

THE  
BULLETIN

SOAG

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

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\* ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP \*  
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Bulletin No. 33

June 1977

S.O.A.G. DIARY

JUNE

Thursday 16th: Evening outing to Ufton Nervet - meet at Ufton Nervet Church at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 18th/21st: Archaeological Exhibition at Wallingford Town Hall.

Saturday 25th: Day outing to Quarrendon deserted mediaeval village and Wing church - meet at Aylesbury Museum at 11 a.m. with packed lunch. Time will be given for members to visit the Museum which is in Church Street. There is car parking nearby.

JULY

Friday 15th: Evening outing to Watlington, places of interest and Town Hall, conducted by Mr. W. Fowler - meet at church car park at 7.30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 17th: Day outing to Minster Lovell and North Leigh Roman Villa - meet at car park in Minster Lovell at 11 a.m. - bring packed lunch.

OCTOBER

Thursday 13th: Grenville Astall of the Berkshire Archaeological Unit on the recent work of the Unit - 7.30 at Langtree.

Friday 28th: Mr. Richard Amsden of the Chiltern Society Open Air Museum Group on the work of dismantling old buildings for the Museum, and plans for rebuilding and other activities - 7.30 at Langtree.

NOVEMBER

Friday 18th: Dr. Michael Fulford on excavations at Silchester - 7.30 at Langtree.

Early December - Christmas wine and buffet at the Oratory.

LIFTS If you are stuck for Transport to any Function, please contact Pat Woodward: Goring 2107 and she will try to arrange help. At the same time please let her know should you be able to give anyone else a lift.

NOTICES

Subscriptions Please note Subscriptions for 1977 are due with this issue of the Bulletin. Please convey them to the Treasurer Bert Vaughan of 54, Whitehouse Road, Woodcote, or to the President

The yearly subscription is £1., or £1.50 for 'family' (2 people) and 25pence for Juniors under 20.

Compared with other Soceties of similar or lesser standing (one is £3) we are managing to keep it very low, but, with rising costs (including petrol for calling on people!) we shall, regrettably, have to say:

NO SUBSCRIPTIONS: NO BULLETIN

You have been warned!

If any members attend any sort of Archaeological function (digs, lectures, courses etc.) would they PLEASE contact the President and either tell her verbally which S.O.A.G.'s were present and a quick resume of what took place, or write her a short Report, to enable her to record it in the S.O.A.G. Logbook which is the complete record of our activities.

Would all S.O.A.G.'s please note the Calendar dates in their Diaries (especially Meetings) so that we may have a more reasonable attendance for our Lectures and not give them the impression we are mediocre and apathetic; also to give encouragement to your forlorn Committee who long to see your bright, interested faces at our functions!

### Questionnaire in Bulletin

Only a few took the trouble to send their papers back, to help us to arrange a programme to suit you all.

May we have a little more co-operation please? It is not too late even now!

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1977

The Annual General Meeting was held at Langtree F.E. Centre at 3p.m. on Sunday March 20th. Thirty-seven members were present and the Chair was taken by Mr. William Fowler.

Mr. Fowler welcomed members, and after the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and signed, the President gave her report of activities during the past year.

She said that there was still little support for outings and meetings, at seven of these there had only been twelve to fifteen members present out of a possible sixty. After giving an account of the various activities she thanked the Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and the Committee for the work they had done.

### Treasurer's Report

Mr. Peter Anderson reported that the present financial position was quite good, with sixty-two paid up members. Two years affiliation fees to the Langtree Centre had been paid, and there was £59.48 pence in hand. He pointed out that this satisfactory position was largely due to a number of subscriptions long overdue having been paid. He then thanked the Auditor.

The Treasurer who was retiring due to an expected move from the district was warmly thanked for his good work in re-organising the records of members.

Mrs. Pat Woodford explained to members that owing to inflation, subscriptions would have to be raised, or the Group would be run at a loss. This increase had been kept to an absolute minimum of £1 for single members, and £1.50 for families. To make this pay a real effort would have to be made to publicise meetings, and for members to bring along interested friends, who would be expected to make a small contribution to speaker's expenses. If these measures were not successful the subscription would have to go up substantially next year.

