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SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP  
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BULLETIN NO.16. DECEMBER 1971  
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Forthcoming activities.

Fieldwork Sundays 2nd 9th 23rd January. Meet at the Thatched Cottage 1100 hrs (Darkness sets in soon after 1600 hrs)

Meeting Friday 7th January at the Thatched Cottage at 1930 hrs.  
Excavation recording illustrated by notes, plans, sections, finds and interim report on the Lilley Farm moated site.

First meeting Friday 14th January of 10 lecture course at Langtree P.E. Centre, Woodcote.  
The Archaeology of the Middle Thames Valley E.A. Rutland F.A. 2000 hrs. (8pm)  
Mr. Rutland is the archaeologist at Reading Museum. Copies of the course prospectus may be obtained from the Hon. Sec. or from Mr. P. Trout at the Langtree Centre.

Visit to the Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St., Oxford Saturday 15th January.  
Meet in the entrance hall at 1030 hrs where the party will be met by Mr. D. A. Hinton M.A. Assistant Keeper.  
Parking in Oxford is by disc and not easy. St. John St. (right from Beaumont St.) and Gloucester Green (left) may be possible but the main car parks are 10 to 15 mins. walk away.

CBA IX Local Archaeology weekend 19/20 Feb. in Oxford. Notices available from the President or the Editor. Early booking advisable.

Reports

Meetings were held on Oct. 8th and Nov. 12th at Whitchurch Hill and on the second occasion there was a discussion with Mr. Rutland and the WEA Organiser to arrange a course of lectures beginning in January (see above)

On Sunday 5th December members met at Caversham, by kind invitation of Mrs. D. Corkery Ian Mason showed some pottery drawings and Ron Murphy some flints from Bray. Slides were shown of sites in Greece and in Brittany, and of the group excursion to Avebury.

Lilley Farm Moated Site.

Work this year has been limited owing to the priority given to fieldwork and the need to finish the cuttings at the Well. However, significant progress has been made, down to Dec. 12th No further work is probable until late February or March.

Two developments in particular have occurred. First, it is clear that we are dealing with a much more complex structure than the simple rectangular foundation envisaged a year ago and that only the complete uncovering of the site will give the full answer. Fortunately the site is small but we may have to move parts of our earlier spoil heaps! Secondly, while the general inferences still point to a context not much over 200 years ago, the identification of some few sherds as being from the 16th and 17th century could indicate an earlier or longer occupation. The continued scarcity of pottery and other small finds is against it being a habitation site, but this very scarcity and the news on the pottery makes it very necessary that we do not miss anything

The sketch plan shows the wall foundations so far uncovered. It is only on the W. side that the presumed external wall is continuous. It seems that there may be two or three linked structures, not all on the same level. The main material of the wall lines is flint, with some brick and chalk blocks, but in the S.E. there are two apparently tooled and probably reused sandstone blocks. Tile pieces continue to be abundant but there is little evidence of any wall material above the foundations.

Most of the small finds have been found outside or between the presumed structures. These small finds comprise 15 pottery sherds, irons spikes and nails and miscellaneous pieces, 1 1/2 horseshoes, 1 piece of glass, small bits of metal, a few oyster shells and pebbles - and the coin of Allectus c. 295 AD.

Under these circumstances there is but one course; to fall back on technique and to continue excavation on methodical lines: the solution will eventually emerge. Next season should be interesting.

Fieldwork and the Well Reports in the next bulletin in late January.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND AN ARCHAEOLOGICALLY INTERESTING AND PRODUCTIVE NEW YEAR.

