

Twenty-Five Years of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council

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INTRODUCTION

In 1959, the then curator of Luton Museum, the late Charles Freeman, brought together representatives of the Bedford Archaeological Society, the Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable and the South Bedfordshire Archaeological Society for an initial meeting to discuss the formation of an organisation capable of co-ordinating the considerable increase in fieldwork and excavation in the county which had taken place in the 1950s and to provide the resources to produce a permanent record of work. In 1984, the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council completed twenty-five years stewardship of those responsibilities.

This anniversary provides an occasion to review the work of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council and to record its membership and officers.

MEMBERSHIP

The initial membership of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council was the three archaeological societies then active in the county, Luton Museum and by co-option in an individual capacity the curator of the Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School, the late F.W. Kuhlicke. The collections of the museum were transferred in the early 1960s to the ownership of the then Borough of Bedford and when Bedford Museum opened in 1967, Mr Kuhlicke served as Honorary Director for a further seven years. In this official capacity, he gave wise counsel to the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council.

Since the inauguration of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council, several other archaeological societies have been founded in areas of the county not covered by those societies already active. These, too, have joined the Bedfordshire archaeological Council as have a number of educational establishments which have taken an interest in archaeology. From 1971, the Bedfordshire County Council has sent an officer to the meetings of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council. Membership of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council has

FIGURE 1

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal
and *Bedfordshire Archaeology*

VOLUME SIZE

Volume	Year	No of Pages	Articles	Notes
1	1962	x + 78 + 8pl	4	1
2	1964	iv + 80 + 8pl	6	4
3	1966	iv + 60 + 8pl	8	5
4	1969	vi + 90 + 8pl	6	4
5	1970	vi +130 + 8pl	8	2
6	1971	vi + 90 + 8pl	8	9
7	1972	vi + 98 + 8pl	9	7
8	1973	vi +146 + 8pl	10	6
9	1974	viii +136 + 16pl	12	
10	1975	vi + 90	8	2
11	1976	vi + 90	9	5
12	1977	vi +106	8	
13	1979	x +310	1	
14	1980	vi +106	15	
15	1981	vi + 74	1	
16	1983	vi + 98	6	5
17	1986	vi + 98 + 8pl	10	

thus grown from the initial three societies and two museums to the present ten societies, two museums, two educational establishments and the county council. There have been other organisations represented; these include a college of education which closed, two societies which ceased to send representatives; one society has changed its title.

The following list records those organisations which send representatives to meetings of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council. They are listed in order of their joining:

FIGURE 2

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal, 1-15
and *Bedfordshire Archaeology*, 16-17

ANALYSIS OF CONTENTS

Volume	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Year	1962	1964	1966	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Early Prehistory					◆		◆	◆			◆	
Neolithic	◆	◆				◆			◆			
Bronze Age	◆	◆		◆	◆			◆		◆		◆
Iron Age	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Roman		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆
Anglo-Saxon	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			
Late Saxon			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆			
Medieval		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Post-Medieval			◆		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
General Items			◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆		
Bibliography									◆		◆	
Bedfordshire Archaeology in 19??				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	
Parish Survey		◆	◆	◆			◆			◆	◆	
Church Buildings			◆			◆		◆	◆		◆	
Church Monuments			◆				◆		◆	◆		
Gentry House		◆	◆		◆							
Vernacular Building				◆			◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Monastic Sites		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆					◆	
Bedford			◆	◆	◆		◆		◆			
Dunstable	◆						◆		◆			
Elstow			◆	◆		◆						◆
Kempston					◆	◆	◆		◆			
Luton		◆				◆	◆	◆				
Sandy		◆				◆			◆			
Volume	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

13	14	15	16	17	TOTALS			
					Articles	Notes	Volumes with Topic	
1979	1980	1981	1983	1986				
	◆				3	3	5	Early Prehistory
			◆		2	3	5	Neolithic
				◆	9	4	8	Bronze Age
	◆		◆	◆	18	9	14	Iron Age
	◆	◆	◆	◆	18	7	14	Roman
	◆		◆		12	3	8	Anglo-Saxon
◆			◆	◆	9	2	8	Late Saxon
◆	◆		◆	◆	35	10	15	Medieval
◆	◆			◆	24	6	11	Post-Medieval
				◆	8		7	General Items
					2		2	Bibliography
					7		7	Bedfordshire Archaeology in 19??
	◆				7	1	7	Parish Survey
	◆			◆	6	3	7	Church Buildings
					3	4	4	Church Monuments
					3		3	Gentry House
	◆			◆	18		8	Vernacular Building
	◆			◆	9	2	8	Monastic Sites
◆			◆	◆	14	1	8	Bedford
	◆	◆			7		5	Dunstable
	◆			◆	6	1	6	Elstow
			◆		4	1	5	Kempston
					5	1	4	Luton
			◆		4	2	4	Sandy
13	14	15	16	17				

