

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

This year saw further implementation of new public displays and services, working to the blueprint developed by the Museum with design consultancy *Objectives* in 2002. The Museum's new look includes a revamped reception area and shop, the Museum InfoPoint where curatorial staff meet the visitors, the Learning Zones for schools, events, talks and workshops and new spaces, the Georgian Room and Collections Showcase, to display more of the stored Museum collections and major loan items.

The project to enable the acquisition and display of a rare surviving 1920s car made by the Cubitt Company of Aylesbury, developed in 2003-04, was completed this year with the successful launch of a new Museum-quality 'display garage' for Cubitt car BH 9723 in the Museum garden. £10,000 was raised by public appeal to supplement an HLF *Your Heritage* grant of £50,000. An archaeological watching brief before construction fortunately discovered no surviving deposits. The display garage was shortlisted for the AVDC Design Awards. Although admired for its sympathetic finishes and visual integration into the Museum site, the Cubitt display was considered ineligible as not really a building.

With the support of the Society and planning consent for the works to the Museum building which is Listed Grade 2*, further building and installation works were carried out in the late 15c guildhall now rebadged as the Tudor House, the historic core of the Museum buildings. This space will display firstly important painted wall plaster panels and later other related historic buildings elements from the Museum collections.

The year saw 9000 school children visit the Museum in organised groups. The Roald Dahl Children's Gallery offers schools a 90 minute teaching session to explore themes from history, natural history, science and technology through the characters and stories of Roald Dahl. Schools were also attracted by two specially developed curriculum and family learning exhibitions: *Victorians* focused on the lives of Victorian children and

Tudors explored daily life with plenty to touch, do and try on. Both exhibitions offered schools a teaching session in the gallery led by the Schools Learning team.

Art Gallery exhibitions included *A History of Photography* (150 years of portraits), *The Hidden Poor* ('mug shot' portraits of prisoners entering Aylesbury Gaol in the 1870s), developed with the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, the successful fundraising *Off the Wall Art Market* organised by the Friends & Patrons, *Textile Art* from the Full Circle Group and *Miracle of Flight*, paintings by Paul Stevenson supplemented by Museum reserve collections and loans from the RAF Halton museum.

A highlight of the winter months was the splendid three month *Buckinghamshire in the Civil War* exhibition which opened in November 2004. The Society's support for a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £35,000 under the *Your Heritage* scheme was greatly appreciated, as were the loan of important 17th century pamphlets and many days of essential voluntary invigilation support to safeguard the valuable loan paintings on display.

Muir Trust Artist in Residence, Eileen Hogan, explored further this portraiture theme, relating contemporary Bucks figures Lord Carrington and Sir Edmund Verney to 17th century portraits in the Civil War exhibition, notably Philip, Lord Wharton.

The Georgian Room gallery, also meeting Government Indemnity standards, displayed the Society's paintings by Balthasar Nebot of the gardens of Hartwell House in 1738 with Georgian drinking glasses from the Museum collections. *Ancient Egypt* highlighted Egyptian artefacts, including jewellery, statuettes and pottery on show for the first time after the HLF funded *Virtual Egypt* research project with the Petrie Museum of Egyptology.

The Wednesday lunchtime Gallery Talks series attracted increasing audiences of 'regulars' and newcomers drawn by the broad range of topics

always based on objects on display. An expanded summer programme of family learning events was also popular with visitors, focussing on the Cubitt Car, Bucks Wildlife, the Roald Dahl Festival, National Archaeology Week, Mushroom Magic and The Big Draw – the Big Map. The winter Civil War season was enhanced by broad-ranging events from study days, talks and concerts to a full-blown Sealed Knot re-enactment day in February half term, which attracted 1200 visitors.

With more on the Museum 'menu', visitor numbers again increased by 6,000 to 148,000 in 2004–05, reflecting this enhanced package of exhibitions, events and services and the fourth full year of free admission to the Museum.

