



# Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society

[www.AAAHS.org.uk](http://www.AAAHS.org.uk)

## NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2014

Hard hats and hardware ...  
the AAAHS at JET Culham  
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**Tim Allen** on Abingdon as Britain's oldest town

**Jeff Wallis** on dating the Bowyer Road skeletons

**Roger Ainslie** on Stonehenge

**Jeff Wallis** (again!) on the demise of the Time Team

And all the usual reports and more. See contents on page 2

Pam Manix lectures to  
the group—while walk-  
ing backwards down  
Cornmarket! See page 9





# **AAHS Newsletter—Autumn 2014**

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***And in case you haven't yet joined, there's a membership form on page 20***



## Chairman's report

It's surprising how quickly six years goes by. I joined the Committee in October 2008, and – to my surprise – found myself being made Chairman at my first Committee meeting. It wasn't what I was expecting! Now, I am close to completing the second of my two three-year terms, and I will be standing down at the AGM in the September.

It has been an enormous pleasure to perform this role, and has left me with many happy memories. We have had many excellent lectures and outings. Our June 'Open Evenings' have always been a particular pleasure, for their social aspect and for hearing about the range of excellent work which Society members do. Equally, the Christmas Socials have been unfailingly entertaining and enjoyable.

Perhaps the thing which stands out most for me in my time as Chairman was the first Community Shop exhibition which the Society did in 2010, in connection with the Heritage Open Days in September. Our exhibition was put together in quite a hurry, but it proved hugely popular with the public. Hundreds of people visited, and great interest was generated. There is a wider point: many people in Abingdon are extremely interested in the past, and in Abingdon's past in particular, and the Society is one of the main ways in which people can pursue and develop that interest.

Looking back over the past year, the Society has prospered, with a very good range of lectures, the memorable Christmas Social with the 'Bifrost Guard' Viking re-enactors, and several excellent outings including the tour of Oxford's medieval Jewish heritage. The Local History Group has continued to meet, the diggers have been working on writing the Bowyer Road skeletons site (see below) and continuing the excavation at Kiln Copse, Marcham, and society members have been engaged on a range of other projects, including one to scan our collection of old photographs (see below). At the moment, we are trying to collect photographs and information on Abingdon people who served in the First World War. The Society has also commented on a number of planning applications, when we feel that proposed new development may affect the heritage. All in all, we have much to be pleased about and proud of!

I normally end my summer report with a plea for volunteers to join the Committee. A number of committee members are standing down and, if they are not replaced, we simply won't be able to keep on doing the things that we do: the things which members enjoy! So please do think of offering to help. It is not hard work, and it is great fun!

Now I will end, by saying again how much I have enjoyed being Chairman. I would especially like to thank all my fellow Committee members (past and present) for all their hard work and for making it so easy to be Chairman and, most of all, I would like to thank all of the Society's members for your continued support.

I will of course look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM on 18 September

*Roger Thomas  
Chairman*

### Editor's Notes

Thanks to all members for their contributions and feedback – all gratefully received. The Newsletter is published in March and September each year. Any suggestions for outings, speakers or newsletter items are most welcome.

Articles should be limited to about a thousand words. They may be edited for content, but views and opinions in published articles are those of the contributors rather than the society itself.

The Newsletter is sent to members at the time of publication and posted on the website after six months. Copy deadline for the next issue is end-January 2015

*Manfred Brod*



## Meetings Programme 2014-5

All at the Northcourt Centre at 7.45 pm.

Members free. Visitors welcome (suggested donation: £3.00)

- 18 Sep** AGM, followed by Paul Booth (Oxford Archaeology), *Late prehistoric land scape and a major Roman settlement at Gill Mill Quarry near Witney.*
- 16 Oct** Vivienne Larminie (History of Parliament Trust), *Parliament, Politicians and the Thames Valley, 1640-60.*
- 20 Nov** Stephen Milesen (Oxford Centre for Medieval History), *Peasant Perceptions of Landscape in Medieval Oxfordshire.*
- 11 Dec [NB 2nd Thurs]** Christmas Social: Edible Evening with Food, presented by Marjory Szurko (Oriel College Oxford), a historian of cuisine.
- 15 Jan** Geoffrey Tyack (Kellogg College, Oxford) will speak on an architectural topic; title to be announced.
- 19 Feb** Professor Mark Cornwall (U of Southampton) will speak on a topic connected with the First World War; title to be announced.
- 19 Mar** Maureen Mellor (pottery specialist) will speak on medieval pottery and cooking.
- 16 Apr** David Beasley (Wallingford local historian) on the history of Howbery Park and its connection with Jethro Tull.
- 21 May** Professor John Blair (The Queen's College, Oxford) will give the annual Lambrick lecture.

## Please note especially ...

... the AGM on 18 September. There will be at least three vacancies to be filled on the Committee. Please consider standing — there is work to be done, but it is (mostly) fun. Prior nominations to any member of the committee, or get yourself nominated at the meeting itself.

## And also ...

The Society will be providing speakers for a series of local history-themed lunchtime talks in St Nicholas' Church during September. Wednesdays, starting at 12.30 pm.

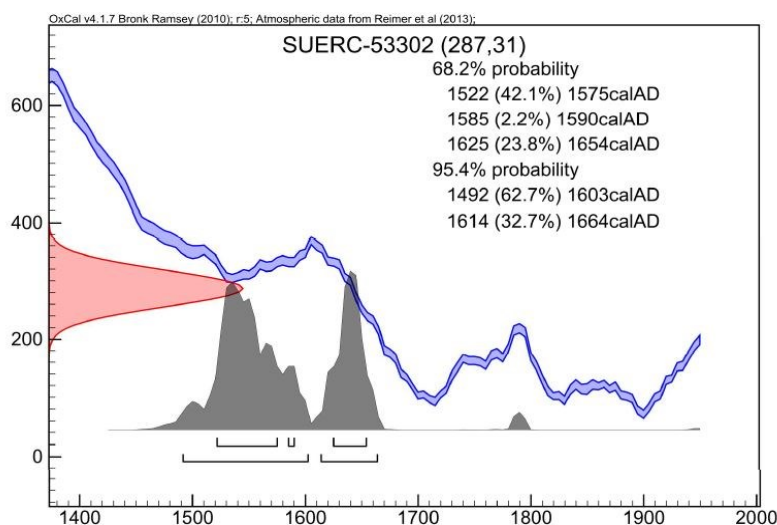
- 3 Sep** Manfred Brod, *St Edmund of Abingdon—a new look.*
- 10 Sep** Jackie Smith, *An Introduction to social housing in Abingdon.*
- 17 Sep** David Clark, *Collars, ties and braces—the wardrobe of Abingdon's timber-framed buildings.*
- 24 Sep** Judy White, *The monastic life—saints and sinners.*



## Digging

### The Bones at Bowyer Road

As reported in the Spring 2013 Newsletter, the Society investigated a number of human burials which were unearthed in building work at a house in Bowyer Road in 2011. We now have a carbon date from the left humerus of burial 310 in trench 3. The method used to express calendar year dates is complex and we all struggle to understand the data that accompanies the science. Translated, there is a 68.2% probability that the burial 310 died between 1522 and 1654 AD and a 95.4% probability that the date falls between 1492 and 1664 AD. This is disappointingly vague, but definitively excludes Anglo-Saxon, Roman, or earlier dates.



