

Falkshields

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SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP  
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Bulletin no.14.

July 1971

Officers and Committee 1971-2.

President & Chairman: Mrs. C. Graham-Kerr, The Thatched Cottage, Whitchurch Hill (Pang.2901)  
Hon. Sec.: Mrs. C. Perdue, Tall Beeches, Whitchurch. (Pang.2009)  
Hon. Treas.: Mr. E. L. French, Mulberry Cottage, Manor Rd., Goring. (Gorg.2277)  
Director & Bulletin Editor: Mr. W. J. Fowler, 25 High St., Watlington, Oxford. (Wat.734)  
Field Directors: Mr. C. Hart, 32 Reeves Way, Wokingham. (Readg.84627 weekdays)  
Mrs. G. Sheridan, White Gables, Stoke Row. (Checkendon 224)  
Committee: Mrs. M. Fallowfield, Mrs. N. Gould, Miss O. Buckley, Mr. H. Jones, Mr. S. Jones.

Subscriptions. These are now due; the rates are as follows:

Ordinary 50p, Family (two adults) 75p, Junior (under 20) 25p.

Meeting 11 June.

This was held at the Thatched Cottage and reports were given on current work (see below)  
Mr. French showed slides of the excavations at Lilley Farm and members also saw slides of Avebury and the West Kennet Long Barrow, which will be visited in September (see below)

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The July meeting will be held at 5.45 for 6 p.m. on Sunday, 18th July at White Gables, Busgrove Lane, Stoke Row, by kind invitation of Mrs. G. Sheridan. (Look for the Hope P.H. on the corner of the lane!) Please bring a mug and some cakes will be welcome. There will be work at the Well in the afternoon, but taking part in this is not an essential preliminary to attendance at the meeting.

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Calendar of activities July to September.

Sun. 18 July. Well Meet at White Gables, Stoke Row at 2.30 p.m. (G. Sheridan directing)  
Wed. 21 July. Fieldwork - C. Hart and G. Sheridan. Meet at the Thatched Cottage at 7.30 p.m. and every Wed. until further notice.

→ Sun. 25 July. Lilley Farm Moated Site SU678768. From 11 a.m. (W. J. Fowler)

Sun. 1 Aug. Lilley Farm. 2.30 p.m. (C. Graham-Kerr)

Suns. 8 and 15 Aug. Well as above.

Suns. 22 and 29 Aug. Lilley Farm as above, 2.30 22nd, 11 29th.

Frid. 10 Sept. Meeting at the Thatched Cottage 7.30 p.m.

Sun. Sept. 12. Fieldwork from 11 a.m. Meet at Whitchurch Hill.

Saturday 18 Sept. Excursion to Avebury area.

Member Rev. J. F. Shearer has offered the use of his minibus, and cars can be arranged in addition, for this proposed excursion, visiting Avebury - circles and museum, West Kennet Long Barrow, Silbury Hill, Windmill Hill, with possibly a downs walk if time and weather permit. Packed lunches should be brought.

Cost will be 75p adults 50p juniors to cover petrol and incidentals. Members only  
As places must be limited please apply early to Mrs. G. Sheridan (Checkendon (9925) 224

Times: dep. White Gables, Stoke Row 9 a.m. prompt, Whitchurch Hill 9.30; returning c. 7 p.m.

Reports on work in hand.

Fieldwork.

C. Hart reports: the overall area it is hoped to cover in several seasons work is S. Oxon North from the Thames to the Crowmarsh-Henley on Thames roads, A4130 and A423. This contains 23 civil parishes. Work to date has resulted in noting and plotting old field boundaries, hollow ways and a possible Iron Age dyke in Goring Heath, disused clay and chalk pits in Goring, a rectangular moated site in Woodcote, among many other features in these parishes and in parts of Ipsden, Whitchurch and Stoke Row. Most fields are of course under crops now so that walks have been largely in woodlands and open spaces.

Immediate attention is concentrated on the trenching for an oil pipe line, which is proceeding at a fantastic pace from Whitchurch to Woodcote. With the full cooperation of the contractors and others a close watch is being kept on the work. All help is needed - ring C. Hart Reading 84627 weekdays (not in Aug.) or the President.

