

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/5

The principal marker for the year came on 1st August when the County Museum moved to Trust status following the 11th-hour completion of negotiations around finance, leases, collections management and service level agreements galore. Assisted by the new Director, Richard de Peyer, the new Chairman Dr Bob Sutcliffe supported by Stephen Carew of Parrott and Coales won most of the battles, and approval of a suite of agreements that have set the Trust on the way to a tremendous start. By the end of the financial year on March 31st a surplus of £30k has been recorded with the prospect of another modest surplus towards development of a reserve fund next year.

This report reviews the period April 2014 until April 2015. Five new Trustees joined in the few days following transfer to trust, when all the ticklish negotiation was complete, and spent the autumn becoming familiar with new responsibilities and the rapid approval of new applications to the HLF for redevelopment of the Halton Museum Resource Centre (failed), to the Arts Council for Full Accreditation (succeeded) and to the Arts Council for a new fund to develop retail trading and catering across a consortium of seven museums in the area (also succeeded). Along the way the whole paraphernalia of independent status from bank accounts, VAT accounting, payroll and PAYE, to collecting policies, financial regulations, trustee registration and induction and an initial forward business plan all had to be devised and approved in swift order. By January the Trustees and the new director were at last beginning to get to grips with some of the creative stuff!

As usual, visit numbers and the success of our exhibitions are continued concerns, and we had something of a mixed bag this year. The Trust remains committed to free admission for the County Museum, but attendance numbers overall dropped to 85,200 from 91,088 in the previous year and this had a knock-on effect on trading performance in other areas (see below). Accordingly the Trust took several measures to address performance, particularly after December. A promotional

strategy has been adopted, with early measures including a stronger focus on promoting the Dahl Gallery, website implementation, which became available in later July 2015, visitor monitoring using a survey form scientifically sampled since December, postcode mapping of all visitors and a more visitor focused selection of exhibition themes. To stimulate café trading, additions have been made to product lines and a Curiosity Coffee Shop challenge has been inaugurated with selected and researched objects, a questionnaire challenge each week, articles for the Bucks Herald and installed displays. A price rise for the Dahl Gallery was budgeted for the new financial year (following 6 years of price freeze) and measures put in place to review the offer there and to introduce new interpretation methods from summer 2015. The ACE project grant which we led offers consultancy support in 2015/16 and 2016/17 and £7k investment for shop and catering changes to be implemented from April 2015.

The bad news in the review year was that lower general visiting has damaged all trading lines. Café trading reduced from £24.7k to £18.7k (although new staffing arrangements have made a saving of £17k on costs there), shop trading reduced from £39.7k to £27.2k, Dahl Gallery admission income reduced from £43.7k to £32k.

There was the usual mixture of exhibitions including *Friars Music Club* until 5th July 2014 (Main Gallery); *Duty & Service: Bucks Lives in the Great War* 26 July – 14 March 2015 (Main Gallery) and *Creative Connections* Opening from 28 March 2014 (Main Gallery). Smaller exhibitions included *The Unfeathered Bird* 17 May – 27 September 2014 (Georgian Room), *Toy Zone* 17 May – 13 September 2014 (Schools gallery), *A Portrait of Studio Ceramics* 4 October – 7 February 2015 (Georgian Room), *One Hundred Years On* working with Amersham College students 4 February – 18 April 2015 (Georgian Room), David Jones and other artists July – December 2014 (Touch of Bucks Gallery) and *Winter in Art* December – April 2015 (Touch of Bucks Gallery). Analysis of

visitor numbers shows that at 7700 visitors *Duty and Service* yielded larger numbers per day on average than the *Friars Music Club* (3535 visitors), which also barely broke-even despite hopes for it as an admission-charged income generator. Trustees have noted the lessons and are looking at visitor patterns to identify what future shows should target and how.