This is how C-14 results are reported

This burial is one of at least 21 burials in two lines orientated SE-NW. The human remains from trenches 2 and 3 from our excavation reported on by the bone specialist Peter Hacking describes the ten partial skeletons or small clusters of bone as representing Adult and Sub-Adult male burials. The only anomaly is a cranial vault of a neo-nate or very young infant.

Announcement of the result has generated interesting interpretations to explain the location of this small cemetery. A possibility exists that these burials represent the outcome of a Civil War skirmish and may explain the predominant young male burials. Other hypotheses to consider, if one accepts a late medieval date, are the possibilities of plague burials and of a link with the boundary stone in the immediate vicinity of trench 3.

Our current work on reporting aspects of this site includes investigating the distribution of isolated burials and small cemeteries around the town. Particularly we are looking at boundaries of Saxon and later date. Is there a common link between the Serpenhill path and a small path crossing the Stert at the edge of the garden of this property? We also need to consider the proximity of the archaeological complex at nearby St. Nicholas School and a byway running south from Northcourt village.

Further searches may help elucidate and explain the presence of this small cemetery.

*Jeff Wallis*

#### Why is the Carbon-14 date so imprecise?

A living organism exchanges carbon with the environment, including whatever level of C-14 is present at the time. When the organism dies, this exchange stops. The C-14 decays, and its level goes down at a known rate.

In the diagram, the red area shows the level of C-14 in the sample, allowing for the uncertainty of the measurement. The blue curve calibrates the C-14 according to the amount that was present in the environment at different times.

Unfortunately, the measurement falls in a period of anomaly, when the calibration 'wiggles'. The measurement could have come from at least two ranges of dates. The grey areas show the mathematical overlaps between measurement and calibration, and hence the theoretical likelihood of particular dates.

*Editor*



## ***Local History***

### **Local History Group**

The meeting on 6 May attracted a good attendance. It started with Bob Frampton giving us a trailer for his forthcoming book on Abingdon in the First World War. We learned of the early recruits fitted with Post Office uniforms because kha-ki wasn't yet available, of local tradesmen offering free ingredients to wives and mothers preparing Christmas puddings for the troops, and of a collection of £17,500 for which Abingdon got its name painted on a gun. With that sort of detail, the book should be a best-seller.

Bob then went on to describe his current research project on the local horse races. These were run on Abingdon Common through much of the nineteenth century, but succumbed in 1875 to the agricultural depression and the competition of more prestigious courses reachable by railway. Another interesting publication in the making.

John Foreman showed a series of amateur films of Abingdon civic occasions in the 1950s and '60s which had been put onto video tape and which he has digitised. Fascinating in many ways. Yes, of course, women in hats, dignitaries in comic-opera regalia, and cigarette smoke billowing across the tables at a civic banquet. But also more subtle differences - posture, body language. Times change, and we with them.

The next Local History Group Meeting is planned for 21 October. Anyone who has anything they want to present or discuss, please contact me on [local@aaahs.org.uk](mailto:local@aaahs.org.uk).

*Manfred Brod*

## **The Abingdon Buildings and People Website Group**

<http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/partners/history>

Do keep looking at the website! At the time of writing, we are up to 86 articles, of which 19 have 'long' versions—detailed, referenced, and intended for the really serious user—attached to them. A new section with more general articles about Abingdon's history, not necessarily connected with specific people or places, has also been successfully started in spite of technical limitations. We are expecting to hit the first hundred articles about the end of the year.

And yes, we do want more people to join the group. There's a myriad of jobs to be done, of which administration and progress-chasing are proving, unexpectedly, to be the most troublesome. If you are looking for a job, we can probably fit you with one—contact me on [local@aaahs.org.uk](mailto:local@aaahs.org.uk).

*Manfred Brod*

## ***Photographic Collection***

### **The Society's Photographic Collection**

Members who missed the Society's recent Open Evening may be interested to know about Andrew Steele's current project to digitise the Society's collection of old photographs. You may even be unaware that the Society has a collection of old photographs!

The collection started when friends and neighbours of Society members were invited to lend their old Abingdon photographs to be copied (photographically, as no scanners in the 1970s.) The details of every photograph were entered into a ledger with the place, date, names of people, etc. The long term benefits to the Society and to Abingdon have been tremendous.



When we decided to produce a book we also looked through the collection of local photographs in the Oxford Central Library. In those carefree days, one could get permission to go into the room where the pictures were stored in cardboard boxes, find the box for one's town or village, and make photographic copies of whatever one wanted on the spot, completely free of charge, apart from acknowledging the provenance.

The resulting book, *Abingdon in Camera*, which was published in 1979, is a wonderful record of life in Abingdon in the old days. It has had a further five reprints since the initial print runs of 2,000 and 4,000 copies, and provides a useful income for the Society. However, there are a great many pictures in the collection which are not in the book, but which may be of interest to people, which is why Andrew Steele has undertaken the mammoth task of scanning and digitizing the whole collection – see separate article. We wish him luck!!

*Judy White (formerly Thomas)*

## Digitising the photographic archive

The Society's photographic archive consists of around 500 images in various formats. The archive was started in the 1970's (see Judy White's article above) but holds material from a much earlier period. The earliest found so far dates to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> c. and copies of old litho prints and engravings date back even earlier.

The formats include 35mm slides (from the late 1960's onwards), prints (in various sizes) and a few negatives of an odd format. The archive is currently held in numerous cardboard boxes by the Archivist, Jackie Smith. Clearly this is not in any sort of useful form as first there is no real documentation on what the collection holds and secondly it is not easily accessible for either browsing or research.

Recently the Committee therefore decided to create an electronic archive allowing a much wider audience access to the images. The main point here was to create a searchable 'database' of the information about each image as well as the image itself.

It was decided that an Excel spreadsheet was the best format for this as the software is widely used and available on many personal computers. Further, the data, held in various fields, could be sorted as required or indeed searched for character strings. The images themselves could be linked to the information in the spreadsheet allowing the image to be displayed by a simple 'click' (hyperlink facility).

The descriptive fields chosen were the image filename; any date on the image; any wording on the image; any wording on the item (e.g. the print) and any description held in the master book. The image filename is simply a reference number which may or may not refer to the original item. For instance several of the original prints were numbered and these numbers were used in the electronic archive.

The images were scanned on various devices in high resolution JPEG format of 600 dpi. This was a compromise between image file size and quality allowing the final archive to be held on a single memory stick, for example.