### Election of Officers and Committee

Mr. Fowler expressed the appreciation of S.O.A.G. for the continuing interest and effort contributed by our President year after year, for which everyone would wish to thank her. He then made an appeal for a volunteer for the post of Chairman. As there was no response he said that the Secretary and Committee were all willing to continue in office. Mr. French proposed Mr. Herbert Vaughan as the next Treasurer and Mr. Graham Kerr seconded this, there were no other nominations, so Mr. Vaughan was elected. Mr. French also suggested that for the well being of the Group, and to prevent stagnation, there should be a turnover in members of the Committee. Volunteers were then asked for, and Mrs. Pat. Preece and Mr. Michael Osorio came forward, and were warmly welcomed as new members of the Committee.

### Reports and Future Activities

Dr. Bernard Levy pointed out that there was no complete list of sites of archaeological interest in our area. He proposed to start a group to search for such sites both by looking in books and journals, and by observation in the field. He invited volunteers for this work which he said should prove interesting, and need not take too long to complete.

Mr. Gareth Thomas gave an account of future excavations in which members of the group may be able to take part; in particular one at Pingewood in September. Members interested in excavation could get in touch with him (Tel: Reading 472864) for more up-to-date information.

Mrs. Marion Fallowfield reported on the progress of the Mapledurham parish survey. Work had been done on houses and cottages in Mapledurham Village; these had been inspected and photographed, and a start had been made on fieldwalking the woodlands of the parish. After this the business part of the Meeting was closed.

Tea followed, and then Mrs. Hassall gave a most interesting talk entitled 'Backyard Archaeology' in which she gave the history of all the many and varied objects which she has found around her home, and on her travels.

## Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hampshire

A decade ago the Hampshire County Council began to establish a series of country parks to encourage public access to and understanding of the countryside. These include the Hill Forts of Beacon Hill and Danebury and the Tudor Ruins of Old Basing House.

Last August, amid a blaze of TV publicity, the Queen opened the park that bears her name, an area of downland, part of which ~~has~~ recently been planted by the Forestry Commission. The well-appointed visitors' centre explains the archaeology and ecology of the park and suggests nature trails that include slight remains of a Roman villa, Celtic fields and some large Iron Age dykes, as well as the flora and fauna. The dykes isolate the plateau summit of Butser Hill, but it is uncertain whether this area was a town, fairground, temple precinct, or combination of all three.

As all S.O.A.G.'s will know, an Iron Age "experimental farm" has been established on Little Butser Hill, and continues its programme of research with the aid of a Leverhume grant, hoping to illuminate the past and perhaps show the way ahead for British agriculture. Some argue that soil and pest conditions have changed so much in the last 2,000 years, that experimental data must be invalid, but all agree the farm is a marvellous visual aid.

The main farm is necessarily closed to the public as tourists would disturb both the animals and the researchers' timetable. Therefore a second demonstration farm has been established alongside the A3 and close to the park's visitors' centre with its car park, toilets and display.

It is hoped to demonstrate a variety of country crafts, such as charcoal burning, while facilities are available for a variety of activities, including horse-riding, grass skiing and hang-gliding. A range of guide books are also published. The Queen Elizabeth Country Park (Phone Horndean 595040) provides a perfect day out for the whole family; it sits astride the A3 a little south of Petersfield. It is open 10-6 in summer, 10-5 in winter, 4Op. being charged for the centre car park and 20p., for that on the hill top. Weather permitting, the demonstration farm is open at 20p., but both it and the main farm can be well seen over the fence.

### Anglo-Saxon Churches

On 7th May the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society held its A.G.M. at Brixworth; some S.O.A.G.'s attended, visiting other Saxon churches on the way. First we called at Wing, the Buckinghamshire Church at the centre of the third airport controversy. The church, built of multi-coloured stones, was obviously enlarged several times. An Anglo-Saxon apse survives, beneath which lies a barrel-vaulted crypt. We then penetrated the maze of new roads and roundabouts that will one day become Milton Keynes.

We were surprised at Earls Barton; expecting an isolated church in flat country, we found a substantial hillside town, the church standing on the hilltop, protected from the flat ground to the north by a huge dyke. Many believe the tenth century tower was built as a defended house before being converted into a church. Unfortunately the cement rendering which was peeling off has been replaced, preventing detailed structural analysis. Much of the Norman chancel survives, but the nave and aisles have been rebuilt several times.

The lectures that followed the A.G.M. dealt 'C.B.A. style' with various aspects of local archaeology including the current research programme at Brixworth church. The signpost proclaims Saxon Church 680 A.D.; the reality is much more complex. A great variety of stones were used, obviously an especially chosen selection of varied colours. Many bricks are incorporated into the structure; these are always said to be from a nearby Roman villa. When the villa was excavated the tiles found there were completely different, both in size, colour and texture. Meanwhile T.L. dating suggested that tiles built into the church and found in the village were in fact manufactured by the Anglo-Saxons who were previously thought incapable of tile-making.