The Learning Service is central to the museum function. At the start of the review year Schools bookings were reduced as a result of low staffing levels which were not completely addressed until the autumn term with a further round of casual staff recruitment in January. School numbers were lower overall at 13,200 (down from 15,400) although March figures showed recovery with advance booking indicating strong performance likely in the 2015–16 year ahead. Since early 2015 information about our Learning programme has been included in a termly newsletter emailed for the first time to a complete database of Buckinghamshire primary schools put together by our Erasmus placement student Marco Ciarula. Traditionally the museum has operated family activities through most school holidays: details of these and of our new Aylesbury Ducklings sessions for under 5s have been circulated through the new database and to nursery schools within a 15-mile radius. Numbers remain healthy (3477 in the year) for both and on course for us to continue the investment in ‘the Ducklings’ made by our charitable and business sponsors for the programme; Wilkins Solicitors, the William Harding Trust and the Rothschild Foundation. Support from the Aylesbury NADFAS branch has also helped in developing our Big Draw activity in October, conspicuous in 2014 through its ‘Enchanted Forest’ theme and accompanying pop exhibition in the learning zone. Our thanks go to all of them and to our hard working Learning Team, who have done so much to make them successful.

The Museum receives regular support from its Friends and Patrons; the two groups are a single charity and managed by a joint committee but retain different priorities for grant allocation. The Patrons owe their origins to fundraising efforts to build the new art exhibitions gallery in the 1990s, and focus their grant-giving on art acquisitions and some strategic grants for example for selected special exhibitions. In 2014–5 the Patrons made grants of £3050 towards the purchase of the ‘Valley

Farm’ watercolour by David Jones and £3000 for the 15th-century Dorton gold pendant. The Friends have continued to contribute matching money to enable numerous small purchases acquired under Treasure Act legislation, and have additionally funded purchase of a new marquee, and our publicity leaflet and website development budgets. The Friends have also provided assistance at Family Workshop days and a mobile ‘rapid reaction force’ to assist at large events, making possible the marshalling of many hundreds of enthusiastic visitors when staff are thinly spread on weekend event days. We are grateful both to the individuals who have contributed so much, and to the Committee representing both bodies. The full list of donations from the Friends in the past year totals £12,934, and includes grants for virtually all of our purchases during the year listed on the following schedule. We would like to reiterate how uniquely lucky we feel to have in-house top-up money for these important projects when revenue budgets are stretched.

Beyond the museum walls the Trustees are committed to reflecting the obligations of the County Council Service level agreement and extending outreach more actively to demonstrate commitment to the key driver of enhanced participation.

Special arrangements for groups have included Bucks Art Society and other art group tours of Halton, access visits for Ivinghoe Mens’ Group, Weston Turville U3A, BAS Active Archaeology Group, Bourne End Family History Society, five other tours around the museum site and one at Halton for the Heritage Open Days in September, a Studio Ceramics tour at Halton and the wider organisation of September Heritage Open Days events across Aylesbury (for which Sarah Gray volunteered her services) coordinating between five venues specially opened for the weekend.

Across the county there has been a particular effort by Keeper staff to deliver talks across a more geographically distributed area of Bucks: at Wendover Art Club for art, venues at which Social History talks were given, and one for archaeology. A scientific approach to distributing these is now being taken. Each keeper is balancing their input, and in the 2015/16 year is proactively seeking venues in areas that are so-far virgin territory for their discipline.

In addition to talks, there have been numerous loans and special exhibitions, including archae-

ology loans to Chess Valley Archaeology Society, Maids Moreton Conservation Group and Princes Risborough Countryside Group. Loans were also organised to Buckingham Museum and Tring Museum (loans will occur in Aug/Sept 2015); a multi-disciplinary show was held at Oving and Pitchcott and art loans were made including the Trust's first long term installation, for which as owners special BAS and County Council consent was sought (of armorial bearings in the Sir John Soane Tribune at Wotton House).

Notable accessions to the collections included:

ART & STUDIO CERAMICS

2014.42.1 Presentation pack of 4 stamps featuring British Studio Ceramics, stamped 13 Oct 1987.

2014.46.1 'The Valley Farm' by David Jones, watercolour, 1929. Location identified as Bryant's Bottom near Speen.

