, and again in March. Copies of RoB64 will only be provided as a membership benefit to those members who are fully up to date with their subscription payments.

**Current membership status:** Membership subscription status, including members in arrears (those who have not yet paid the full subscription rate for 2024) to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 is as shown.



**How you can help:** The Society relies on the support and contributions of its membership, including subscriptions, to help fund activities and publications. It is greatly appreciated if subs are paid on time, or if we are informed of an intent not to renew, as this helps save having to chase up. It is also helpful if members can Gift Aid subscription payments, as this is financially beneficial to the Society at no extra cost to the subscriber; and if you are able to pay by Bank Standing Order this also helps reduce our administration and costs.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Welcome to our new members joining since Spring 2023**

On behalf of the BAS Council, Committee, and existing membership, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following who have joined the Society. We hope you find it interesting and enjoyable, and we look forward to your participation in our activities and your support in furthering the aims of the Society.

Nita & Peter Brazier  
 Mary Buckle  
 Richard Byford  
 Lena Calvert  
 David Chandler  
 Nick Crank  
 Mark Jordan  
 Gail Kennedy-Fagin  
 Pauline Knapp  
 Howard Lambert  
 Alexander Leslie  
 John Mayne

Louisa Miller  
 Martin Musslewhite  
 Libby Owen  
 Eleanor Phillips  
 Paul Randall  
 John Savin  
 Robert Sharp  
 Robin Stutchbury  
 Hugh Thomas  
 William Truscott  
 Janet Tweedy  
 Sandra Warren

And as Affiliate members:  
 Cotswold Archaeology  
 City Discovery Centre, M.K.

Please do get in contact with a Committee member if you would like to get further involved.

Nigel Rothwell  
 Honorary Membership Secretary

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## AAG REPORT FOR BAS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

### Great Linford Manor Ha-ha

At Great Linford trench 5 has been recorded and backfilled. Trench8/trench11 and some of the earlier incarnations of trench 12 need recording to be completed and then backfilled.



Trench 12C at the southern extreme of the Ha-ha remains open and still requires more work. Next to the estate boundary, there is a thin stony surface at a depth of around 30 cm. We do not yet fully understand it, except to say that everything found above it seems to date from the early 20th century or later,

and below seems to be from earlier dates.

At a depth of a metre or so below this surface there is a layer of larger stones which seem to have been deliberately placed, but do not appear to be directly connected to any of the several walls in the vicinity. We cannot explore these properly until we complete work on the stony surface, and record it fully, then we can partially remove it in order to access the deeper layer.

In March 2024 the decision was made to open Trench 12D, one metre north of T12C to establish how the Ha-ha manages to align itself with the structure found in T12F. So far we have some parts heading in the right direction with an extension of the brickwork found in 12C.



Trench 12D receiving full attention





Trench 12D with 12C in the background

All areas of open Trench were covered with garden membrane to protect them for the winter. We remain grateful to Julie Slatter of the Friends of Gt Linford Park, for regular supplies of coffee tea and biscuits, and to Pete Winkleman, the landowner for encouragement and periodic enthusiastic visits to the site – usually bearing cakes.

**At Stanton Low Manor Garden**, which is proving to be a very exposed site, the excavations on the slope down to the Prospect Mound have uncovered gravel layers and a spread of stoney debris, which judging by the items found among them, are related to the demolition of the 17 C manor house following the fire, and may be on top of the original garden features.



Substantial amounts of very fragile wall plaster have been found, presumably from the manor. Towards the prospect mound the gravelly layers slope downwards, possibly with an original garden surface covered by a demolition layer.

The parts of the trench furthest from the prospect mound, where there were few finds, have been backfilled, so that our protective fence can be moved to give us more access closer to the mound, where we hope to make more useful discoveries. The open areas are protected with garden membrane for the winter. We hope to establish how the Prospect Mound was accessed before the Manor demolition re-shaped this area of the garden.

At the lowest level of the trench (90cm) at the southern end of the excavation, a small collection of medieval pottery fragments were uncovered.



A view of the Prospect Mound

### Quarrendon Fence

On Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – the best day of a very wet week – four members of the AAG joined Sandy Kidd to undertake a watching brief at Quarrendon while a contractor dug 181 post holes for a new fence.



The first few holes encountered building rubble, but some of the later ones produced a few fragments of bone and pottery sherds, which are being identified. No further work is currently planned at the moment.

The team and the Augur.

**Our evening meetings** have change to the second Thursday of the month; the meetings are live in the museum, and streamed via Zoom, with everyone welcome to attend. Full details are on the website.