It is hoped that the revamped Society website which is currently under consideration will be able to host this archive. Our idea is that people can view it online and comment on the description, possibly adding further information or correcting what is already there. Such changes would need to be verified as far as possible before the archive itself would be changed.

This is an ongoing project with around 300 images currently included. Hopefully by this time next year the whole thing will be available.

*Andrew Steele  
(Treasurer)*



## Outings 2014

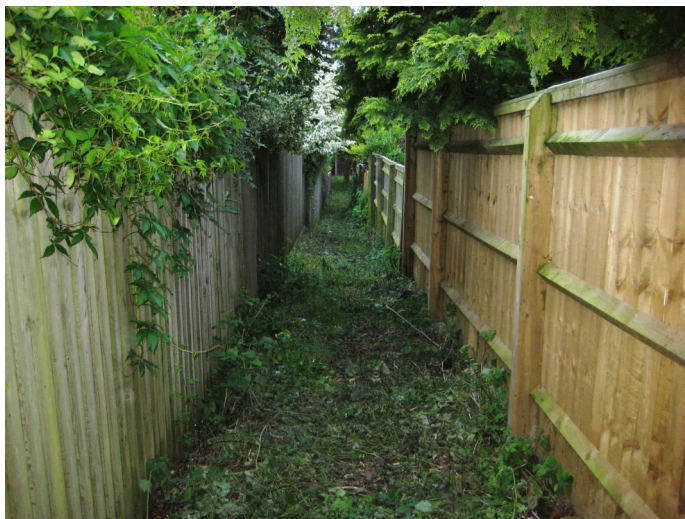
### Wilts and Berks Canal walk, 3 June

To set the scene, the group, led by Martin Buckland, visited the peaceful garden of St Ethelwold's House overlooking the Mill Stream – a sharp contrast to its earlier role as part of Abingdon's busy wharf and storage area.

The Wilts and Berks Canal was completed quite late in the frantic canal-building period, and was opened in 1810. It was 52 miles long, from Semington Junction on the Kennet and Avon Canal, to Abingdon. The canal was built for the smaller W&B narrow boats with a 7-foot beam, and had been used for important cargoes such as coal from Somerset and stone from Bath. The underlying clay was ideal as a watertight base for the canal, and the excavated clay ideal for recycling into bricks.

Formerly, the confluence of the Ock and Thames consisted of several channels, minimising the risk of flooding. Nowadays it is more restricted, and we were reminded of last year's floods where the water had risen to the top of the 'T' in the word 'Bristol' cast on the old iron bridge. This literally topped the previous level when it 'only' reached the 'O'!

After crossing the bridge from St Helens Wharf to the



Between the gardens of the houses on the Tithe Farm estate is the site of one of the locks of the Wilts & Berks Canal

W&B Wharf, the blue sign on the stone wall denoting the original entrance to the canal was pointed out to us. Beyond this point, there had been a regulating lock to adjust the water level in the canal. At that time the Thames water

level was more erratic, unlike today when it is controlled to plus or minus a few inches.

Ironically, just as we moved on, a canal narrow boat tried to navigate on the wrong side of the marker buoys on the Thames opposite, and became grounded.



Crossing the – er, what exactly?

We followed the route of the canal – along Wharf Road passing the converted old foundry buildings on the right, and then onwards to where the canal terminal basin used to be. Through the gap in Caldecott Road, the grass area denoted where the narrow boats moored, and the row of trees followed the line of the towpath.

On from Blacknall Road, the present road margin and green verge were actually the location of the canal. Originally, Drayton Road crossed the canal over a hump-back bridge, but that was demolished, dropped into the canal bed and covered over. The new contours can still be seen when standing on what was the canal level alongside Caldecott Road. Crossing Drayton Road, we then plunged into a series of narrow pathways.

The canal ended its life as a waterway in 1901, and was formally abandoned after an Act of Parliament in 1914. However, for its final use, the canal bed was a part of the 1940 GHQ Red Line for anti-invasion defence, and we saw a remaining WW2 Type 28A concrete pill box. After continuing along the footpath and over the Ock timber bridge, we were shown (hidden in the dense undergrowth) the concrete 'Dragons Teeth' anti-tank structures which were also part of the WW2 defensive line.



Amazingly, Martin together with Jane Bye had spent the weekend scything and clearing hundreds of metres of pathways along the canal route especially for us. We were very grateful for this heroic deed, and for Martin's time on the day.

Just at the end of the walk, the rain set in. Meanwhile, I couldn't help wondering what had happened to that unfor-

tunate canal narrow boat back on the Thames ...

Thank you very much to both Martin and his wife for an enjoyable and informative evening.

More information is available on the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust's website <http://www.wbct.org.uk/>

*Sybille Rushbridge*

## Oxford's Jewish Quarter, 24 June

On a fine but cool June evening we joined Pam Manix for a walking tour of Oxford's medieval Jewish Quarter. The tour was a follow up to her talk to the Society in January, and took us from the 'low rent' district near Oxford's North Tower and arrests for coin clipping to the marshy wasteland in front of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist near Magdalen College and the second Jewish cemetery.

The Jews in Oxford were Ashkenazi Jews from Rouen, brought over after the Norman Conquest in order to provide the new Norman economy with money lenders. As non-Christians under Christian law they were given the status of wards of the king and were under the protection of the king's constable. Local disputes were readily resolved as the king was frequently in or near Oxford, Woodstock and surrounding areas being favoured hunting grounds. The Jewish population was only ever small in relation to that of the city. All Jews were eventually expelled from England by Edward I in 1290, not returning until 1656 under Oliver Cromwell.

Pam had many fascinating stories to tell about Oxford's Jewish families and individuals, and the reason her research has produced so much detailed information is that all medieval Jewish contracts and transactions were copied and stored, because as wards of the king their wealth ultimately belonged to the Crown.

Great Jewry Street, the main medieval Jewish area, was centred around today's St. Aldate's. We started our exploration at Carfax and Aaron's

House on the site of the Edinburgh Mill shop. The house was burnt down in 1141 when the Jews found themselves wards of both Matilda and Stephen, both demanding money. They found it impossible to say no to Stephen and had to pay him three and a half times the amount they had already given to Matilda in order to save the rest of their homes.

We then moved down St. Aldate's to the Town Hall site where several Jewish stone houses stood, stone building being a Norman innovation. One of these dwellings, 'The House With the Stone Chamber', housed King John's crossbowmen after crossbows had been outlawed by the Pope. This was another example of the Jews proving useful to the Crown to circumvent Christian prohibitions. Pam recommended the Town Hall exhibition with artefacts from the Jewish houses on the site and a video tour of the cellars below.

Pausing at New Inn Yard and the house of Moses of Wallingford, Pam told us the story of his son Gedalya, whose mocking behaviour during a Christian feast day procession



Pam Manix lectures to the group—while walking backwards down Cornmarket!



and St. Frideswide's revenge are chronicled in the *Acta Sanctorum*, a medieval collection of miracles attributed to saints. Such processions from St. Mary's church to St. Frideswide's Priory church had to pass through the Jewish quarter but apart from a couple of instances related by Pam there appears to have been commendable restraint and tolerance on all sides.