Stop Press. During the last few days (8 July) most of the sherds of a large globular cooking pot, probably 13/14 cent., have been recovered from a gully revealed in the side of the trench near the smithy at Whitchurch Hill.

Well.

G. Sheridan reports: continued work around the well head showed a sealed ancient turf line below the flint rubble layer. This turf line yielded partially weathered mediaeval

(contd)

Work in hand(continued)

sherds some of which fitted together to show the globular form of the original pots. These sherds are the only evidence to date of earlier settlement in the area of the well and are probably of the early 13th cent.

The owner of the land, to whom we are grateful for allowing us to excavate, has found in his garden a coarse grey ware jug neck with part of a thick thumb handle. Sections have been drawn of the first cuttings, which are now being filled in.

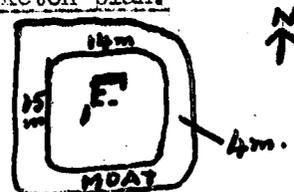
Lilley Farm Moated Site.

W.J. Fowler reports: three tentative conclusions can be advanced at this stage, -i- the site is probably not earlier in its main construction than the 18th cent. from the general character of the debris; -ii- it was probably not a habitation site, from the small no. of small finds; -iii- it is much more complex than was first thought.

It seemed that an approx. 5 by 4 metre solid brick and flint foundation occupied the N.E. sector of the rectangular island. Recent work has modified this in two respects: first the solid foundation does not extend over the whole of this sector. It rather consists of containing flint wall bases of different thicknesses and there are indications of at least one interior wall. Secondly there is the N. end of another wall, or the continuation of the West wall, into the S.W. sector of the island, outside the structure as hitherto envisaged.

Ian Mason is pursuing the estate records, which could well contain references to work which must have been done here, and which could tell us what this structure was. It now appears that a catalogue to the records exists, but is not immediately available.

Please make a note of 25 July (see calendar) and come along for as long as you can.

Rough sketch plan.

The Crofton Beam Engine, near Hungerford on the Kennet-Avon Canal. SU262622

A. V. J. Graham-Kerr visited this and reports that this restored beam engine, made by the famous firm of Boulton and Watt in 1812, is one of the oldest working anywhere. It is used to pump the water from a stream below into a pound by the mill in which the engine is housed. From the pound the water can be let into the canal, by a leat which now runs under the railway, to maintain the water level. Steaming dates in the near future are on Aug 7, 8; Sept. 12, 12. Admission 15p, car park and teas available.

The Council for British Archaeology (C.B.A.) leading

This body, the members of which are most of the archaeological societies and institutions of the country, exists to look after the interests of archaeology at all levels and to provide a means of coordinating activities and information. It is organised through the country in regional groups. S.O.A.G. has recently become a member of No. 9 Group, which covers Berks, Bucks, Oxon, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, and the Director has also become the Hon. Sec. of this Group. The Society will benefit by receiving the group bulletins and other information, and thus knowing of work in neighbouring areas, and by some members being able to attend conferences etc not only gain information but be able to discuss common problems and interests. Copies of the Feb. (annual) No. 9 bulletin are still available from your editor at 10p. This reports on the chief work done over the five counties in 1970.

Some publications of interest. i. to buy

W.C. Hoskins, The making of the English landscape. Penguin. 75p. 'Invaluable for field walkers' I.M.

F. Celoria, Archaeology. Hamlyn, illustrated 40p. A clear introduction.

## ii. to consult

Deuel, Flights into Yesterday. Macdonald £5. A very thorough popular account of aerial photography.

J.H.B. Peel, Along the Roman Roads of Britain. Cassell £2.75.

Many thanks to the members who contributed these titles and recommendations.

President's Letter. This has been crowded out, with other pieces, and the Editor apologises.

Maybe we should consider a third page? One passage from the President must be quoted.

"What we would like to see now is the presence of our 'sleeping members' at the monthly meetings.... We value your membership and are trying hard to give you a share in the activities... please come to the next on 18 July. Someone will collect you if needed. Ring Pang. 2901.

C.A.G.K.

PLEASE KEEP THIS BULLETIN BY YOU. CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED. NEXT ISSUE SEPT. W.J.F. 9.7.71.

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The Fallowfields

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