In May Matt Carroll of LBDASH will give a talk on the etymology of some local place names



## An Interesting Fire Insurance Mark



In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, it was common practice for plaques to be prominently displayed on the outside of buildings to indicate that the occupier had paid for fire insurance.

Also referred to as fire insurance marks, they were typically made of lead although some later examples can be found in other materials. Often, the policy number was explicitly shown beneath a symbol to identify the insurers.

Nowadays, it is rare to find marks still in their original locations. They no longer serve any useful purpose, but there is still a thriving market for such items purely for decoration. Many of those being sold today are in fact modern reproductions.

The fire mark shown above was recently sold on eBay for the sum of £84.60.

Although I was not sufficiently interested to bid for it, the listing attracted my attention because accompanying provenance indicated that it had once belonged to a property in High Wycombe. The seller provided evidence of correspondence with the Sun Alliance and London Insurance Group whereby, in 1977, they had obtained a copy of a record of the related insurance policy taken out in 1801 by a Robert Fowler of High Wycombe, Gent, with details as follows:

<i>On his now Dwelling house only situate as aforesaid not exceeding six hundred pounds</i>	<i>£600</i>
<i>Household goods wearing apparel Printed Books and plate therein only not exceeding two hundred and twenty pounds</i>	<i>£220</i>
<i>Stables and loft over near not exceeding one hundred pounds</i>	<i>£100</i>
<i>Stock and Utensils therein only not exceeding thirty pounds</i>	<i>£30</i>
<i>All Brick and tiled</i>	<i>£950</i>

The format and wording of the above record will be familiar to anyone who has used the Sun insurance policy registers now held at the London Metropolitan Archives (formerly at the Guildhall library). Contained in 672 bound volumes, the records of over 350,000 individual policies are a wonderful resource giving details of properties insured during the time period: 1710 to 1863 (although there are some noted volumes missing). Used in conjunction with other contemporary records such as rate books and land tax records, and helped by the occasional will, it is often possible to determine exactly which buildings a policy once related to.



*The probable location of Robert Fowler's house was just north of the church and adjacent to the vicarage.*

In the case of the above entry, there is a short will for a Robert Fowler, Gentleman, proved in 1826, in which he bequeaths all of his “messuage or tenement yard and garden with appurtenances now in my own occupation situated on the north side of the church yard”, and a second property “in the occupation of James Kingston near or adjoining ... on the west” to a Richard Webb of Marlow Bottom.

Contemporary rate records suggest that Robert Fowler lived in a house adjacent to the vicarage. It seems highly probable that the fire mark was originally affixed to the house known today as No. 7 Castle Street, (although rather confusingly, the lower portion of Castle Street appears on early maps as a branch of Church Street). On an 1875 town map it clearly has a large garden.

The building, also known as “The Chantry”, is still extant (see below); it is listed Grade II\* but inevitably has undergone some changes over time including extensive repair work in the mid-1970s. The house immediately adjoining on the west is still extant whereas the vicarage has meanwhile been replaced by a modern office block and a row of shops.

Armed with a policy number, finding a fire insurance register entry is straightforward, but without a policy number it is much trickier. Various partial indices of the LMA registers have been compiled including an index of policy holders which was circulated to county records offices and libraries, but none of the indices are complete. Policy Number 719331 seems to have escaped the indexing process altogether. But thanks to the eBay listing, we now know a little more about Robert Fowler than we did before. (Jackie Kay)



*“The Chantry” viewed from the Northeast where the vicarage used to be - with the church visible in the background.*

**Jackie Kay**



## BAS Summer Outings 2024

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We are still planning an outing to **Seer Green and Jordans** to be led by Nigel Rothwell. Dates in July are in discussion and will be confirmed by email to all members. The walk will only accommodate a small number at a time, so there may be several iterations of this outing to satisfy demand.

More details to follow.

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### A special offer for Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Members

The Buckinghamshire Record Society (originally an offshoot of BAS) has been producing volumes since 1937. Many of its volumes are available for purchase via its website ([www.bucksrecsoc.org.uk](http://www.bucksrecsoc.org.uk)); some have sold out, but in other cases a good deal of surplus stock has been accumulated. This is causing pressure on the available storage space at Buckinghamshire Archives. However, rather than simply pulping the remaining hard copies it has been decided that they should be offered free to BAS members. The list which follows gives details of the available stock up to volume 36. These are available without charge but of course donations to the work of the Society would be appreciated.