We next stopped opposite the flag pole on Christ Church College, the ground under the northernmost corner of Tom Quad being the site of the medieval synagogue and school. The fact that it was one of only nine properties still in Jewish ownership at the time of the expulsion indicates the state of decline of the Jewish community by then, and takes us back to the coin clipping, arrests and subsequent executions in the Tower of London in 1278.

We then moved on to a special visit to Pembroke College to view the front entrance of Moses' Hall, built by Moses of Bristol and which became an early university hall. The lower parts of the building still retain medieval features, and there was an interesting ramp-way leading to the medieval ground level. We also had an opportunity to view the college's new bridge. Here we were told about the wheat and wool warehouses, owned by Lumbard of Cricklade, the present Brewer Street being known as Lumbard's Lane.

Unable to cross Christ Church and trace our way from the synagogue to Deadman's Walk, the burial route to the London and Oxford Jewish burial grounds, we proceeded up Bear Lane and wound our way around to the High Street. En route we paused outside Merton College to hear about the cross discreetly erected on this site by the Jews, as penance for a cross defiled during an Ascension Day procession in 1268, the base of which is in the Town Hall.

At the end of Logic Lane we turned right and found the first coffee house in England, now the Grand Cafe, opened in 1650 by a Lebanese Jew with its rival opposite opening in 1654, both well before the official return of the Jews under Cromwell.



A rapt audience in Merton Street

Not allowed to stop for coffee, our next destination was Magdalen College and the first Jewish burial ground. Once through the main entrance we turned right through the narrow archway into the Chaplain's Quadrangle, the oldest part of the college. In 1190 the Jews were allowed the land from the present Porter's Lodge down to the river for their cemetery, but in 1232 when the Hospital of St. John required the land for their expansion the Jewish cemetery was moved across the road to a marshy wasteland fed by the conduit from Holywell. This second cemetery is marked by a stone inscription in the forecourt of the Botanic Gardens but unfortunately, as the hour was by now quite late, everything was locked up and we were unable to view it.

We all thanked Pam for a most informative and memorable walking tour and for all the time and trouble she had taken to organise admittance to the colleges. I for one will look forward to the publication of her forthcoming book on The Jewish Heritage of Oxford, which she promised would include more interesting stories.

Carol Hughes

## Abingdon-on-Thames heritage **open** days

The Heritage Week-end will be the 13 and 14 September. By the time you read this, the programme will have been published.

See <http://www.abingdonheritage.co.uk/> for details



## Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, 16 July

The last visit of the season was somewhat out of the ordinary for the AAAHS. It was to the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, perhaps better known locally as JET Culham. We took advantage of one of their regular open days, events which are always over-subscribed and hard to get into for individuals.

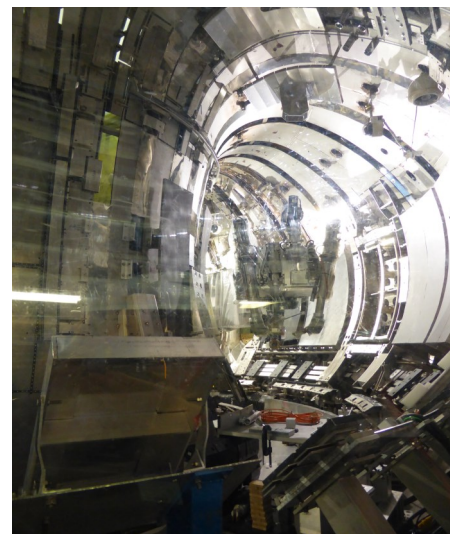


Hard hats, hardware ...

It was very well organised. Security check-in at the gate, park, coffee, then into a lecture theatre for a short briefing on the centre, its whys and wherefores, and on what we were about to see. There were, at a rough guess, about 150 participants. We were divided into groups with most of the AAAHS contingent in one group, and set off in different directions. Each group had a leader to lecture and explain, and a minder to bring up the rear and ensure that any stragglers were recuperated.

To those of us with an industrial background the terrain was reasonably familiar. Great sheds housing miscellaneous hardware of impressive size and of shapes that would have seemed perfectly in place at a sculpture park. Fading safety posters, walkways marked out on the ground, hard hat areas. A control room, with people chatting in a relaxed manner, yet stealing occasional glances at the screens in front of them. But this is a research centre, not a production facility; Culham's output is data, and in great quantities.

The science of nuclear fusion is well known, and Culham's function is to develop the engineering that may succeed in harnessing it to the world's everyday needs. Energy is produced in matter in the state of a plasma at incomprehensibly high temperature, prevented by a complicated system of magnetic fields from losing its heat by contact with the surroundings. Turning this energy into steam to work the turbines in a power station is a tremendous engineering challenge. The time-scale is breathtaking. It won't be until the present generation's grandchildren are nearing retirement age that it will be possible to say whether the project is technically feasible or not.



...and sculptural shapes

Everyone will have taken away their own views and impressions. Here, for what they are worth, are two of my own. One was formed when we were looking through a window into the control room. There were about thirty people there. All but one were men. Sadly, it appears that decades of feminism have not succeeded in getting women attracted to this sort of heavy engineering. The other, thinking as a historian, leaves me wondering about the exact configuration of intellectual and political forces that permitted the setting up of JET and similar institutions elsewhere, located necessarily in single countries but international in their funding and staffing. Could such an organisation be called into existence today, with international cooperation out of fashion and technical innovation opposed at every step?

It was a fascinating and thought-provoking outing, and sincere thanks to Elizabeth Drury for making the arrangements.

*Manfred Brod*



## Book Reviews

**Richard Dudding. *Early Modern Radley. People, Land and Buildings, 1547-1768***  
**Stanley Baker and Peter McWhirter. *The Changing Boundaries of Radley and Sunningwell Parishes, as Effected by Boundary Changes at Abingdon, Bagley Wood, Chandlings, Kennington, Northcourt, St Helen Without and South Hinksey***  
**(both Radley History Club, 2014; £12 and £6, from Radley Village Shop)**

Radley History Club is one of the most vigorous of its kind in the Abingdon area. Since its foundation in the 1990s, it has established a strong reputation for exhibitions and publications resting on serious archival study, as well as developing its own collections. These two attractively-produced paperback volumes enhance that tradition.

Dudding makes very effective use of both written and visual evidence in his fine exploration of early modern Radley. Above all he is able to exploit a comprehensive land terrier of 1633. Focusing tightly on the village, he has nevertheless read broadly enough to identify what was distinctive about Radley's social and economic evolution in the period. The place was small and overwhelmingly agrarian in character; but whereas its population remained static at roughly 50 houses and 200-plus inhabitants, it was transformed during the two centuries under review, from an open-field settlement dominated by yeomen, to an enclosed parish with a handful of substantial farmers and a larger underclass of more or less landless labourers.