2014.69.1 Small bowl by Margrete Marks, probably 1960s/70s.

2014.69.2 Small pot by Margrete Marks, probably 1960s/70s.

2014.70.1 'Snow' by Eric James Mellon, oil on board, 1953–4, painted at Hillesden.

2014.75.1 Large stoneware pot by Michael Casson, c.1964, thrown at Prestwood.

2014.100.1 'Manor Farm, Kimble' by Marjorie Shearman, acrylic on board, c.1980.

2014.117.1 Postcard; 'The Last Load, Whiteleaf Cross, Risborough'; sent to Mrs William Callow.

2014.118.1 Stoneware dish by John Lomas, about 1990, thrown at Jordans, Beaconsfield.

2014.119.1 Stoneware jug by John Lomas, about 1990, thrown at Jordans, Beaconsfield.

2014.120.1 Pierced, porcelain goblet by Mildred Slatter, about 1980s, made at Fulmer.

2014.121.1 Pierced, porcelain cockerel by Mildred Slatter, about 1980s, thrown and hand-built at Fulmer.

2014.122.1 Small porcelain lidded box by Mildred Slatter, about 1980s, made at Fulmer.

2014.123.1 Small stoneware lidded box by Mildred Slatter, about 1980s, made at Fulmer.

2014.124.1 Large stoneware jug by Mildred Slatter, about 1970s, thrown at Fulmer.

2014.125.1 Medium stoneware jug by Mildred Slatter, about 1970s, thrown at Fulmer.

2014.126.1 Stoneware vase with pierced wings by Mildred Slatter, about 1970s, thrown at Fulmer.

NATURAL SCIENCE

2014.94 Collection of Buckinghamshire fossils collected by Antony Allen in the 1970s and 80s.

2015.13 A small collection of noteworthy Buckinghamshire plants including Box from the Ellesborough Warren SSSI native box woodland, and Aylesbury Prunes from Pitstone Green Farm, Bucks County Museum and Bucks County Museum Resource Centre collected and mounted by Mike Palmer.

2014.116 Collection of Gault Clay fossils collected by Antony Allen.

2015.17 A collection of Juniper specimens from Grangelands, collected by Julia Carey *et al* and mounted by Mike Palmer.

2014.129 Samples from a geological log of a freshly revealed section of the Bugle Pit SSSI (a rare Purbeck exposure in Bucks) by Dr Jill Evers and Nicky Muizelaar.

ARCHAEOLOGY

2015.20.1 Copper alloy crucifix, 17th century; found in Aylesbury; relief decoration on front and back; top arm broken off.

2015.28.1 Gold finger ring; mourning ring dated c.1650–1720; inscribed on inside "Mortui monent mori W H"; found with metal detector at Wing and declared Treasure; inscription translates as "The dead warn of death", and the deceased's initials, WH.

2015.60.1 Silver early medieval object; possibly a mount or fitting from a sword belt, or horse harness; decorated in Viking style; 9th-10th century AD; silver with iron backing; found with metal detector at Twyford and declared Treasure.

2015.87.1 Gold medieval pendant; lozenge shaped with suspension loop; iconographic images on both sides, the annunciation on one side, and a bishop, possibly Thomas Beckett, on the other; traces of enamel remaining; later 15th century; found at Dorton.

EXCAVATION ARCHIVES

The following archives from productive sites were deposited in 2014. For simplicity, negative sites have not been included.

2005.2.1 Evaluation at All Souls Farm quarry, Wexham; uncompleted volunteer cataloguing

project, completed Nov 2014.

2006.203.1 Geophysical survey and evaluation at Milton Keynes, Nova MK1, 2006, Wavendon parish; includes microfiche and photographic slides.

2007.37.1 Evaluation at Milton Keynes Nova 1, 2007, following geophysical survey 2006. Mostly mid-late Roman farming settlement with drove roads; includes limited Iron Age occupation.

2007.71.1 Excavation at Milton Keynes Nova 1, April-June 2007. Late Iron Age enclosure.

2009.193.1 Fieldwork at 15 The Green, Brill.

2010.131.1 Fieldwork at Saint Mary's Church, Church Street, Princes Risborough. Human remains recovered and re-buried on site.