Later volumes can be purchased at <http://www.bucksrecsoc.org.uk/brsvolumes.html>

Unfortunately, due to the cost it will not be possible to post any 'free' volumes, they will have to be collected from Buckinghamshire Archives. Any BAS member wishing to take advantage of this offer should email details of what they require to [bucksrecsoc@gmail.com](mailto:bucksrecsoc@gmail.com) several days before they would like to collect the volumes. Collections can take place during opening hours (9 to 5 Tuesday and Thursday, 10 to 5 on Wednesday and 9 to 4 on the first Saturday in the month). If you are not able to email then you can write to the BRS Secretary at Buckinghamshire Archives.

#### Surplus Book Stock to be offered to BAS members [N.B. Some copies are second hand]

Volume	Title	Number available
8	Subsidy Roll, 1524	Microfiche only, no hard copies
18	Luffield Priory Charters, Part 2	Over 40 copies
19	Courts of the Archdeaconry, 1483-1523	Over 20 copies
22	Posse Comitatus, 1798	Microfiche only, no hard copies
24	Probate Inventories, 1661-1714	Over 90 copies

<b>Volume</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Number available</b>
25	Feet of Fines, 1179-1307	Over 100 copies
27	Buckinghamshire Religious Census, 1851	Over 40 copies
28	Buckinghamshire Dissent and Parish Life, 1669-1712	Over 100 copies
29	Inquests and Indictments, 14 <sup>th</sup> cent	Over 100 copies
30	Glebe Terriers, 1578-1640	Over 100 copies
31	Recollections of Nineteenth Century Bucks	Hardback, over 100 copies
31	Recollections of Nineteenth Century Bucks	Paperback, over 100 copies
32	Probate Index, 1483-1660	Over 200 copies
33	Household Book of Sir Edward Don (1510-1551)	Over 200 copies
34	Buckinghamshire Eyre, 1286	Over 100 copies
	<b>Buckinghamshire Sessions Records</b>	
	Volume 3, 1705-1712	Over 100 copies

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Our programme for the 2023 - 2024 season has been as varied as ever, from discovering what is treasure with the Bucks Finds Liaison Officer to finding out about Mesolithic life and flint knapping.



**September** saw a keen cohort of youngsters walking up and down fields near Great Missenden to get a taste of geophysics. This was part of a project to investigate the mystery of Grim's Ditch run by CCB: Chalk, Cherries & Chairs, Lucy Lawrence of BCAS and Aylesbury YAC Leaders.

In **October** we welcomed Arwen Wood, Bucks Finds Liaison Officer, Discover Bucks Museum to talk about the Portable Antiquities Scheme and tell us what we should all do if we find an archaeological artefact in Buckinghamshire.



Claire de Carle and Gwen Miles of the Bucks Gardens Trust came along in **November** to introduce how archaeology is used in garden history. They brought along lots of compost and cress seeds so that everyone could experiment with creating crop or parch marks. These developed over the following week, and as an added bonus some members also discovered that cress is good to eat!

Our **December** meeting was a time to relax and play games. We looked at some of the archaeological evidence for board games over the past several thousand years before challenging each other to games of Senet and Mehen from Ancient Egypt and the Royal Game of Ur from Ancient Mesopotamia. Thanks to Nigel Rothwell, one of our Leaders, for recreating the games and simplifying some of the rules.





Mike Farley came along to start the New Year with a session in **January** about pottery, challenging our members to try and work out the timeline for the assemblage of pot sherds that he brought along, before everyone got messy and creative with clay, making their own pots inspired by Mike's collection.

In **February** we went back to archaeological basics as we have so many new members, with an introduction to Stratigraphy, led by one of our new leaders, Charlie Nicholson of MOLA. We combined this with a visit from a CBA Consultant who is undertaking a pilot project to understand the impact of the work YAC leaders do with young people and to allow YAC / CBA to better tell the story of the YAC and demonstrate its value to others. We are proud that we were selected to be one of the seven YAC Branches (out of 70 Branches in England) who were invited to take part. We await the report with interest.



In **March** we celebrated the **25th Anniversary of Chiltern YAC**, a significant achievement as not many YAC Branches thrive for so long! We ran a session for the members in the morning when Will Attard, an archaeologist with Thames Valley Archaeological Services, came to share his



passion and expertise of the Mesolithic and flint with us. He brought slate pieces and flint flake tools for everyone to create their own Star Carr Mesolithic inspired slate pendants.



After the YAC session, we were joined by families, former YAC Leaders and alumni, our Sponsor Mark Milligan of HeritageDaily and representatives from the local archaeological and heritage groups for a flint knapping demonstration given by Will.



