

NOTES

NORTH MARSTON: Work has been completed in the Schorne Chapel at North Marston since the previous note in the *Records*. The removal of the matchboard dado revealed a further decorated recess or niche in a most curious position. Mr. Edward S. Lambourne has kindly given me particulars of this. It is situated in the north-east corner, partly below the present floor-level. It measures 18 inches to 2 feet in height, 17 inches wide, and 13 inches deep. The arch is triangular at the top and cinquefoiled below, with the same four-leaved ornamentation as occurs elsewhere in the chapel. The recess contained one part of a human bone, and had its original flooring, consisting of six encaustic tiles of a familiar pattern making one circular design. The purpose of a small recess in such a curious position is difficult to determine; but taken into account with the squint to the high altar, and the opening into the nave on the north side, and the other elaborate work in the chapel, it gives further support to the contention that in fact the original chapel or shrine connected with the relics of John Schorne before they were removed to Windsor in the fifteenth century, was situated here.

LITTLE MISSENDEN: On Wednesday, August 18th, the Bishop of Buckingham dedicated a number of recent works in Little Missenden church. These were the west window—'Worship of the Holy Church throughout the world'—executed by the A. K. Nicholson Stained Glass Studios; a new bell to complete the peal of six, and the rebuilt organ, case, and screen, placed in the tower so as to show the arch and divided so that the west window may be seen. These were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Hett—'To commemorate Victory and in gratitude to all the Services in the World War, 1939-45'. Also dedicated was the new Priest's Vestry, the original north door being used as the entrance. These and many other works have been accomplished during the incumbency of the Rev. W. H. Davis.

LANGLEY MARISH: Work has been in progress for some time on the repair and improvement of the Kederminster Library and the family pew and chapel, or transept, undertaken by the Bucks. County Council as Lord of the Manor. A full account will be given later. But it may be stated that the stripping of the exterior cement rendering revealed unexpected medieval features, which indicate that adjoining the porch, or perhaps part of it, there was a chapel with small piscina. Dismantling of the painted panelling for treatment and repair from the ravages of beetle and dry-rot showed that this woodwork was by no means homogeneous, but may have been brought from elsewhere and made up. One side is also markedly inferior to another in execution.

Cleaning of the transept walls revealed that the decoration had been altered and clumsily repainted more than once. Parts of the original scheme have been found above the great south window (strapwork), and on the east and west walls, where there were three pilasters in imitation marbling and with curious reversed or inturned Ionic volutes to the capitals, such as have been associated with the Bastards of Blandford, and Thomas Archer over one hundred years later, in the eighteenth century. (See Howard Colvin in *Records of Bucks*, vol. XV, pp. 8 and 9.)

CHALFONT ST. GILES: Recent cleaning and partial re-treatment of the wall-paintings in Chalfont St. Giles' church (last dealt with by Professor Tristram about twenty years ago) has resulted in the probable identification of a further subject not previously deciphered. This is above the south door, between the painting of Herod's Feast on the east and the Tree of Jesse on the west. Two crowned figures and part of a third with a scroll, and what may be a portion of the ox and the ass in the stable, can be made out. The subject probably represents the Adoration or visit of the Magi, and would fit in well with a sequence beginning with the Jesse Tree, or Ancestry of Christ, at the west end, and having the Annunciation (?), Visitation, and Nativity in the defaced section of the wall west of the door.

HARTWELL AND STANTONBURY: The compiler of these Notes recently visited these two structures and thinks it desirable to place on record their deplorable condition. Hartwell is the most remarkable church of its kind in the county. Full details of it are given in Murray's Guide, reviewed in this issue of the *Records*. The first damage was caused, as it is in nine cases out of ten, by sheer laziness and neglect of the very simple and initially inexpensive but vital duty of every incumbent and churchwarden to keep the church gutters and rain-pipes clear of obstructions and in good repair. A few pounds a year spent on regular inspection, clearing and painting or replacement would save endless trouble, damage to valuable structures, and enormous expense. At Hartwell the water has run down and through the walls instead of inside the pipes for years, with inevitable results. The proposal to demolish the church was fortunately stopped. A small grant from the William and Jane Morris Fund enabled the worst areas on the roof and upper gutters to be repaired, so that the volume of water entering the building is a good deal reduced. But beyond this there is no sign of any activity to improve matters: no scheme has been put forward, and no general appeal launched. Meanwhile, the church is derelict and unused; most of the plaster vault over the sanctuary has fallen, together with a large area of that over the nave; the service books (many of them important and finely bound) remain mildewed and tattered among a heap of mouldering hassocks, and the other fittings are in similar case.