Yet no Act of Parliament enforced and controlled this outcome, as was the case across most of southern England. It evidently proceeded more or less consensually, and as the fruit of a long series of local negotiations. An important aspect was the gradual extinction of the system of copy-

hold, which had guaranteed security of tenure and moderate burdens to yeomen and the option of recourse to the manorial court in cases of perceived injustice. Copyhold was partly circumvented by the imposition of fines, steep one-off charges at the start of a tenancy; and it might be replaced by the introduction of leasehold, a more flexible instrument in the hands of the manor and its agents.

At the same time the open fields were progressively divided up. Radley possessed an unusually large number of them – eleven at the peak, together with numerous smaller pieces of common meadow and pasture, perhaps witnesses to an earlier more devolved pattern of settlement. Maybe this helped to expedite the process of consolidation, which seems to have spread out from the areas closest to the manorial domain. By the time of a thorough survey in 1768 that process was complete. Not only had the old pattern of farming disappeared; the names of the farmers involved had all changed too. The notion of ancestral family dynasties on the land is, in the Radley case at least, a myth.

A particular strength of Dudding's book is its careful and well-illustrated reconstruction of the built environment. Radley contains nearly twenty surviving houses which date from the earlier part of his period, along with a number built afresh – but probably on an ancient site – in the 18th century. These buildings, several of them already the subject of intensive research by members of Radley History Club, are here interrogated for the evidence they can furnish about changing patterns of domestic life. Some of those originally constructed for yeomen in Tudor or Stuart times later became comfortable residences of well-to-do farmers – the two most affluent for the chief landowners, at the Mansion (nowadays the core of Radley College) and at Wick; others were subdivided to serve as labourers' cottages.

By the end of the 18th century, then, Radley was becoming a much more rational place, by the standards of modern administrative practice: the manorial court was defunct; tithes were shortly to be commuted; property ownership

### ***Sutton Courtenay Roll of Honour***

*Mary Thompson, Chair, Sutton Courtenay Local History Society, writes:*

The Sutton Courtenay Local History Society has recently produced a Roll of Honour Book to commemorate the men from the village who died in both world wars. A member of the Society, Sarah Ward, thoroughly researched the lives of the men and wrote the book. The proceeds from the sale of the book are going towards the restoration of the war memorial on the village green. Having sold out of the first printing of copies of the book, more have just been printed and are on sale for £5. (Contact Sarah Ward, 01235 848330 or Mary Thompson 01235 848527).



followed clear rules; territorial divisions had been precisely demarcated. Yet there remained unfinished business, for parish boundaries – here and elsewhere – were still complicated by a jumble of enclaves and exclaves. That is where the book, in fact more an extended essay, by Baker and McWhirter comes in. As self-confessed cartography buffs, they eschew the earlier history of the boundaries of Radley and its neighbour Sunningwell. Though we may suppose these had shifted little since Anglo-Saxon times, and had been secured in the minds of villagers by an annual perambulation, or ‘beating of the bounds’, no accurate map records them. In fact it was the 1760s, the decade of the land survey used by Dudding, that yielded also the first detailed representation of local boundaries, as part of John Rocque’s survey of Berkshire.

The real breakthrough came with the work of the Ordnance Survey from the mid-19th century, which not only mapped parish bounds with unprecedented precision, but

also facilitated the exchange between parishes of most of the outlying parcels of land, whose dimensions now became public knowledge. Baker and McWhirter’s unsung heroes include the two village ‘meresmen’, who did the lion’s share of the local surveying in the 1870s. Radley’s was John Coleing, of Sugworth, and here we have a link to Dudding’s work, since the Coleings were among the new farmer families who had moved in a century before. His Sunningwell equivalent was William Wheeler, the parish clerk, who likewise belonged to a prominent and enterprising farming clan; one of their descendants through the female line was Lord Nuffield. Perhaps in his days of precise measurement of bicycle frames and motor car engines, William Morris was mindful of that earlier work with chain and notebook which had first fully quantified the landscape of his forebears.

*Bob Evans*

<b>Principal Income/ Expenditure Analysis as of 26/07/14</b>	<b>2013/14 ytd (£)</b>
<b>Income recurrent</b>	
Subs	1058
Visitors	122
Tea / coffee	29
Income from book sales	287
Bank interest	47
<b>Expenditure recurrent</b>	
Insurance cover	496
Hire of halls	365
Speakers	480
Admin	165
Admin (printing)	140

## Treasurer’s Report

The three largest single expenditures this year have been the insurance at £496, the speakers at £480 with the hire of the Northcourt Hall at £275. Total expenditure has been £1945. The Committee has also agreed to the cost of purchasing a radio-carbon date for one of the digs undertaken by the Society’s digging team. This will be around £250.

Income is fairly healthy with £1058 from subs, £190 from Donations and Visitors, and £287 from all book sales. We are close to breakeven on the Mienieke Cox book sales (Celebrating Abingdon) i.e. £8 short. Total income to date is £2161 so we have a profit overall of around £216.

The number of visitors to the talks has averaged out at 5.8 visitors per meeting.

A full set of audited accounts will be available at the September AGM.

*Andrew Steele - Treasurer*



## Feature Articles

### A Talk at Bridge House

The AAAHS was contacted by Chantelle Oswin, events organiser of Bridge House Residential Home in Abingdon. She was looking for people to come and give talks to her clients about Abingdon's history.

As I have recently completed writing about the history of Abingdon in 1914-1918 I felt this might go down well there. Also I volunteer at the local Health and Well-being Centre in Abingdon. I help with such things as word-games, help serve lunches and in the afternoon lead a guitar singalong of songs suitable for older people.

So I decided to volunteer my service at Bridge House by putting the two elements together; a talk followed by a singalong. I contacted Chantelle and we arranged a suitable date, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 3 pm, which would be just after their lunch. I was offered payment but said I'd prefer tea and cakes instead.

The talk went well, and many of them knew the families I mentioned. One lady had been brought up in the Square House in the Square, which was later replaced by the Regal cinema.

I passed round some advertisements from the North Berks Herald of the time, for example concerning War Week loans and 'The Abingdon Gun'. I did not go into too much detail but instead gave a general talk.

After half an hour, we had a short break and then I led the singalong: 'Red Red Robin', 'Lily of Laguna' and so on. They joined in after some initial reticence, and time flew by. I feel my 'singing' was helped by the fact that some of them were a little deaf.....

Afterwards they told me how they'd enjoyed it, how those songs brought back so many memories and similar comments. They were very keen to have another visit.

They would be very glad indeed if others gave talks, and Chantelle Oswin is the contact.