This was the second year of the Museum's participation in the national *Portable Antiquities Scheme*, funded by HLF through DCMS and the British Museum to enhance the reporting and recording of Treasure and other public archaeological finds in Bucks and Milton Keynes. The Finds Liaison Officer is already bringing more finds to light as evidenced by significant archaeological accessions and by new data added to the County Sites and Monuments Record and the national online database at www.finds.org.uk.

Notable accessions to the collections included:

ARCHAEOLOGY

2005.41.1 Medieval roof tile finial in the form of a boar's head, incomplete, found in Marsh Gibbon.

2005.43.1 Silver Roman finger ring, stone missing, found by metal detectorist at Cublington and declared Treasure. Purchased with the assistance of the Friends of the Museum.

2005.44.1 Silver annular Medieval brooch, 14c–15c, found by metal detectorist at Grendon Underwood and declared Treasure. Purchased with the assistance of the Friends of the Museum.

2005.79.1 Tip of Bronze Age spearhead, found by metal detectorist at Bledlow-cum-Saunderton.

2005.80.1 Dress pin, early Medieval, copper-alloy. Found by metal detectorist at Bledlow-cum-Saunderton.

ART

2005.21.1 Watercolour of Burnham Beeches by Elizabeth Fanshawe, 1815.

2005.30.1–2 Two etchings of High Wycombe by

Lorna Cassidy: *Market Day – High Wycombe and Glenisters*, 1997. Purchase.

2005.31.1–2 Two screenprints by Lorna Cassidy, given by Bucks Archaeological Society: *Parish Church – High Wycombe and High Wycombe from Bellfield*.

2005.59.1–10 Working drawings, proofs, etched plate and finished etching by Jane Muir for *Hidden Image*, carved Medieval head in Museum building, 1994.

2005.92.1–2 Three paintings from the *About the Chilterns* exhibition, purchased and given by the Patrons of the Museum:

Ivinghoe Beacon by Brian Bennett, oil on canvas
Chiltern Preserve by Christopher Barrett, oil on canvas

Bledlow Ridge by Shirley Bradford, watercolour.

2005.104.1–7 Works made at the Hillesden artists' community, 1951–1955:

painting of Hillesden by Martina Thomas, oil on canvas

working drawing for *Cornstooks* painting by Martina Thomas, pencil on paper

Hillesden Coronation plate, 1953

two ceramics by Martina Thomas: cockerel plate 1954 and leaves dish

ceramic leaf dish by Derek Davis.

2005.151.1 Painting *The Jury* by John Morgan, 1861, oil on canvas. Purchased with the assistance of HLF, MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The Art Fund, Patrons of the Museum, the Bucks Archaeological Society and by public appeal.

2005.157.1–2 Two pencil sketches of Hartwell by Cornelius Varley, 1833: the bridge and chapel and the bridge. Purchased with the assistance of MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The Art Fund and the Patrons of the Museum.

STUDIO CERAMICS

2005.22.1 Pot, ash glaze, by Geoffrey Whiting, Stoke House Pottery, 1950–1952. Purchase.

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

2005.55.1 Linen motoring hat worn by Mrs Doris Matthews of Aylesbury, 1920s.

2005.82.1–6 1970s items worn by Dr P.M. Bonner:

Nina Ricci suit, grey wool pleated scarf, 1970

hat by Christian Dior, brown straw, 1972

handbag, red crocodile skin

- white metal brooch.
2005.149.1–5 Cyclist's clothing and kit worn in Aylesbury, 1920s and 1930s:
 cycling trousers, wool, cycling jacket, linen and woollen socks
 map *60 miles around Aylesbury* and aluminium water bottle in cotton case

NATURAL HISTORY

- 2005.3** Lichen collection of Jean Varley, given by Milton Keynes Natural History Society.
2005.76.1 Elephant Hawkmoth from Ivinghoe.
2005.150.1 Specimen of Guernsey Fleabane, Wendover.
2005.158.1 Specimen of Round-leaved Fluellen from College Lake.
2005.159.1 Framed geological block diagram of the Wendover locality.
2005.160.1 Specimen of Nostoc commune from Marlow.