2012.21 Evaluation at Astwood Grange Wind Turbines; archive consists of a small quantity of Roman sherds.

2012.84.1 Fieldwork at Monks Mede, Burton Lane, Monks Risborough.

2012.93 Evaluation at Little Kimble; archive with small quantity of mixed finds including mid-Iron Age pottery.

2012.98 Excavation at High Street, Marlow.

2012.122.1 Excavation at Lamport Gardens, Stowe, 1995.

2012.125.1 Watching brief at Boarstall Tower.

*Collection Team
Buckinghamshire County Museum*

CENTRE FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2014–2015

In 2014, Buckinghamshire County Council celebrated its 125th anniversary. The first full meeting of the new Council was held on 1st April 1889 following the Local Government Act of 1888, which established county and borough councils. Prior to this, the magistrates of the Quarter Sessions courts performed the duties relating to the administration of the county, such as the maintenance of the roads and bridges and the licensing of public houses (amongst other things). However, the growing need for a more coherent system of local administration led to the passing of the Act in 1888, and the first elections for councillors were held in January 1889.

Part of the responsibilities of the county archives is to preserve and provide access to the records of the body that established the Record Office in 1938. Consequently, one of the largest collections we hold is that of the County Council, including the first Council minute book, which started with the meeting of the Provisional Council in February 1889. The records continue (largely uninterrupted) to the present day.

As part of the Council's celebration of the 125th anniversary, the Archives were invited to create content for the Council's Twitter feed, showcasing elements of the history of the Council as well as highlighting the services that the Council provides.

World War One

We have been planning a project for some time to commemorate World War One in Buckinghamshire. A lot of effort has gone into developing a project that could be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and that project will start in 2016. In addition, we have been represented at each of the county co-ordination meetings organised by the Lord Lieutenant for the WW1 centenary.

A large number of WW1 recruitment posters and photographs from the archive collection were used in an exhibition hosted at Buckinghamshire County Museum from July 2014.

Outreach

One of the most important things that an archive service can do currently is get out from its own building and talk to people about the things that they do. To that end, the staff of the Centre have given a number of talks or helped with training for different organisations over the course of the year. This has included training for the committee members of the BCC Rights of Way Committee, tours of the Judges' Lodgings, presenting at the national Sports Heritage Conference, and training volunteers for the STACAccess:MK project for Milton Keynes Council, amongst others.

The archivists have also been working with colleagues from Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire looking at ways of working collaboratively across county boundaries.

Beaconsfield and District Historical Society have contracted the Centre to help them deliver a Heritage Lottery funded project to catalogue and digitise their archive collection, which consists of books, photographs and general ephemera. This project should be complete in 2016.

Accessions

The Centre accessioned 121 collections during 2014. The selected highlights of these new deposits are as follows:

- Maps and plans from the Highways Department of Milton Keynes Council, including plans that were drawn up during the time of Milton Keynes Development Corporation's development of Milton Keynes, c.1960s–2000s
- Papers on the restoration of the Dovecote at Notley Abbey in 1970.
- Two deposits of Deeds and other records of the Harvey family estate of Langley Park, 1676–1887, including: Inventories of furniture, china and other contents of Langley Park, excluding books, plate and pictures, 1887, deeds concerning family settlements, wills, etc, 1825–1879: Deeds, mainly of Upton Wood Farm and woods in Upton-cum-Chalvey, Langley

