

President & Chairman: Mrs. C. Graham-Kerr, The Thatched Cottage, Whitchurch Hill. (Pang.2901)
 Hon. Secretary: Mrs. C. Perdue, Tall Beeches, Hardwick Rd., Whitchurch. (Pang.2009)
 Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E. L. French, Mulberry Cottage, Manor Rd., Goring. (Gor.2277)
 Hon. Director and Bulletin Editor: Mr. W. J. Fowler, 25 High St., Watlington. (Wat.734)

Forthcoming activities.

Each Friday T.F.N. at 8 p.m. at Langtree F.E. Centre, Woodcote, continuation of lecture course on 'The Archaeology of the Middle Thames Valley' by R. A. Rutland, M.A.

"26 attended the first meeting with the Tutor giving a stimulating start. We anticipate a really interesting series of lectures illustrated with slides." C.G.-K.

Fieldwork Sundays 6th and 27th Feb. Meet at the Thatched Cottage 11 am.

Meeting Sunday 13th Feb. at 3 pm. at the Thatched Cottage. Bring mugs, cakes etc.

Reports.

7 January Meeting at Whitchurch Hill. Several new members were welcomed and there were some 20 members present. Arrangements were made for the visit to the Ashmolean Museum and for other activities during February.

Mr. Roy Boyson (Checkendon 490) kindly agreed to take over the 'scrapbook' from Miss O. Buckley, now at Kent University, and would be glad to hear of any items of local historical and archaeological interest - stories, recollections, customs, names, odd objects etc. It is hoped to put this information, and items from the President's log book and this bulletin, on a card index for easy reference.

The Hon. Director gave a report on the work to date on the Lilley Farm site and talked generally about excavation recording.

1 January Committee Meeting. After discussion it was decided at this stage not to draw up a formal constitution for the Group as it was felt that sufficient framework was and could be provided in the minutes of meetings. Future activities were also discussed.

15 January. Visit to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The President reports: 24 members and 6 visitors made an interested audience for Mr. David Hinton, Assistant Keeper, who gave us about 1½ hours on English pottery from the early medieval Thetford and Stamford wares to the 'Greybeard' type, imported from the Rhineland to become in the late 16th and 17th centuries the common tavern ware, and of which two substantial sherds have been found at Lilley Farm. This was an extremely helpful and informative morning, with the added pleasure of handling pots and sherds from the showcases. Our thanks are due to Mr. Hinton for giving us of his time and knowledge so fully.

Fieldwork.

Mr. C. Hart reports: using the 6 in. Ordnance Survey maps as a basis field work began in May 1971 and has continued on Wednesday evenings as long as possible and on many Sundays since. The overall area to be covered is South Oxfordshire from the Thames R. to the Crowmarsh - Henley on Thames road, A 4130 and A 423. (v. reports in Bulletins 13, 14 & 15)

To the end of the year some work has been done in the following parishes, showing significant traces of old roads and trackways, field boundaries and lynchets, gravel, clay and chalk pits. In each parish noted below the most interesting items so far noted are given.

Whitchurch The rampart of the Bozodown Iron Age Camp continues to be levelled by ploughing.
Goring Heath. Sherds of a large globular cooking pot, probably 13th cent., recovered from a gully revealed by trench digging operations. (v. Bulletin no. 14) NGR. SU63657848.

Moated site with possible internal divisions in Briarhamstead Wood (SU64508065)

Goring. Dyke 2m. deep and 14m. wide running for 600m. along a hill crest and the parish boundary from SU62608010 to 62357962.

Ring ditches SU 60697965

Mapledurham Foundations of glazed brick and flint cottage at SU 67677768 on proposed new route of B479

Kidmore end Large ox bone in 17th cent. wattle and daub wall at New Inn. (v. Bulletin 15)

South Stoke. Lynchets and terraces on and around White Hill. (SU609045)

Ipsden. Possible ridge and furrow on Carsons Hill. (647845)

It is hoped to carry out surveys of gravel pits at Sonning Eye and in advance of major road improvements to the A 4155 in the parishes of Eye and Donsdon, Shipplake and Harpsden.