SOCIAL HISTORY

- 2005.20.1** Seal, coat of arms of the Borough of Aylesbury 1923–1964, designed by jeweller Thomas Fields of Aylesbury.
2005.25.1–3 Items belonging to Nellie Hyde of Haddenham who worked at St John's Hospital, 1940s: three badges, St John's Hospital, Aylesbury, British Red Cross Society, State Enrolled Nurse (SEN).
2005.39.1–3 From Cubitt Engineering Co Ltd,

1925: two copies apprenticeship indenture, Cyril Raven, one letter and one MS poem.

2005.54.1–22 Cubitt car BH9723, made Aylesbury 1922, with spare wheels, spare parts, documentation and guarantee.

2005.57.1–3 Items from the Golden Jubilee celebrations, Haddenham 2002: two medals, photographs and posters.

2005.75.1–10 Items from the Golden Jubilee celebrations, Thornborough 2002: mugs, Union flag hat, British bulldog waistcoat, horseshoe, dance tickets and posters.

2005.90.1 ARP stirrup pump. Transfer from Centre for Bucks Studies.

2005.91.1–5 World War II civil defence items: Warden's helmet, gas mask, Warden's bag and eye shields.

2005.102.1–3 World War II RAF items: Airman's goggles, Airman's canvas helmet, wireless operator's headset.

2005.105 Set of caning tools used by Mabel Green in High Wycombe, 1905–1906.

2005.110.1 Album of 16 photographs of the visit of the King and Queen to the Canadian Red Cross hospital, Cliveden, 1917.

2005.116.1 John Wilkes commemorative cup, Chinese export porcelain, c1770. Purchase.

2005.146.1 Painted ceremonial staff of wood, topped by carved crown. Inscribed *1851 A TINDAL DOM. MAN. AYLESBURY CUM BIERTON.*

Sarah Gray
 County Museum Curator

CENTRE FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE STUDIES

REPORT FOR APRIL 2004–MARCH 2005

Altogether there were 129 accessions of archives during the calendar year 2004. The usual arbitrary selection is given below, and the full list will be placed on our website.

Records of two distinguished members of the Archaeological Society were donated during the year: the slide collection of the late Elliott Viney and papers of the late Dr Arnold Baines, mainly relating to his interests as a local councillor and churchman at Chesham.

One significant accession was a deposit of records of the Spencer Bernard family of Nether Winchendon House to add to those already placed here in 1980. The new deposit contains deeds of property in Nether Winchendon, 1534–1744, including the manor, capital messuage, advowson and mill, plus lands in Over Winchendon and Cuddington, and papers relating to a dispute over right of warren in the manor of Little Kimble, 1690–1691. There are also records of properties in Herefordshire, Hertfordshire (the earliest dating to 1317–18), Kent, Middlesex and London, Somerset, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire.

Additional records were also received of the Liberty family, the most striking being the photograph album of Ivor Stewart-Liberty. Subjects include Winchester School, Christchurch, Oxford, family events and the First World War.

The solicitors Horwood and James of Aylesbury deposited deeds of Green family property, Aylesbury, 1866–1920, of Queen Cottages, Bledlow, 1866–1929, and of Chalkshire Farm, Ellesborough, 1738–1831, a declaration of uses of the manor of Broughton, 1688, and deeds and correspondence concerning the site of Mursley School.

Deeds of public houses from various sources include the Plough, Bow Brickhill, 1771–1887, the Windmill, Aylesbury, 1878 and 1899, and the Ship, Pitstone, 1776–1841. There is also an inventory of the Dark Lantern, Aylesbury, 1911. Other deeds of named properties include a mortgage of the Maltkiln farmhouse in Dagnall, 1826. We received deeds of a messuage in Long Crendon (property of the Carter family), 1735–1805, and a conveyance

of a newly-built messuage in Quainton, 1734, both including details of lands in the pre-enclosure common fields. Deposited along with the latter is a deed of the Rose and Crown, St Martin's Street, Aldersgate, London, 1685.