- Marish and Fulmer, 1676–1882, deeds relating to miscellaneous properties in Iver (Ashen Grove), 1866, Fulmer (allotments on Fulmer South Common), 1869, and Wexham and Upton-cum-Chalvey (part of Wexham glebe), 1866, and the marriage settlement of Rev. Edwin Hotham and Harriet Cotterell, 1838, with appointment of new trustees, 1863: Miscellaneous estate papers, 1791–1893. Also: Miscellaneous estate papers of the Harvey family of Langley Park, mainly correspondence and accounts.
- Records of church furnishings provided by the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies, relating to Chetwode, Horsenden and Drayton Beauchamp parishes.
 - An album of photographs of churches and buildings in North Bucks taken by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, early C20th.
 - Records of Datchet United Charities, comprising: Minute books, 1896–1998, Charity Commission Schemes for the Charity, 1939, 1974, and correspondence, 1987, deeds relating to property of Poors Land Charity, etc.
 - The diaries of George Clifford Reeves of Richings Park, Iver, 1970s–1980s.
 - Deeds, abstracts of title, plans and sale particulars relating to properties in Hughenden (also Prestwood), including sale particulars for Pipers Corner and Pipers Green Farm and Springfield Lodge, Kingshill, 1898, Prestwood estate, 1898 (plan only), Knives Farm, Prestwood, and Longfield Wood, 1920, sketch plans of ‘Mr Allnutt’s wood’ by John Richardson, 1768, and wood and arable at Pipers Corner (Long Grove), 18th cent, properties include (at various dates) Hatches Farm and Wood, part of Man’s Leg Wood, Pipers Close, Denchfield House at Great Kingshill Common, part of Long Grove Wood, Costard Closes at Great Kingshill Green, with tithes, part of Cold Arbour Farm, copyhold premises in Peterley Stone manor, and parties include Terry, Child, Spencer, Costard, Allnutt, Barnaby, Nash, Shrimpton, Ive, Evetts and Landau; 1668–1936.
 - Records of the County Engineer’s department regarding the planning application by Eton College for the construction of the rowing lake south of Dorney, 1989–1994.
 - Deeds and other documents relating to the Butterfield family, Chalfont St. Peter etc., 1604–1723.
 - Plans for public houses and off-licences for Wethered Brewery, including Beaconsfield and High Wycombe, 1856–1976.
 - Additional records from Buckinghamshire Military Museum Trust comprising: photograph of the Taplow Lancers, c.1870, photograph of the permanent staff of the Royal Bucks Kings Own Militia, c.1870, album of A.G.T. Smith, 37th Company Imperial Yeomanry, concerning service in South Africa, including photographs and letters, 1899–1901, photograph of 2nd Lieutenant Royal Bucks Hussars (unidentified), c.1914, photocopies of the letters of 2nd Lieutenant Thomas Francis Halford Fremantle (1897–1915), 1914–1915, copies of two photographs of Private Reginald Payne, 1/1 RBH, 1914–1918, ‘Sydney Fairbairn, Letters and Diaries, 1915–1924’ (served in the 1/1 RBH in 1915, privately published 2005), copy of Borough of Aylesbury Certificate of Thanks for service in the Great War, issued to William Walter Smith, 19 July 1919, copy of Regimental Orders, 1st Bucks Battalion, 17 Jan 1940, memoir of Sergeant Leslie Phipps (1st Bucks Battalion) concerning his war service and time as a POW, 1940–1945, with photograph of him, and five photographs relating to his father’s service in WWI, officers release book for Captain Richard Viney, OBLI, May 1947, photocopies of orders of service for commemoration of 200 years of the Yeomanry, 14 May 1994, centenary of the South African War, 9 September 2000, and Secretary’s Report to the Royal Bucks Hussars Association, 2014.
 - Records from the Charity Commission relating to charities in Buckinghamshire, comprising: Denham Public Elementary Schools (Denham Lancastrian Boys and Girls Schools, Denham Charity School, Isabella Ways Endowment); Iver Charities (including trusts for education of poor children and Bowyers School); Wykeham’s Charity and Philip Herbert’s Charity in Kingsey; Baptist Burial Ground in Princes Risborough; Causton’s Charity in Turweston.
 - Additional Stewart-Liberty family records, comprising: Liberty family bible, papers relating to Liberty family history; also notes on the Vernon family of High Wycombe. Photograph albums, published items, miscellaneous notes, probate and testamentary records, miscellaneous notes, cuttings, leaflets, etc, relating to local history.