Study of mortar from some parts of the church suggest that parts of a standing Roman building may have been incorporated into the later structure. Fragments of Roman and Anglo-Saxon sculptures have been found in the church, where they are displayed. Watkins, a 19th century vicar, restored the Saxon apse with its two-phase plaster rendering, and subterranean ambulatory. The Church was originally much wider, the earlier walls being visible beneath the churchyard turf. It is uncertain how much, if any,

of the tower belongs to the original church. At the west end of the church is a D-shaped stair turret with a rubble barrel-vaulted spiral staircase. This was thought to be a unique Saxon structure until eleven staircases of the same type were found in the Norman parts of Winchester Cathedral built before 1104. The turret was once higher and obviously was a roofless ruin at some phase.

From June 16th the study will be resumed, every stone being drawn and identified, samples of mortar and brick taken for analysis and a graveyard survey completed.

The work at Brixworth and other churches will no doubt lead to a re-appraisal not only of church architecture, but the whole history of the so-called Dark Ages.

The Reading University Archaeological Society now invites local people to become associate members at the very modest fee of 30p. a year. As well as excursions and social events, they arrange lectures by international archaeologists. As the student population constantly changes, good speakers can be invited more frequently than is possible with local groups such as our own.

Recently Phil Barker, founder of Rescue, spoke on 'Excavation Technique', pointing out the lack of published results from so many publically funded excavations. He stressed that excavation was an unrepeatable experiment and that preservation of sites is far more useful than hurried excavation. He regards the results of old excavations done in narrow trenches and boxes as misleading, only revealing a very small part of the evidence. He believes that the existence of Roman stone buildings, built to regular plans hindered the development here of the good digging techniques used by the Dutch and Scandinavians. The R.U.A.S. programme is displayed in Reading Museum, members receiving occasional news sheets.

#### Field Walk at Hartslock Wood

On 23rd April a party of 17 S.O.A.G.'s set out to explore a



which made the detailed recording of features difficult. After passing Coombe End Farm, with its dried-up pond and probable gravel pits, we observed the terraced banks surrounding Kessel's Copse. Skirting Merricrofts Wood, which contained many wild flowers, we reached Hartslock Wood.

The President had heard that a narrow gauge horse-drawn railway had once run through the wood connected with chalk pits. We found odd banks and ruts obscured by undergrowth, that could have marked its track.

The O.S. map shows a winding earthwork enclosing two sides of a triangle. Both ends of the bank with an external ditch terminate suddenly at the top of a 150ft. river cliff. The north-western arm of the earthwork is generally low and overlooked by higher ground outside. At the easternmost point where the bank forms a semi-circular loop, the bank and ditch are highest at about 10ft. The earthwork encloses a small valley, which contains at least one saw pit. There is no trace of a large entrance, though there are several small trench-like gaps midway along the north-easter side.

Some of the party then continued through the bluebells of Paul's Grove to the massive dyke that now marks the Goring/Goring Heath Parish boundary. The dyke terminates suddenly at both ends of its 500 yard run. In the past it would be argued that there must have been impenetrable woodland at either end of the dyke.

We assume that the Hartslock earthwork and Stapnall's Farm dyke are of Iron Age date and in some way connected with the extensive hill fort at Bozdown, but it would require further field walking, selective excavation and environmental sampling to confirm this.

STOP PRESS On the 29th May 10 S.O.A.G.'s and a dog visited the area again finding a Boundary Stone marked J.F. and following a variety of paths and hollow ways.

### Excavations and Field Walking

We regret that it is impossible to announce more details of excavations and field work in the Bulletin. Most excavations now occur immediately before development and dates must fit in with owners, tenants and contractors' needs. On some sites we must wait for the soil to dry out, on others for the harvest to be gathered. There is unlikely to be any major excavations this year.

Dr. Fulford of Reading University may need help digging the Silchester Forum in September.

The Berkshire Unit hopes to mount a major excavation of a 98 acre crop mark site at Pingewood on the south side of the M4 just outside the Reading Borough boundary. This should start in September; it is planned to use local help for six months' digging and six months' finds processing and writing up.

In recent months S.O.A.G.'s have helped on several Berkshire excavations. Last August part of Reading Abbey stables was excavated; it was hoped that there would be further excavations before the site was landscaped and opened to visitors. This plan has been postponed for several years; the site will be returned to its former use as a car park.