Following this, about 70 people enjoyed a buffet lunch whilst we watched a short presentation of the highlights of the past 25 years. Lucy Lawrence, Archaeology Officer at Bucks County Council and Matt Guy, Aylesbury YAC Leader then revealed the results of the Grim's Ditch geophysical survey we helped with last September (see above). Yes, we had helped to reveal another part of Grim's Ditch! Our members who had taken part were very proud to hear that their names would be included in the final published report.

The event made for a very enjoyable and successful celebration, and included attendees from Aylesbury YAC, BAS, BCAS, CCB/CCC,

Discover Bucks Museum, Oxfordshire CC and Ridgeway Partnership. Good wishes were also received from those unable to attend: Amersham Museum, AOC, CBA, CHAP, Hillingdon YAC, North Wiltshire YAC, UoR Archaeology Dept., This was our opportunity to say thank you to some of the people and organisations who have contributed to helping us develop the next generation of archaeologists and historians! Here's looking forward to setting out on our journey for the next 25 years...

Over the last few months we have been very pleased to be able to welcome 2 new Leaders to our Branch, Charlie Nicholson of MOLA and Lucy-Anne Taylor, a Project Curator at the British Museum in Reading. Also, since the start of our new season of activities last September we have been welcoming new members into the group, but as demand always outstrips our ability to accept new members, we are still running a waiting list. As ever, our advice is to add your name to our waiting list.

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, to join the waiting list, are interested in volunteering or for more information please contact us at: [chilternyac@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chilternyac@hotmail.co.uk).

Further information on the YAC organisation is available at <https://www.yac-uk.org/clubs/chiltern>.

Janet Rothwell (Chiltern YAC Leader)

**HERITAGE**  
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## Cicely Baker, BAS, and the foundation of the Council for British Archaeology

### The CBA at 80

This year (2024) marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA). The CBA was set up as an independent champion for archaeology, to combat the intense pressure on the historic environment from post-war redevelopment. Its original purpose was to safeguard archaeological material of all kinds, and to strengthen existing measures for the care of ancient and historic buildings, monuments, and antiquities.

Today the CBA is the UK's leading archaeology charity, committed to making archaeology accessible to all. It now has a more extensive remit, championing archaeology in all its forms, bringing together community, commercial, academic and heritage organisations to share, discover and inspire. It achieves this through: the annual Festival of Archaeology; Buildings Archaeology Casework; Archaeological Achievement Awards; The Young Archaeologists' Clubs; public lecture series – This is Archaeology; and the British Archaeology magazine.

### How did this come about?

In 1943, as the tide of war was turning, archaeologists were beginning to contemplate the herculean tasks of reconstruction, preservation, and redevelopment in British industrial cities. Sir Alfred Clapham, President of the Society of Antiquaries, convened a meeting of the Congress of Archaeological Societies (founded in 1888 as an organisation of local, regional and national archaeological and historical societies, working together with the Society of Antiquaries). Cicely Baker, who at the time was BAS Curator and Librarian, as well as the Local Secretary for Buckinghamshire at the Society of Antiquaries, represented BAS at the Congress of Archaeological Societies meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1943.

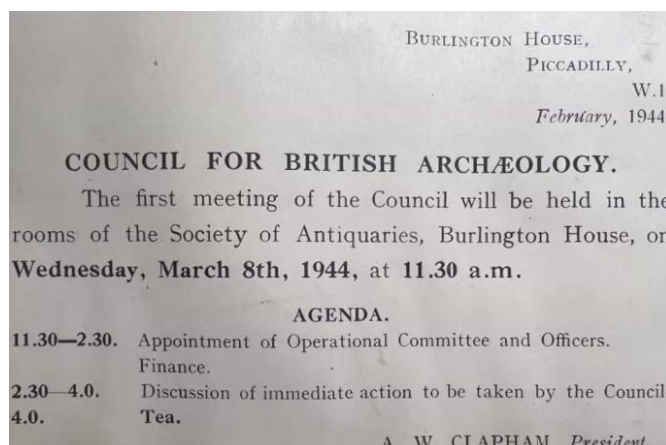


**SOCIETY OF  
ANTIQUARIES  
OF LONDON**

Cicely Baker is recorded in the Minute Book of the Congress of Archaeological Societies, convened by the Society of Antiquaries, 17<sup>th</sup> November 1943 (© Society of Antiquaries of London, CCA-SA3.0U)

In March 1944 Sir Alfred called a meeting of the Congress "to discuss the requirements of archaeology in the post-war period." Cicely seconded the motion which was put to the meeting to dissolve the Congress to make way for the new Council of British Archaeology.