The last field walk of the year took place on 21st November in very adverse weather conditions, from Trench Green (SU684777) by way of Noke End (688768) where are the remains

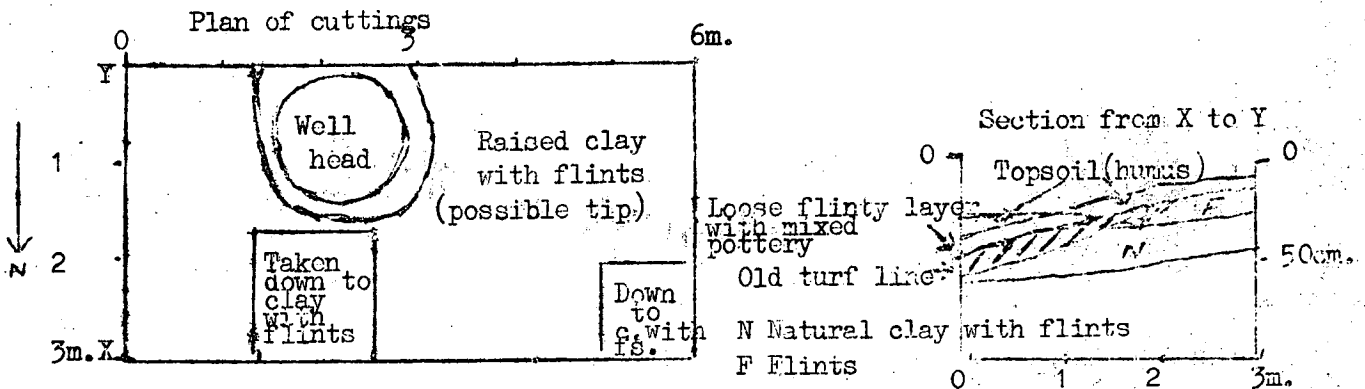
of a brick and flint cottage were noted amidst a complex of field boundaries and disused trackways. The search for a possible continuation of the old road from Sandyhill Plantation to the Pack Horse P.H. was inconclusive.

'Roman' Well, Berins Hill, Ipsden.

This is situated on the clay slope of a thickly wooded chalk combe. In 1970 two trenches were laid out near the wellhead in the hope of stratified finds, to ascertain the date of construction. In this first season late 3rd to mid.4th cent. Roman sherds, mixed with a few late Medieval sherds of the 13th - 15th cents. were found in the layer below the topsoil.

In 1971 a third layer of some significance was uncovered: this was the old turf line, undisturbed only in a hollow in one trench, and containing 13th-14th cent. pottery. This would indicate that the Roman sherds found in layer 2 are there as the result of disturbance and could have come from elsewhere in modern times. The brick and flint capping which sealed the well is certainly modern.

A third trench was cut through a platform to the N. of the well and a few well weathered 13th. cen. sherds were found just below the surface, with a minute piece of bronze. The trench was deepened to the natural clay and chalk and nothing of any significance was found. In none of the three trenches were there any traces of structure.



From report and drawings by Clive Hart.

RESCUE The second annual meeting was held in the Beveridge Hall, Senate House, London Univ. on 15 Jan. 1972 and was attended by some 600, including many of the leading figures in British Archaeology. In his address, Mr. Martin Biddle, the Chairman, stressed three tasks as well as the immediate necessity of raising money, tasks to which to devote funds raised, which could never match public expenditure. These were -i- to make the public aware of the rapid destruction of our archaeological heritage -ii- to improve contacts with national and local government -iii- to promote improvements in field archaeology. If you have not become a member, the address is: Rescue, 25A The Tything, Worcester.

W.J.F.

Some books of interest.

Derek Roe, Prehistory. Paladin illustrated. 80p. A good introduction to the subject, with chapters on each of the main divisions and a section on the modern approach.

The author is at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford and one of the speakers at the Feb. CBA IX conference.

Ceram, The World of Archaeology. Fontana 75p.

" , Picture History of Arch. Thames and Hudson 90p.

View over Atlantis, available on loan from public libraries, is recommended as a review of the theories about the origins of this legendary land.

Radio and TV

Currently on Radio 3 is a series on 'The New Archaeology', best perhaps read when printed in 'The Listener', 20 Jan. onwards. (V. Bulletin no. 15 An Archaeological Revolution?)

The monthly 'Chronicle' programme on BBC2 is concerned with Archaeology. The latest, Sat. 29 Jan. was mainly about the discovery and partial preservation of the headquarters of the Roman fleet at Dover when a ring road was being built.

Suggestions. The President writes:

Please bring any ideas for outings or the general improvement and running of the Group. Write them out briefly and we will have a Suggestion Box. We want you ALL to have a hand in running the Group. It is YOUR Group - say what you would like to do. Please say also if you disapprove of anything - constructive criticism is helpful. Please come to meetings without costing SOAG a reminder phone call.

Deck ▽ Raian.