Last November the ditches of a Roman road were uncovered in a Bampton gravel pit. Unfortunately deep ploughing had destroyed the road surface and obscured earlier features on the site.

Between February and Maundy Thursday the Berkshire Unit dug part of an interesting site on the East Ilsley/Beedon parish boundary. The boundary, now marked by a wide hedge, previously consisted of a three-phase ditch, a two-phase bank, a row of post holes and a gully. The substantial ditch was not seen when the pipe trench was cut, which raises many questions. Traces of Celtic fields can be seen on the chalk slopes north of the site, but not to the south where the soil is more clayey. Post and stake holes, with burnt flints and pottery provisionally dated between 1,000 and 500 BC, were found all over the area examined. Unfortunately, though a geophysical survey is planned, there will be no further excavation to define the limits of the settlement, the only one

of this date found on the Downs.

The Maidenhead Society are digging a Tudor site at Heywood's Farm, White Waltham, every Sunday.

It has been found that two or three is the ideal number for field walks. Larger numbers could be used to walk every furrow in ploughed fields, but this is difficult to arrange in advance.

It is hoped to do regular evening Field Walks in Mapledurham Parish every Wednesday. Anyone is welcome. Please contact Marion Fallowfield.

The Henley Group are excavating a site in Highwood Harpsten originally located during S.O.A.G.'s Survey. The work will go on intermittently all summer but at the moment they do not want help from other Groups.

T.W.A.S. is excavating a tiny slot in Wallingford Market Place. The length of the dig depends on the goodwill of the site owner. For up-to-date information ring Wallingford 39310. G.T.

Field Walk at Pool Spring Lane, Sonning

By kind permission of Col. R.G. Phillimore

Gareth and I had a brief field walk over four fields where planning permission had been applied for, to build a trout fishery. The area is on the Thames gravels, and the Middle Thames Survey showed four ring ditches in one of the fields. There was little to be seen on the ground, but any possible features were noted. Two pieces of clay pipe were the only finds. Only two of us could go, due to nesting birds, which was a pity as one field was ploughed and in good condition for walking. However it is supposed that if permission is granted for the scheme it will not start for some time, and that further exploration can take place later on.

E.Y.

### The Certificate Weekends

As most S.O.A.G.'s will know, Oxford University Department for External Studies runs two in-depth courses in archaeology.

There are a small number of "in-service trainees", mostly young archaeologists on one year's full-time secondment from their employing units. There are also many "part-time" students studying for a "Certificate in British Archaeology". This course takes three years; although called a part-time course, some students devote ten hours every day to it. The lectures take place every Wednesday at Woodley Hill House, Earley, Reading, and at two other centres in the University's territory.

Of thirty local people who started the course three years ago, only eight finished, the others complaining that they could not spare the time, get hold of the books, or get on to excavations. There was much criticism that the course was not practical and further study would be needed to gain any "professional qualification". Therefore these week-ends were introduced to cover aspects of archaeology that could not adequately be covered in evening lectures. This winter three week-ends were held, all interested people being welcome - not only students on either course. The charge was £19 for three week-ends, but £11 for one week-end.

The first week-end, in October 1976, the least successful, was an introduction to surveying. As this cannot be taught in the classroom, we all travelled to Neather Chalford, a deserted mediaeval village in the Cotswolds. This is surrounded by other deserted and shrunken villages, and would make a good outing for S.O.A.G. Unfortunately there was not enough equipment for all students to do surveying, so some were sent off on a ramble. The in-service trainees were surprised to find themselves being asked to teach the part-time students, when they had come to learn themselves. Due to poor weather and the time of the year, it was only possible to spend seven hours working on site during the two-day course. In the evening David Miles showed us some of the 1,500 air photos he took during the summer of 1976.

The most successful week-end on aerial photography, was held in January 1977; the students were privileged to be taught by Jim Pickering, a Battle of Britain pilot who has spent much of the

last 40 years in the air, and Arnold Baker, also an experienced flyer. Both believe that good results can only be obtained by people who regularly observe the landscape from the air. They deplore the practice of ground archaeologists trying to take air photos on what they believe will be the best day of the year, especially when public money is wasted. Unfortunately for S.O.A.G's neither of the speakers fly over our area, but concentrate on Midland sites near their homes, including Wroxeter, where 16 years flying has revealed many new features.