The old parish church of St. Peter, Stanton Low or Stanton Barry, stands remote in the fields down by the river beyond New Bradwell. Reference to *The Report of the Historical Monuments Commission* will remind one that it contains the finest twelfth-century chancel arch in Bucks, and several other features of interest and value. The building is never used; many roof tiles are missing, and water enters freely. The door is carefully bolted, barred, and padlocked; but as every pane of glass in the building is smashed and the iron bars wrenched out, that is not much protection. Idle boys and vagrants have desecrated the interior, and even started to pull out stones from the walling and niches flanking the chancel arch. The Jacobean pulpit and Holy Table are wrecked almost beyond repair. It would be nice to think that some responsible person locally was aware of the situation, and prepared to take steps to put matters right. The replacement of tiles and the firm boarding up of the windows would at least be something, and would not be unduly expensive if an appeal were launched. But here again there are no signs of life.

WEXHAM: It is announced in the *Buckinghamshire Advertiser and Gazette* of October 29th that 'efforts are to be made to replace the wooden spire on the twelfth-century parish church at Wexham . . . reported to be in an advanced state of decay'. The bell turret, supported on



Plate 14. POTTERY FROM THE IRON AGE. A pit complex, Chinnor, Oxon (see under Notes)

heavy timbers like the West Middlesex churches of Perivale, Greenford, and Northolt, is an attractive feature of an almost unaltered, aisleless Norman church.

THORNTON: The making of a small immediate grant by the William and Jane Morris Fund of the Society of Antiquaries of London has enabled the portions of the Ingylton tomb to be removed from the derelict grotto in the grounds of Thornton College. The promise of a further small grant has enabled the tomb to be re-assembled, repaired where necessary, and re-erected in Thornton church, with its original slab having the quadruple canopy Ingylton brass replaced upon it. Our member, Major J. D. Young, has most kindly supervised the local arrangements. Examination has shown that the shield-bearers on the sides of the tomb are angels, with wings in low relief, of perfectly normal late-fifteenth-century type—a fact not apparently seen by Mr. Greening Lamborn (see *Records of Bucks*, vol. XV, pp. 46–50 and plates).

Interesting details of the construction of the tomb, revealed in the course of its careful dismantling and re-assembly, will be discussed in a future number.

DENHAM: It was announced in the *Daily Telegraph* that the silver chalice and paten anonymously given to the parish church of Denham in 1675 were to be sold at Sotheby's. *The Report of the Historical Monuments Commission* gives the date of the cup as actually 1673. The plate was subsequently withdrawn on the intervention of the Chancellor of the Diocese.

HADDENHAM: Attention was recently called, by Mr. Walter Rose, to an object in the orchard of Haddenham Vicarage. This is a large circular stone bowl, approximately 18 inches in height, and 22 or 23 inches across the interior, the outside diameter being 28 or 29 inches. The material appears to be limestone, and is unornamented—or appears so in its present weathered state. The outside of the bowl tapers slightly towards its base, where, at one point, there is a suggestion of a simple round moulding. The interior is evenly hollowed out, and is perforated at the bottom. The sides are from 2 to 2½ inches in thickness, perhaps a little more. There are four breaks in the rim.

The object has every appearance of being a font of plain workmanship such as is found in many churches of the late twelfth or early thirteenth centuries. The breaks in the rim suggest the hinge- or staple-holes for fastening the cover. Haddenham itself already has a font of this date: so that is clearly not its provenance. It may well have come from the nearby parish of Stone, where the present splendid font was imported from Hampstead Norris, in Berkshire, in 1845, after many adventures (see *The Builder*, 25th July, 1846; *Records of Bucks.*, vol. V, 354; *ibid.*, vol. IX, 192–3). Stone must have possessed an ancient font; and although no mention is made of it or what became of it when the elaborate Hampstead Norris bowl was installed, the chances are it would have been taken little note of if it was as plain and rude as the present specimen. The neighbouring incumbent at Haddenham may well have acquired it as a garden ornament for planting flowers in. It will be preserved.