Agenda for the inaugural meeting of the Council for British Archaeology, 8<sup>th</sup> March 1944 (© Council for British Archaeology)



### How did Cicely come to have such an influential, but under-stated role?

Cicely was born in Surrey in 1900. She moved to Ceely House, Church Street, Aylesbury (now Grade II\* listed and part of the Discover Bucks Museum buildings), aged two, when her father, Dr John Baker, purchased the property for his family home, surgery and dispensary. The Georgian Room was the Baker family sitting room, and Cicely's bedroom was upstairs in the Tudor House part.

In the 1890s BAS had struggled to raise the funding to establish a proper County Museum. In 1905 the Society organised a two-day Jubilee exhibition of County treasures in the Corn Exchange, jointly organised by Dr Baker, to raise the profile of the County Museum project. The exhibition was sufficiently successful that in 1907 it enabled BAS to raise funds through subscriptions and private donations to purchase the Old Grammar School buildings, next door to Ceely House. The Museum opened to the public in 1908, with Edwin Hollis as the resident Curator and Dr Baker becoming Honorary Assistant Curator. Thus, Cicely's association with the Society commenced.



DISTINCTLY.	Articles to be forwarded by <i>Thursday June 30th</i> <del>TUESDAY 4th July</del> 1905, addressed to <b>Hon. Secretaries, Town Hall, Aylesbury.</b>
	<b>BUCKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL LOAN EXHIBITION,</b> 1905.
PLEASE WRITE	No. <i>1.</i>
	Full Title of Work
	Contributor's Name <i>H.M. The King</i>
	Address
	Value for Insurance <i>£25.</i>
To be attached firmly by ribbon so as to hang over front.	

Dr Baker with Cicely in the garden of Ceely House, Church Street, Aylesbury, sitting on the 1905 Exhibition Catalogue item No. 1 – a chair made by Mr Glenister of High Wycombe and presented to Queen Victoria for her Jubilee in 1887  
(© BAS, Discover Bucks Museum)



Cicely Baker c. 1909, perhaps already practising her chariot skills at an early age! In the grounds of Ceely House  
(with permission: © from the collections at Buckinghamshire Archives - any form of reproduction, transmission, performance, display, rental, lending or storage in any retrieval system without the consent of the copyright holders is prohibited)

Cicely read history at St. Hilda's College, Oxford; became a founder member of the Society of Archivists, the Museums Association, and the British Records Society; and was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1947. Following the death of Edwin Hollis in 1941, and at a time of great uncertainty, she stepped in to take over as Curator of the Bucks Museum, and throughout the war years she kept BAS functioning almost single-handedly.

### **Cicely's legacy**

Discover Bucks Museum, Ceely House, Church Street, Aylesbury (© Public domain)



The Museum was running out of space, and in 1944 Cicely sold Ceely House to the Society for the generous price of £4,500, though it did not become available for museum use until 1949. In the lean post-war years the Society found it difficult to resource the larger premises and growing collections, so reluctantly entered into negotiations with the County Council. A joint Museum Committee was formed in 1951 which resulted in the partnership between the Society and Bucks Council which commenced in 1957. Cicely served as the Society's Archivist from 1946-74 and was a Vice President.

Cicely died in 1980 and her obituary alludes to her having a sharp scholarly mind, being well read, a stickler for proper procedure and use of language, though perhaps a little naïve and idealistic, and certainly formidable. It records that in 1951, for a Festival of Britain celebration, she was on the organising committee for an historical pageant to be presented in the Prebendal garden in Aylesbury. She wrote some of the dialogue, and in the first of ten episodes was to perform as Queen Boadicea in a chariot doing battle against the Romans. The scholar in her insisted that the role title was really Boudicca, although it was pointed out that this would probably mean nothing to most of the audience. But she stood her ground and was adamant, she was to be addressed as Boudicca, or not at all. Sadly, it would appear, the citizens of Aylesbury were denied the opportunity to see her perform as Queen of the Iceni, a role that her obituarist considered her singularly well equipped to play!

Cicely's contribution to the field of archaeology is now recorded in the wiki database being compiled for the Beyond Notability project, re-evaluating women's work in archaeology, history and heritage between 1870 and 1950.

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## Nigel Rothwell

With thanks also to Janet Rothwell, Mike Farley and Sarah Gray.

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

**B** Discover Bucks  
Museum

## BAS Library

For access to the BAS Library, the current arrangements will continue.  
Please pre-book your visit with the Library team

Email: [Bucksas@discoverbucksmuseum.org](mailto:Bucksas@discoverbucksmuseum.org) Tel. 01296 798015.

**B** Discover Bucks  
Museum   
& Roald Dahl Children's Gallery



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