As well as lectures there were also sessions of practical interpretation, the students making plans from air photos under the supervision of experts. Many big questions were raised during the week-end, including the lack of trained archaeological photo interpreters. Neither Cambridge University nor the National Monuments Record has the staff to process and catalogue their archives of black/white photos, so the information is not readily available to local archaeologists. Jim Pickering, therefore, now takes colour transparencies which can be sent immediately to local responsible organisations.

Other points to ponder on include the suggestions that all Roman villas must have been linked by paved roads, and that Roman town defences were built against Roman siege engines rather than against barbarians.

The last week-end, in March, dealt with pottery. David Miles and Michael Parrington exhibited and lectured on all aspects of pottery, handing round pots found on the Unit's excavations. These included a magnificent collection of 32 whole pots from a well at Towcester, Northants.

It was once thought that there was a national pottery style which could be closely dated. It is now known that most pottery was manufactured and sold locally. There was clay, wood and water all over Bucks., Berks., and Oxon., so it was easy for people to bake hand-made pottery in backyard bonfires. It is therefore very difficult to distinguish between the coarsest undecorated pottery of any era, especially between Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon. During the Roman period, however, pottery became a major industry. Many kilns were built along the Road from Dorchester to Oxmoor. There were also imports of pottery in small quantities from all over the Empire.

The Unit is trying to make a complete catalogue of local Roman pot types, so future reports can list finds by code numbers.

It is planned to hold similar week-ends next winter. They can be thoroughly recommended to all interested in archaeology.

G.T.

### The C.B.A. 9 Week-end

In 12 hours we heard 28 speakers, eight from Oxfordshire, seven from Buckinghamshire, five from Bedfordshire and eight from Northamptonshire. They described work in all parts of the C.B.A. 9 area, but in many cases they were only interim reports on a continuing programme of research. Many regular speakers were there. David Miles spoke on Barton Court where several Saxon sunken huts were found (which were still visible this Easter). Les Matthews is still digging a very strange site in Dunstable where large crosses were cut into solid chalk and ditches are filled with human and animal burials; while David Hall has found an unsuspected Anglo Saxon Church at Raunds, Northants. A newcomer, Mrs. Charmian Woodfield, described her watching briefs at Magivinium and Actodorum where a gas pipe and sewer were put through two Roman towns. She described this as a very cheap way of gathering information, and was very critical of the "ignorant and arrogant young professionals" who waste large amounts of public money and obtain very little information. More information had been obtained from a £150 amateur dig than professionals had obtained from a comparable site where £50,000 was spent.

Trevor Rowley led a discussion on the role of the C.B.A., both locally and nationally. The C.B.A. was originally constituted to represent the view of amateur societies, both local and national to the government and other official bodies. It is now a publishing house with a full-time staff. Therefore the constitution must be amended to recognise C.B.A.'s responsibilities as an employer and to bridge the rift that has appeared between Headquarters and the regional groups. In the past only societies could join the C.B.A., now individual membership is invited and a news letter published to keep members in touch with events.

The final speaker was Mike Farley who discussed the role of

"metal detectors". For centuries people have collected objects of historical interest from the surface of ploughed fields and from random holes dug in historical monuments, either for private collections or for sale. In the last decade the advent of "metal detectors" should have made the collectors' task easier. Some detector users are responsible, reporting their finds to museums and even, in Dorset, working in cooperation with the council's archaeologist; others are only looking for a quick profit. Some new sites have been uncovered, but many collectors stick to well-known sites marked on maps and described in books.

Mike Farley would like to see all antiquities becoming Crown property, as they are everybody's heritage, and not becoming a source of profit for finder or landowner. These sentiments were recently echoed by David Miles in a letter to "the Times".

Of the 66 who attended the Conference, there were 13 S.O.A.G's a good proportion remembering that 33 local societies belong to C.B.A. Group 9. Unfortunately there were no speakers from Berkshire, as the Unit staff were busy digging on the gas pipeline.

G.T.

Anglo-Saxon Symposium. The Archaeology of Anglo Saxon Churches  
An Addendum.

M.F.P.'s review of this symposium seemed to be very fair and very adequately caught the general character of the proceedings. Further the symposium managed to reasonably represent the breadth of studies generally being undertaken in this sphere and instil an appreciation of the problems - especially those of redundancy and restoration.

However I felt, and I believe that this view is not unshared among some academic archaeologists, that the general direction of studies is becoming too 'antiquarian' in orientation. Let me explain what I mean.