- Sale particulars of Dagnall Brewery in Edlesborough (including plan), with 24 public houses (including The Golden Rule in Dagnall, The Village Green in Northall, Good Intent, Rule and Square and The Travellers Rest in Edlesborough, The Goat at 5 Old Road in Linslade), cottages and land in Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Berkshire, Hemel Hempsted and other places in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, 25 October 1897; Turville Grange, Turville, 1897 (plan only); Fariholm, Cornish Villa, Aston Villa, Clifton Villa, Hillside, Kings North, Crofton, house and shop in Desbrough Avenue, Sunnyside (house and shop) in Green Street and Victoria House and Jubilee Forges in Jubilee Road, all in High Wycombe, 10 November 1905.
- Correspondence, photographs, papers and research notes of and about the Hulton family of Emberton, and connections including the Fletcher and Sams families, C19-C20.
- Plans showing the boundaries of the Borough of Aylesbury in 1914, 1939, 1954 and 1965 (6 inch to 1 mile), comparative statistics for the Borough, including population, housing, birth and death rates and notifiable diseases, 1916–1966, OS map covering Aylesbury, also Westcott, Cuddington, Weston Turville and Wingrave (sheet 42/81, 2.5 inches to 1 mile), 1950s, photographs of Aylesbury, mostly the town centre.

*Laura Cotton
County Archivist*

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

REPORT FOR 2015

There have been further changes in personnel within Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service this year. Sarah-Jane Farr returned on a temporary contract to job-share with Eliza Alqassar to assist with planning advice while Eliza is an Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England, covering the south-east. Paul Clements has joined us as the HER Assistant for three days per week on a temporary contract which we hope will be extended.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Service was consulted on 575 proposals during 2015 (to mid-November) and 79 development-related fieldwork projects have been undertaken. Residential developments continue in various scales, and fieldwork for one development confirmed an Iron Age hillfort, thought to be present from cropmark evidence, north of Long Crendon. Excavation in Buckingham located what is likely to be the medieval town boundary ditch with 10th/11th-century pottery from the earliest fills and 15th/16th-century pottery from later fills. Solar farm applications have declined but evaluation works for all development sites regularly record late Iron Age/Romano-British rural settlement. Excavation of minerals sites in the south of the County continue to yield interesting results. One site near Denham has recorded Iron Age settlement and associated industrial activity, Bronze Age settlement and Romano-British enclosures.

The District Councils are increasingly consulting us over local plan preparation, area plans and neighbourhood plans. Eliza Alqassar has been invited to talk to local schools and community groups, and presented a paper on Roman settlement along the Icknield Belt at the Solent-Thames Research Framework launch at Reading University.

HIGH SPEED 2

The Parliamentary Select Committee hearings for Buckinghamshire County Council took place in

October. Following discussion with the County's HS2 Team and senior management, the archaeological petitioning points were addressed by assurances, changes to documentation and incorporation into larger County issues. Camden Council is taking the lead on historic environment route-wide issues. A meeting was held with HS2 Ltd at County Hall, where their Lidar data was offered. This information is currently being generated, but it will be some time before our systems are able to use it.

Atkins hosted a meeting on the Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy (HERDS) where invited people were asked to contribute to its development. This was well attended, with members of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, Historic England, local authority archaeologist and academics being present. The County Archaeological Service is a member of the HS2 Heritage Sub Group, and meetings are held every couple of months to discuss route-wide issues.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

The numbers of HER enquiries continues to grow year on year, with 91 direct enquiries in the first three quarters of 2015, though the number of enquiries has yet to recover to pre-recession levels.

The HER database and mapping software was moved onto a SQL server system and upgraded to the latest version of the software in September 2015. The new software involves some small changes to inputting and exporting processes, but HER users won't notice many changes to the report formats that information is provided in.

HER volunteers continue to input records for milestones and mileposts, and have completed the recording of railways, stations and halts. Records for historic public houses and inns are added using reports produced by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society's Historic Buildings Group, and are currently up-to-date.

Partnership projects include the Buckingham-

shire Gardens Trust Research and Recording Project, which has secured grant funding to continue its work for another two years, and is making rapid progress with 15 reports completed and work underway on a further 11 historic gardens. A second group of volunteers was recruited and trained over the summer and autumn of 2015, and has started researching a third tranche of sites.