*Bob Frampton*

**Bob's book, *Abingdon in the Great War*, has recently been published by the County Hall Museum. We hope to review it in our next edition.**

*Editor*

## Dates for Your Diary

### Abingdon Museum Friends

St Helen's Church Centre

4 Sept: Liz Woolley, *Common lodging-houses in 19th century England*

2 Oct: Rev. Ian Browne, *Reinterpreting Abingdon's lost abbey*

6 Nov: Sarah Wearne, *Abingdon School and the First World War*

4 Dec: Christine Bloxham, *Christmas Customs*

5 Feb: Anne Gould, *Isambard Kingdom Brunel*

5 Mar: Alan Copeland, *Curiosities of the Cotswolds Part Two*

2 Apr: AGM and Sally Stradling, *Conservation in the Vale of White Horse*

### Sutton Courtenay Local History Society

Village Hall, 7.30 pm except where stated

23 Sept: Andrew Sargent, *The History of the River Thames*

8 Nov: World War 1 Commemoration (All Saints' Church, 7.30 pm)

24 Mar: Simon Wenham, *The History of Salters' Steamers*

### Wallingford Hist and Arch Soc

Wallingford Town Hall, 7.45 for 8.00 pm except where stated

12 Sept: Ben Ford, *Winchester - A City in the Making*

10 Oct: Prof Oliver Creighton and Dr Duncan Wright, *Castles of the Anarchy (1139-52) - Wallingford and Crowmarsh in context*

14 Nov: Rosey Meara, *Recent Cotswold Archaeology Projects in Oxfordshire*

12 Dec: Susan Ronald, *Hildebrand Gurlitt, Nazi Art looter*

### Marcham Soc

All Saints' Church, 7.45 pm

9 Sept: Members' Evening

14 Oct: AGM and Gary Lock, *Hill Forts of the Ridgeway - Living with the White Horse*

11 Nov: Tony Hadland, *Foray to the Falklands*

9 Dec: Social



## Is Abingdon really the oldest continuously inhabited town in Britain?

**Recent newspaper articles have claimed Amesbury, not Abingdon, as the oldest settlement. A letter from Tim Allen, our archaeological adviser, considers the evidence.**

I believe that this claim originated from a public lecture I gave at the Guildhall at the conclusion of the excavations in the Vineyard from 1988-1990, at which I said that Abingdon could reasonably claim to be the oldest continuously inhabited town in Britain. This was based on the discovery of the late Iron Age oppidum defences and internal settlement, as oppida were then considered to be proto-towns. Abingdon town centre clearly had dense occupation throughout the Roman period, including several masonry buildings, and we also found early Anglo-Saxon (5th and 6th century) sunken-floored buildings to add to the Saxon Road cemetery evidence. Adding to that the documentary evidence then current for a mid-Saxon abbey foundation, and archaeological evidence for the late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods, I suggested that Abingdon had been a continuously settled town since before the Roman conquest, unlike Colchester, where the Roman town was not in the same place as the late prehistoric centre, or St Albans, where the late Iron Age and Roman town is now a public park in the valley, and the modern town is on the hill. I also noted that settlement under Abingdon town centre certainly went back to the start of the Iron Age, which is where the official guide obtained the date of 700BC, and had been a nucleated settlement, although not a town, from quite early in the Iron Age.

I specifically dealt with the historic town centre, as many modern towns have grown enormously, swallowing villages and areas in between, and with them, prehistoric sites of various kinds. For example, Abingdon can now claim Bronze Age settlements at Eight Acre Field, the early Bronze Age barrow cemetery at Barrow Hills, and the Neo-

lithic causewayed enclosure at Daisy Banks, as well as later Neolithic evidence from Spring Road cemetery and under the A34. There are also Mesolithic struck flints from the Vineyard, from Andersey Island and elsewhere, but while this is evidence of past occupation of ground now subsumed into modern Abingdon, occupation was of a very different character before the late Bronze Age, possibly spread over a much wider area, and has only the loosest connection to the modern town of Abingdon. Moreover, it would be very difficult to prove that such 'occupation' was continuous.

The newspaper article that was referred to is presumably dealing with the continental origins of the Amesbury Archer and Boscombe bowman, both Beaker burials of the 3rd millennium BC, whose isotopes showed that they were continental immigrants. References to settlement beginning 10,000 years ago or more must relate to early Mesolithic sites, which can date back to around 9,000 BC, as some of the sites along the Kennet valley, notably at Thatcham, do. I have little doubt that early Mesolithic sites have been found near Amesbury, as at Thatcham, but I doubt that either place has evidence for continuous occupation since then, and I can certainly say that this is not the case for Thatcham.

For what it is worth, the prehistoric evidence for activity under modern Abingdon is greater, and includes sites of more periods and phases, than for most towns of similar size.

*Tim Allen*

Did you know that Tim's article sums up a correspondence that started on <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/aaahs/> ?

Have you signed up to this online group?

It is where AAAHS members can pass round questions that arise on Abingdon's history and archaeology and pool their knowledge and expertise.

The more participants ..... the more knowledge there is to share!



## 'The old Abingdon Law, where execution preceded Tryal'

We have all heard the story about the strange legal procedure that was alleged to have been current in Abingdon. In fact, the trope of verdict before trial as a plain miscarriage of justice is very old. William Cecil, the later Lord Burleigh, is reported to have warned the Privy Council against it as far back as 1555: '... he thought ... (it) was somewhat hard ... to commit them first and hear them after...' So how did this become connected with Abingdon?

James Townsend in his *History of Abingdon* of 1910 traces the phrase back to an anonymous political pamphlet of 1702, *The States-Men of Abingdon*. But it is used in that pamphlet for rhetorical effect rather than to further the argument; the Abingdon corporation had called for the reopening of a case against certain Whig peers who had already been acquitted by the House of Lords, and there was no question of a verdict preceding a trial.

According to Townsend, the phrase referred to an incident during the Civil War when five Irish royalist soldiers, captured during an unsuccessful attack on the town, were hanged while their comrades were not. But this also doesn't quite fit. The Irishmen were not tried either before or after their execution. Captured Irishmen were routinely put to death simply for being Irish and on the royalist side, and in fact there was a parliamentary ordinance enforcing this and setting penalties for non-compliance. The Abingdon killings were not unusual, except perhaps in being widely reported in the newspapers. So it appears that by 1702 Abingdon Law was a stock phrase that could be put to multiple uses. How did it arise?

It was Mienieke Cox who found what was probably the earliest appearance of 'Abingdon Law' in print. This was in a straightforward history of the Civil War published in 1663 by the royalist James Heath:

*Abingdon*, where a cruel custom had been practised of hanging all the Irish without any manner of Tryal; under which notion, very many English also suffered: A barbarity so common, that it grew into the Proverb of *Abingdon-Law*.

That confirms the connection with Civil War Abingdon, and correctly says that the Irishmen were not tried. It was almost twenty years later, in 1681, that the satirical magazine *Heraclitus Ridens* seems to have been the first to add the notion of punishment before trial to the now proverbial Abingdon Law.