The development of Anglo-Saxon architectural studies has been brilliantly brought forward by the work of H.M. and J. Taylor (Anglo-Saxon Architecture, CUP, 1965), from the foundations of Baldwin Brown and Clapham. It was Dr. Taylor's initial

intention to do a 'Rickman' (Thomas Rickman, Attempts to Discriminate Styles of English Architecture, 1819) or a 'Willis' (R. Willis, Architectural History of Canterbury Cathedral, 1845) and to provide a firm sequence and chronology for Anglo-Saxon Architecture, in much the same way as we can regard Gothic Architecture as divided into Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular Styles. In this task, by his own admission he has largely failed, and although we await Vol 3 of Anglo-Saxon Architecture in great hope, it seems likely that little more refinement of Baldwin Brown's periods of A, B and C will be possible. Why has this been the case?

Firstly and to my mind the most important reason, is the simple fact that there was not the stylistic variation that we can observe in the later periods. Some traits can generally be considered late, such as long and short work, others early, such as the double square plan. However the vast number of attributes such as quoins, columns, opening, galleries all continued unaltered during the period, or worse seem to vary regionally rather than temporally.

Secondly we do not have the documentary evidence to date more than a handful of churches - in marked contrast to the later periods. It is now likely that archaeology alone can provide new dating evidence, and even that is often too broad as to be useless, (for example with C14 dates).

Thirdly, there are not the large numbers of structures that exist for the later periods. Most examples of Anglo-Saxon Architecture are at best fragmentary; thus to see a pattern of variation is made consistently more difficult.

Fourthly, our sample of Churches is very biased. We have lost the very large numbers of wooden churches that must have existed and despite Gen's attempt at Athelney to reconstruct architectural details, from the documents, little further progress here seems possible. Further the stone churches that we have are a very biased sample of the population. For example Bradford - Upon-Avon must have been considered by the Anglo-Saxons themselves as a very lowly edifice, yet the masterpieces of Anglo-Saxon Architecture are now lost to us, (for example Canterbury, York and Lichfield Cathedrals).



It is for these reasons that Dr. Taylor has turned to Archaeology to provide a partial solution, and such projects such as Deerhurst, Repton and Hadstock are real attempts to get over these problems, and to provide a relative sequence within one building.

However in many ways these developments must be treated with reservation from the point of view of the archaeologist, for he is primarily concerned with the study of man's past and specifically his past societies. This means that he is not studying pottery, because it was pottery that was handled by ancient man, or flints because they were the tools, but rather what pottery and flint can tell us about the societies concerned. It was this realisation - that antiquities are not studied simply because they are antiquities (a view expressed in J. Hawkes, Antiquity 42 255) that lead to the New Archaeology, but has in fact been with us for some time, (e.g. Clark in Archaeology and Society 1960)

So be it with Anglo-Saxon Architectural Archaeology. Taylor's approach will only get us so far, telling us about the Church as an artifact, and how it developed and changed. But what Archaeologists should be looking for is the relationship of that Artifact to the Society, perhaps as an institution or as a religious focus or as an owner of land and wealth. The information thus derived can be related back to the Church as an Artifact - and questions or real explanation can be answered such as, not what is the relationship between the SE and SW Porticus, but rather why were the Porticus built anyway.

It was thus very sad that the symposium did not get around to such questions. One speaker who tried was treated with derision. In the long run we are bound to see the structural criticism approach very sterile for Archaeologists to discuss, and in many ways the symposium reflected this.

Mark Horton

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

Local History Annual Conference, Broughton Castle, Banbury  
7th May 1977.

Four members of the Group attended.

In the morning three members went to Banbury Museum to see a showing of the film entitled "Twenty-Four Square Miles", a record of rural life in North Oxfordshire just after the end of the Second World War. The film was made as part of a survey concerned with future planning for the needs of rural communities i.e. housing, farming, employment and education.

A town trail of Banbury had been prepared by the Oxfordshire Museums Service and, with this in hand, we explored parts of the town including the canal area and the bridge over the mill stream which has 130. arches under the later road surface.

After lunch in the Reindeer, the oldest public house in Banbury (mainly 16thC.) we moved on to Broughton Castle where the formal meeting of the Conference was held. During the afternoon those attending were conducted on a tour of the Castle by Lady Saye and Sele and Mr. David Fiennes, viewing many parts of the building not normally seen by visitors. This was followed by refreshments kindly provided by the Banbury Historical Society who were our hosts for the Conference.

A full report of the Conference proceedings will appear in the Autumn edition of the Oxfordshire Local History News Letter. Anyone who would like a copy (price 15p.) should contact the Secretary S.O.A.G.

D.G.F.

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