FUTURE

Ever increasing budgetary pressures has meant that the County Council has been reorganised

during the year, with the County Archaeological Service becoming part of the Environment Service within the Transport, Economy, Environment Business Unit. We currently retain support from senior management and the elected members and trust the service will continue in its current form.

*Philip Markham
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MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

REPORT FOR 2014

FIELDWORK

Twenty five development-related fieldwork projects were undertaken in the Milton Keynes area in 2014.

A particular highlight was the resistivity survey and trial trenching commissioned by the Council and carried out in Stantonbury parish by Headland Archaeology to inform proposals for a new country park at Stanton Low. The initial resistivity survey was partly conducted at twice the 'normal' resolution and produced a very detailed plan of the late 17th century manor and gardens constructed by Sir John Wittewronge. Subsequent trial trenching revealed the well-preserved foundations of the manor house, an ornamental pond and pathways. A management plan including designation proposals will be produced in coming months.

Records of built heritage included a level 3 survey of the American-style Motel Building at Newport Pagnell Services prior to demolition.

In July Oxford Archaeology published 'Broughton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: The Evolution of a South Midlands Landscape'. Lavishly illustrated in colour, it takes an in-depth look at the various archaeological finds from the Brooklands and Broughton Gate developments on the eastern flank of the New Town. The extensive excavations across a 200 hectare area adjacent to the village of Broughton revealed the fluctuating fortunes of neighbouring settlements from the Iron Age to the medieval period. Of particular interest were the richly furnished Iron Age and early Roman period cremation cemeteries. (*Reviewed in Records 55: Editor*).

BUILDING CONSERVATION

In July the former Bus Station in Central Milton Keynes was listed at Grade II, joining the Shopping Building (thecentre:mk) and 7-23 Silver Street, Stony Stratford (terraced housing and covered entrance to Cofferridge Close) as designated early examples of MKDC architecture. A proposal to

demolish much of Cofferridge Close to construct a larger supermarket was dismissed as the result of a public enquiry held in March, predominantly on heritage grounds.

Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council completed a review of the Loughton Conservation Area with the assistance of the Conservation and Archaeology Team. The review proposed a revised boundary and included management proposals. The principal boundary change is the inclusion of the Equestrian Centre within the conservation area. The changes outlined were approved as a delegated decision on 10th March 2015.

The proposed New Town Local Heritage List was approved at Cabinet in October. Officers are currently preparing a bid for HLF funding.

OUTREACH

In September the Senior Archaeological Officer led a second 'Heritage Hike' guided walk in the Ouzel valley as part of the Heritage Open Days season.

On Saturday 8th November 2014 the Central Library hosted the eighth annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day. For the third year a hands-on archaeology workshop was held. Organised by Border Archaeology, these activities for young people gave a practical insight into the varied methods and skills used by modern archaeologists to over 40 young people.

Stands and displays included a team from the Wing Heritage Project, Northamptonshire's Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP) and the Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS) plus Archaeology Day regulars Magiovinium Metal Detecting Club. Also present in the foyer to identify any treasures brought in by the public was Ros Tyrrell, Finds Liaison Officer from the Portable Antiquities Scheme for Bucks and MK.

As in previous years, the biggest draws of the day were the two talks held in the Exhibition Space. In the morning Sadie Watson from Museum

of London Archaeology gave an assured lecture on the recent British Archaeological Award winning excavations at the Bloomberg site. She described both the amazing preservation of Roman buildings and artefacts encountered prior to the recent redevelopment of the site, in addition to the post-WWII discovery of the Temple of Mithras and the subsequent controversy regarding its preservation.

The afternoon talk was by Dr John Gater (GSB Prospection Ltd), well known as Time Team's resident geophysical survey (Geofizz!) expert.

John's talk was an entertaining romp through the history of Time Team as well as a clear exposition of the various survey techniques, how they work and why they sometimes don't! John's celebrity status was underlined by his reception and a record audience for an Archaeology Day lecture of 73.

*Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer
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