Mrs. Alison Young contributes the following note:

During the summers 1947–48 excavations have been carried out, through the courtesy of Magdalen College, on an Iron Age A site in the Chilterns above the village of Chinnor, Oxon.

The site was located on a visit to the barrow marked “tumuli” on the O.S. one-inch map, National Grid, 159, when pottery sherds were collected from the ploughed surface of the common which had been cultivated during the war years. It was later found that sherds from this area had been discussed by Mr. Crossley Holland in *Oxoniensia*, VII, 1942, 108.

The first season of excavation led to the discovery of a pit complex; a second somewhat similar but larger complex was uncovered in the second year's work, both showing the same sequence of occupation. A tribe of Iron Age A People had occupied the high ground. They had quarried the chalk, fashioning semicircular, undercut pits or annexes on the peri-

meter of a central area, the depth of the floor varying from 2 to 4 feet. The discovery of a group of holes in the side of one of the pits where horn wedges had been hammered in to loosen the chalk showed the method used in digging the pits, incidentally proving this particular pit to be unfinished. Shortly after they had been dug, the pits were filled in, and on the mixed filling of chalk, clay, and flints, hearths were built.

The evidence proves the presence of a people using bronze as well as iron. Well-fired pottery of varying quality is plentiful, some covered with a black slip, highly polished and decorated with incised patterns. The cooking wares show finger-tip impressions. Pieces of triangular clay loom-weights were found, as well as the remains of weaving implements, iron ring-headed pins, and iron knives. Finds included beads and part of a shale bangle. Many flint hammer-stones and pounders were recovered and fragments of grit stones which are possibly the remains of saddle querns. Pieces of burnt daub showing the imprint of withies suggest wattle-and-daub structure. The charcoals indicate the use of hazel, willow, birch, and sycamore. Animal bones include those of a breed of horse something larger than a New Forest pony, and a small breed of cow. The bones of sheep and pigs are also found, and an interesting awl-like tool, fashioned from a pig's incisors, has occurred in both the pit complexes.

It is anticipated that work will be resumed next season, when the help of members of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society would be welcomed.

A full report of the excavation will be published in the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, under whose auspices the work has been carried out.

(This report will be awaited with interest, as it would appear that this site, though on the Oxfordshire border, has affinities with other Bucks. Chiltern sites, i.e. Lodge Hill, Bledlow (see *Records of Bucks*, vol. XIV, 189–209), and Ellesborough (see *Records of Bucks*, vol. IX., 349). All are in close proximity to the Icknield way.—ED.)

Mr. A. Vere Woodman contributes the following:

THE COUNTY BOUNDARY BETWEEN ALDBURY AND PITSTONE

The following memorandum, endorsed both in Latin and English on a Court-roll for the manor of Aldbury, dated 5th August, 1535, and first noticed by Lieut.-Col. W. Le Hardy, has recently been received from Miss B. M. Colquhoun of the Herts County Record Office:

‘Be it Remembryd off the Separacion off the counties of Buckyngham and Hertfford that ys to say ffrome the North Woodde off the Rector and hys brotherne off the house of Assherugge by the heath of Pychenam¹ and Aldbury unto a certain Wayer² called Clynkmere whyche ys within the libertyes off Assherugge and so descendyth unto a place dyched Rounde About and Savyng one lytell Enteryng in within the sayd lybertyes in the whyche place the Appellours or Challengers and ffelones where wont to ffyght and ffrome thence to a certayne Wayer called Holmer and from thence to An other Wayer called Wydmere and ffrom thence to the combe and ffrom thence to the hedge of Ralfe ffallwolle.’

These are obviously the bounds between the parishes of Aldbury in the county of Herts. and Pitstone in the county of Bucks., and they remain unaltered to the present day. Several of them can be identified—Clynkmere is the pond some hundred yards east of the Monument. But by far the most interesting reference is to the place where trials by combat—a custom moribund in the thirteenth century—were wont to be held. It was evidently the site on which Stocks kitchen garden now stands.

The memorandum itself is no doubt a copy of an earlier original, which can perhaps be dated by the mention of Ralf Fallwolle, sometime lord of a manor in Ivinghoe Aston. He died in 1349, and is commemorated by a brass on the south side of Ivinghoe chancel. His curious surname, Fall-in-the-wool, soon became corrupted, but may survive in ‘Folly’ Farm, which lies adjacent to his hedge in Pitstone.

¹ An unusual variant of Pightlesthorn.

² A horse-pond.