Whether *Abingdon-Law* exercised by Major-General *Brown*, first to hang a Man and then try

him, was not for the Liberty of the Subject, and the preservation of the Fundamental Laws, and *Magna Charta*?

The most probable author was the Tory propagandist Roger L'Estrange, who was associated with *Heraclitus Ridens* and who in a pamphlet of 1683 repeated:

For at this rate, people will be condemn'd before they are heard, and punish'd before they are convicted; nay, which is worse than *Abington-Law*, to hang a man first, and try him after, they shall be punish'd at will, and never brought to a tryal. What can be safe, if this be admitted?

These writings were widely read, and there are several more occurrences of the phrase, mostly in a political context, in the following twenty years or so.

How did L'Estrange – if it was him – come to intrude the idea of a trial into the Abingdon story? He may well have confused Abingdon Law with the already existing tradition of Lidford Law. Lidford, now Lydford, in Devon was a judicial centre under the medieval liberties granted to the Stannaries – the tin-producing areas of Devon and Cornwall. The local legal authorities would decide on their verdict and then, in principle, imprison the miscreant until the next triennial visit of the king's judges who would formally try the case. But since the local prison was small and overcrowded, it was convenient for all concerned that if a death sentence were inevitable it should be carried out without waiting for the trial. By the time of the next judicial session, the man would probably have died of disease anyway.

Lidford Law was publicised by William Browne of Taunton, who died in 1645 but whose works were reprinted several times in the seventeenth century as well as later. The poem begins:

I oft have heard of Lidford Law,  
How in the morn they hang and draw,  
And sit in judgment after  
At first I wondered at it much;  
But since, I find the reason such,  
As it deserves no laughter.

The coincidence of the poet's name with that of the Abingdon governor may have contributed to L'Estrange's confusion.

*Manfred Brod*



## A visit to Stonehenge

On 24 June 2014 the *Guardian* had an article by Will Self where he interviewed Simon Thurley of English Heritage and visited Stonehenge.

In the article he says that Heather Sebire, English Heritage's property curator, agreed with him that it would be possible for visitors to walk up the cursus avenue from the east and get into Stonehenge without paying.

We decided to see whether it was true. It would also be a good way to approach the monument without too much traffic intrusion and avoid the internet based booking system which English Heritage appears to be trying to force people to use.

Google Earth and Streetview show that the Larkhill army camp is to the north of Stonehenge and that a by-way open to all traffic, essentially a track, leads from the Fargo road to, and beyond Stonehenge. One should be able to

coaches doing the job as well.

We had just got past the stall selling jam and strawberries on the verge of the track, (if they displayed their prices they might do more trade), when we were approached by an English Heritage-badged person. Maybe he had been warned of our arrival by what appears to be a CCTV camera on a mast in that area.

He told us that we were not allowed to proceed further without an entry ticket. So much for Heather Sebire and Will Self, I thought.

I asked him whether our National Trust cards would get us in. Yes, he said, but you will have to go in a bus to the visitor centre to get a ticket and come back again as they don't do tickets at the stones. Jobsworths appear to be getting younger as one gets older.

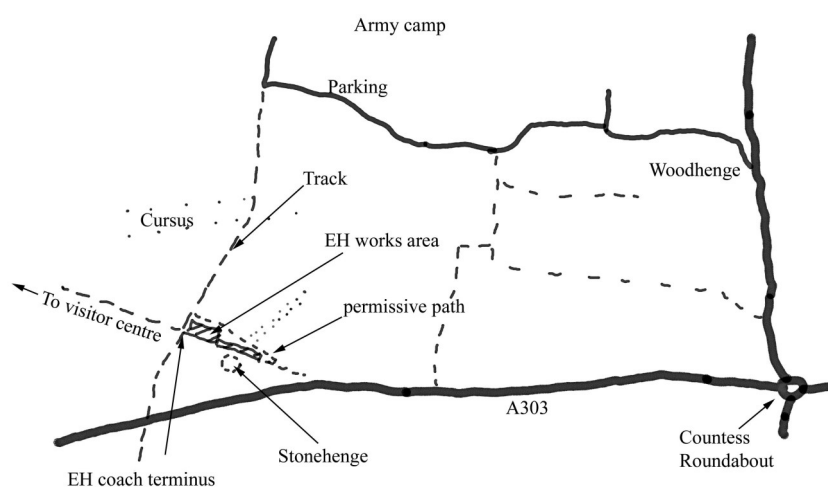
So we gave up as the idea had been to approach the stones in the manner of people before modern motor transport was invented and we had established that, despite claims to the contrary. English Heritage do not wish this to be possible.

We then walked in the area. The field to the east of the stones has a permissive path, presumably a temporary replacement for the use of the road which they have closed there. The old road is being covered with soil and there is Harris fencing between it and the stones – presumably to prevent paying visitors from getting onto the work site. It also serves to obstruct the view of the stones from the permissive path.

The Byway to the west of the stones continues down to the A303 and beyond. The fence between it and the stones is sheep wire approx 4 feet high with 2 strands of barbed wire on top. A fairly good view of the stones and their encircling visitors is possible from here.

We counted people. This was a Tuesday morning during school term time. About 150 people were going round the stones at any one time.

On our way back it started to rain. We were equipped with waterproofs. The majority of the visitors were not. There is now no shelter for visitors other than the buses or the



The site of Roger's exploration

park and walk up to the stones – according to the article.

We got there by turning right at the Countess roundabout and then going past Woodhenge. On-road parking was possible as the road was wide enough and little used. We could have got a bus there as there is a service along that road.

The walk was easy, less than a mile up the track, past Fargo plantation and up to the area where the English Heritage coaches deposit visitors. They make much of their Land Rover pulled land trains but they have several motor



visitor centre some 2 kms away. Similarly there are no visitor toilets near the stones, although I suspect that there are facilities for English Heritage staff in that area.

Later we tried to call into the visitor centre for a cup of tea but were deterred by the £5 parking charge, refundable if we got a ticket to visit the stones. Having visited the stones in the happier times when all visitors could touch them, we had no burning desire to embroil ourselves with the coach shuttle arrangements. We were therefore unable to form a view as to whether the new building was worth £27million or whether some ex-army nissen huts would have better reflected the history of the area.



Visiting Stonehenge in 1722—and not a jobsworth in sight!

William Stukeley (Wikimedia)

We continued on our trip and a few minutes later the rain became torrential. We both agreed that we were glad not to be at Stonehenge.

Roger Ainslie

## Beloved Time-Team...

Sunday evenings are not the same any more. Are we all missing the call to action drum beats and the attention grabbing introduction by Tony huddled in designer rain proofs? How did they make the show look as if it never rained in early Spring?

The handaxe graphic with the TT logo. Yes where was that Palaeolith found? It looks similar to that 900,000 year old piece from Happisburgh. Those familiar characters. They would be happy in any soap or gardening slot. That felt hat! Was it evidence of hard labour or did the situation demand an on-site discussion in a force ten with horizontal rain? That rainbow pulley, an on-site art installation. Alas, sadly, we will not see that familiar phenomenon again.