- 1959 Bedford Archaeological Society
Luton Museum
Manshead Archaeological Society of
Dunstable
Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern
School (to 1965)
South Bedfordshire Archaeological Society
- 1962 Ampthill Archaeological Society
- 1963 Letchworth and North Hertfordshire
Archaeological Society (to 1973)
- 1965 Bedford Museum
- 1966 North Bedfordshire Archaeological Society
- 1969 Higham Ferrers Hundred Archaeological
Society
- 1970 Department of Archaeology and History,
Putteridge Bury College of Education,
Luton (to 1978)
- 1971 Archaeological Liaison Officer,
Bedfordshire County Council (to 1974)
Bedford College of Education
- 1974 Conservation Section, Planning
Department, Bedfordshire County
Council
- 1977 Shefford and District Local History Society
(to 1981)
Dunstable Historic Buildings Research
Group (to 1979)
- 1979 Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and
Cambridgeshire Historic Buildings
Research Group
Harlington Upper School
Potton and District Local History Society
- 1981 Haynes Research Group
- 1985 Sundon Research Group

Meetings of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council are held three times a year. To these meetings, the constituent societies send three representatives; the institutions have a single representative. At first, meetings were held at different venues in the county. Since 1974, Bedford Museum have acted as hosts and the thanks of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council are due to the curator, John Turner, for the museum's hospitality.

Representatives on the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council are members of its individual constituent bodies. Any society is, of course, free to nominate whom it wishes to act as its representatives. However, there has been considerable continuity of representation on the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council. In 1984, two persons remain from those who attended the initial meeting. Two others have been representatives for over

twenty years and another ten people have served on the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council for at least fifteen years.

OFFICERS

The officers of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council are a chairman, a secretary, an assistant secretary, a treasurer, an editor, an assistant editor, and a sales officer. Various people have served in these capacities, often for long periods. They are:

Chairman	C.E. Freeman (1959-65) J. Dyer (1965-71) R. Fowler (1971 to date)
Secretary	L.A. Speed (1959-70) Miss E.G. Cole (1970-83) J.M. Bailey (1983 to date)
Assistant Secretary	Miss O.N.M. Dyke (1959-65) Miss E.G. Cole (1965-70) J.M. Bailey (1971-83) Miss E.G. Cole (1983 to date)
Treasurer	Mrs V.J. Cousins (1959-62) T.H. Gardner (1962-65) B.D. Lazelle (1965 to date)
Editor	W.H. Manning (1959-64) J. Dyer (1964-69) D.H. Kennett (1969-86)
Assistant Editor	Miss P.J. Spencer (1982-85) Mrs E.M. Baker (1985 to date)
Sales Officer	A. Crawley (1982 to date)

Officers serve for a term of three years and are eligible for re-election.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council has two sub-committees to assist in its work. These are an editorial committee and a sales committee.

In its present form, since 1970, the members of the editorial committee have been the editor and the treasurer, *ex officio*, and since 1982, the assistant editor, *ex officio*, together with three others who include one who is professionally employed as an archaeologist and one who is not so employed. The sales officer is invited to attend meetings of the editorial committee. Excluding officers of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council, seven persons have served on the editorial committee: S. Davison (1980-83), A.W. Guppy (1970-72), R.K. Hagen (1972 to date), Miss J.M. Hassall (1974-79), J.B. Hutchings (1970 to date), F.W. Kuhlicke (1970-73), and Miss A.H. Simco (1979 to date).