The guest specialists. Oh yes it's John Blair! Our home grown specialists. The unmistakable frame of Tim Allen. The infamous Roger Ainslie of Abingdon Geophysics, sorry Geo-Fizz. Have we seen Chairman Thomas? He has connections you know.

The three days set in stone. To come up with all the phasing, finds identification, the Allan Sorrell interpretation and rounding off with a pint and pig roast. All this done

and dusted and the odd Time-Team staff cremation for added visual stimulation, after all it was prime time with 4 million viewers.

TT went through attempted evolutionary growth pangs. Expansion of territory for foreign holidays. The Caribbean sun and the USA. Oh yes they went diving as well as flying.

The three day menu evolved into Specials when at its giddy heights of fame. Key sites were selected with popular themes. As confidence grew we had TT LIVE. Do we recall the weekend specials pulling in local communities with half-hour live broadcasts throughout the weekends? All this made for stressed times. Setting the recorder and making sure you had been to Budgens beforehand.

So what has TT done for archaeology? The all-encompassing question that we all are forced to think about. Well, I do not know. I suppose that those of us who have had involvement in the team sites first hand as 'cannon fodder' or up there at the top 'looking down on us' as specialist guests, have a thoroughly thumbs down stance. Enthusiasm wanes a little when the gale, hail, and forced ale have their say.



The Society has been 'loosely' involved. Back in the Palaeolithic past in the 1990s ice age it felt like as if an inch of hail and sleet fell on the land fill of Stanton Harcourt tip turning it into the mammoth steppe. A handful of Abingdon Arch and Hist Society volunteered on this site. Time Team took on Stanton for a March weekend. Very brave of them as this was their first incursion into geology and Palaeolithology and they did suffer. Like all sites the weeks before - wonderful things, mammoth remains everywhere. The team invaded like a Hollywood production. Site catering, air tents over trenches, technical vans, cable runs, and then the film stars. Christine and Kate, the site directors did not know what had hit them! I had my jewellery roadshow and sold a saucer brooch to Tony Baldrick. Carrenza wore my TT trowel earrings for the weekend. Phil made indifferent comments about silver barbed and tanged arrowheads! The issue was that none of us had a serious thought for the rich interglacial deposits. The March weather gave us warm sunshine followed by heavy rain and then hail and sleet. The landfill site looked totally ordered as compared with the site's Oxford Clay quagmire. Of course, the finds dried up. John Cooper, I think, saved the weekend. He had recently bought a mini excavator 'bone finder' with street cred as its last hire was in the Cromwell Street, Gloucester, murder enquiry. He cut more trenches and managed to expose some disarticulated mega fauna which gave a welcome opportunity for some footage. The weekend did make the silver screen but did not contribute or enhance the mammoth project. I recall Christine commenting that they had received a comprehensive contour survey but with no heights indicated!

The Society was invited to assist at the excavation of a suspected castle linked with the defence of Radcot Bridge located on a major North-South route in the mediaeval period. The pioneering research by John Blair had revealed documentary evidence of a defended bridgehead. In the civil war it was enhanced by comprehensive earthworks. The Society supported the event and at least 8 experienced members attended. A small number of members spent time in trenches troweling. However, most of us were not given a start and spent most of the weekend watching from the side lines. We could have been usefully employed using our own trench to resolve other aspects of the complex site. The team's Chapel trench was proving difficult with scant evidence and much robbing of footings. I spent time walking the adjacent spoil heap and located some key evidence of a Chapel. Several sherds of painted window glass, appropriate bits of hardware, for helping to confirm the structure as a Chapel did not cause

any interest and was not discussed again. Later on, Time Team's finds of window glass always seemed to be held in reverence. One feels that we were again cannon fodder, extras in crowd scenes and a necessary encumbrance.

The site did however produce positive evidence of solid footings and central vault of a substantial mediaeval keep with accompanying contemporary crockery. Paul Blinkhorn was the guest expert and we learnt from his commentary on a finds tray. He was summoned by Julia to run through some finds from the Chapel trench. 'Come on Paul, shows us your dirty old pots then'. Such camaraderie a hallmark of Society diggers.

Drop Short Villa and Saxons halls at Drayton mill near Sutton Courtney, was right in our patch. Our rescue excavations on the lower Drayton Cursus saw some of our investigations a few hundred metres from the scheduled sites that Time Team had permission to investigate. Terry Stopps fortunately happened to drive by and saw Time Team infrastructure at the Gilbourne farm otherwise we would not have had an opportunity to see further sections through the upper Cursus near its squared terminal.

Drop Short Villa turned into a landscape study and we could have contributed to that study. Our work on the Cursus indicated that the associated linear Neolithic earthworks had survived into the Roman occupation. A field system was orientated around the Cursus and almost certainly was linked with Drop Short. We also cut a trench into very deep alluvium on the proposed line of the Cursus. It was proved that the lower part of the Cursus in fact terminated at the edge of this deep alluvium making two Cursus sites and we positively identified the course of the river alluded to by Simon (the landscape Archaeologist). It does seem a travesty that we did not have an opportunity to contribute, especially as we had much local knowledge and information to offer.

It seems that Time Team did become increasingly insular in later productions. With Mick Aston withdrawing it was clear that all was not well and fraught with confrontation with new young blood inching in. The team with its high tech and huge budget, unheard of in Archaeology, became a super evaluation unit with 'same day publication' theme. No doubt they made their mark and positive results abound. Archaeology became a community orientated occupation and gave many new enthusiasts undiscovered interests and outlook.

*Jeff Wallis*



## The Committee — who does what?

**Chairman:** Roger Thomas

**Secretary/town planning/publicity:** Stuart Hughes

**Treasurer:** Andrew Steele

**Membership:** Penny Cookson

**Digging:** Jeff Wallis

**Lectures:** Bob Evans

**Outings:** Elizabeth Drury

**Local History/Newsletter:** Manfred Brod

**Website:** David Rayner

**Archives:** Jackie Smith

**Roger Thomas** and **Stuart Hughes**, having served two terms on the Committee, will stand down at the AGM on 18 September. Stuart's workload is normally shared between two committee members, so there are three vacancies to be filled.

## Contact

**[info@aaahs.org.uk](mailto:info@aaahs.org.uk)**



## AAAHS Membership form

Membership type (please tick)	Individual	£12
	Family	£18
	Senior/unwaged/student	£8.50
	Distant	£4
Full name & address		
Telephone no(s)		
E mail address		
Newsletter. Please tick preferred option(s) <input type="checkbox"/> e mail <input type="checkbox"/> paper copy		

Please send completed form with cheque payable to AAAHS to  
Membership Sec, AAAHS, 136 Marlborough Road, Oxford, OX1 4LS  
or bring form with cheque/cash to any lecture meeting. Thank you