The sales committee was formed in September 1982, with three members — J.M. Bailey, S. Davison and R. Fowler — in addition to the sales officer and

FIGURE 3

Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal
and *Bedfordshire Archaeology*

CONTRIBUTORS

Name	Articles	Notes	Volumes
N.W. Alcock	2		4, 11
J.M. Bailey	5	1	10, 12, 14
D.B. Baker	7	1	3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13
E.M. Baker	2		9, 17
B. Dix	3		14, 16
J. Dyer	7	5	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 16
K.J. Fadden	4	4	3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11
R.K. Hagen	5	1	6, 7, 8, 9
D.N. Hall	15	3	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16
J.M. Hassall	5	1	8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16
J.B. Hutchings	6		4, 6, 7, 11, 14, 16
D.H. Kennett*	18	12	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17
F.W. Kuhlicke		8	3, 4, 5, 7, 8
C.L. Matthews	4		1, 7, 15
A.H. Simco	5	1	8, 11, 13, 14, 17
T.P. Smith	13	2	3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17
A. Taylor	2		10, 16
P.G. Tilson	4	1	8, 10, 11, 14, 16
R.F. White	2		12, 14
P.J. Woodward	7	1	10, 11, 12, 16, 17

*Excludes items compiled.

the assistant editor, *ex officio*.

Two representatives of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council have been asked to attend meetings of an advisory committee instituted to assess the future needs for archaeological work, Bedfordshire County Council. At different times, K.J. Fadden, R. Fowler, and J.B. Hutchings have represented the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is represented on the Countryside Commission for Bedfordshire. Representatives have included R.K. Hagen and Miss B.J. Sewell.

The Bedfordshire Archaeological Council is affiliated to the Council for British Archaeology, both nationally and regularly. The particular region

of the Council for British Archaeology which includes Bedfordshire is Group 9, based on Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire. To its standing committee, the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council nominates three representatives, each serving for three years and then being ineligible for immediate re-election. Those who have served include J.M. Bailey, S. Davison, R. Fowler, Miss J.M. Hassall, D.H. Kennett, C.L. Matthews, Miss A.H. Simco and Miss P.J. Spencer.

PUBLICATIONS

The primary stimulus to establish the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council in 1959 was the need to

FIGURE 4

Bedfordshire Archaeological Council

CONFERENCES

DATE	LOCATION	THEME
Dec 1969	Dunstable	Inaugural Conference
Dec 1970	Bedford	
Nov 1971	Luton	
Mar 1973	Dunstable	
Nov 1975	Bedford	Presentation to F.W. Kuhlicke
May 1977	Harlington	
Mar 1979	Dunstable	
Sep 1980	Luton	21st Anniversary Conference
Dec 1982	Bedford	
Oct 1983	Haynes	
Nov 1984	Amptill	Archaeology and Young People

provide an organisation with the resources to produce a permanent record of the archaeological work which had been done in the county in the 1950s. The permanent record was to be the production of a scholarly periodical devoted to the archaeology of Bedfordshire. The first issue of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* was published in 1962. Volumes thereafter were issued irregularly until 1969. From 1969 onwards the attempt has been maintained to issue one volume each year, although production of an individual volume has taken as long as fifteen months. With volume 16 in 1983, the name of the periodical was changed to *Bedfordshire Archaeology*.

Volume one was produced by letter-press with a

single block of print occupying the width of the page. In volume three, a double-column format was adopted; for volumes four to sixteen, printing was by pre-set typesetting and photolithographic methods. Since volume thirteen there has been greater use of a smaller typeface for detail as well as for notes and references.

Details of volumes by size, number of articles and notes, and contributors are given in figure 1. Period coverage of individual volumes is shown in figure 2. Here each paper has been allocated to a specific period, that which is the major focus of the contribution.

Most of the volumes have been multi-period in content and included work on more than one site or areas of the county. To date three volumes have had a more concentrated focus:

- 9 1974 Essays presented to Frederick William Kuhlicke
- 13 1979 Excavations in Bedford, 1967-1977
- 15 1981 The Roman Cemetery at Dunstable, Durocobrivae

Fifty individuals have contributed articles and notes to issues of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* and *Bedfordshire Archaeology*. Of these twenty-eight have written for one volume only and seven persons have published items in two volumes. Fifteen contributors have had articles published in three or more volumes, of whom eight have contributed to six or more issues. Details of the twenty most prolific contributors' papers and notes are given in figure 3.

There have been 179 contributions, excluding reviews and entries in the compilation, 'Bedfordshire Archaeology in 19xx', which appeared in *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 4 to 8 and 10 to 11. Twenty-four contributions have two authors; four articles were written by three people; one item had four principal authors.

Excluding preliminary pages, the first sixteen volumes comprised 1,800 pages of textual matter and illustrations. A rough calculation suggests that over one million words have appeared in print.

CONFERENCES

Since 1969, the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council has held eleven conferences at various venues within Bedfordshire. They have taken the form of a set of lectures given on a Saturday afternoon with an exhibition of recent work. Details of dates and venues are given in figure 4.