The executors of the late Douglas Siegfried Dunker of Wingrave gave us his diary of service in the Metropolitan Police Reserve and the Royal Air Force, 1939–1945, and other records and memorabilia, including two RAF diaries for 1942 (illustrated with his own drawings), his RAF service and release book and his military pass book. All these items were bequeathed to us by Mr Dunker in his will.

Two items rescued during a house-clearance and passed on to us are the account books of the churchwardens, constables and overseers of the poor of Fleet Marston, 1818–1837, and of the surveyors of the highways, 1825–1841. Another house-clearance yielded the Waddesdon Wesleyan Chapel seat rent ledger, 1876–1929.

South Bucks District Council deposited a selection of building control plans of the former Beaconsfield Urban District Council, 1909–1919, and we have since received a selection of the plans of the former Eton Rural District Council, c.1897–1938, together with their planning registers. These records have already yielded a lot of information about the development of Gerrards Cross.

We were kindly permitted by the owner to photograph a map of the manor of Easington, in the parish of Chilton, by Edward Bostock Fuller, April 1687. The map was purchased at auction a few years ago. Other 17th-century records received, in this case originals, were title deeds of Wing charities, 1607–1817, from Wing with Grove PCC.

Colleagues in High Wycombe Library transferred a list of burgesses for Wycombe Borough, 1698, together with part of a presentment concerning a dispute over appointment of burgesses. These two items were in very poor condition and though they have been repaired by our conservator, copies have been made for consultation by our users. The Library also transferred a letter of Benjamin

Disraeli of 1847, soliciting support for John Grove in 'the great enterprise in wh. I have engaged' and a letter of thanks from the inhabitants of Penn (28 signatures) to Grove in 1830 for his gift of £300 towards payment of the debts incurred in building their poor house. A further £300 was given by Earl Howe.

Of potential interest to garden historians are two quarterly statements of accounts for the gardens at Hall Barn, Beaconsfield, 1935, and a planting plan for the Long Garden at Cliveden by Nora Lindsay and Percy Cane, 1949. Chalfont St Peter Garden Club deposited their minutes, 1954–1991, newsletters, 1990–2000, and show programmes, 1975–2004.

Records of small businesses include an interesting collection of photographs of Jackson's Mill, Bourne End, 1929–1960, taken by the late Ralph Dancer, who worked there for nearly 40 years, together with his notebook as a special constable in Bourne End, 1940–1942. Leighton-Linslade Local History Research Group deposited two day books, presumed to be of W. Heady, wheelwright, for 1890–1893 and 1897–1899. His premises were next to the Ouzel Bridge on the Linslade side. Pitstone Museum has the tools and other gear from his workshop. 'The Farm', a notebook containing notes on farming, believed to be the work of William Woolhead of Thornborough (1833–1914), was donated by his great-grandson. It has notes on yearly tasks, details of crops, and the performance of various agricultural tasks. Essex Record Office donated the printed sale particulars of Bigstrup Farm, Haddenham, 1860.

HM Customs and Excise donated two bonds for payment of malt duty from Edward Terry and others, Aylesbury, 1842 and 1851, and petitions for increases in salaries of excise officers at Great Marlow, 1772, and Berkhamsted, 1866.

Last but in no way least, the largest single accession of this year, and of many years past, is comprised of nearly 900 boxes of records of the former Milton Keynes Development Corporation, deposited by English Partnerships under the Public Records Acts.

EXHIBITIONS

In partnership with Milton Keynes Council and Milton Keynes Museum, we produced a travelling exhibition, 'Routes through Milton Keynes', about

the history of transport in the area. It was opened at Newport Pagnell Library on 2 November 2004, the 45th anniversary to the day of the opening of the first part of the M1 motorway at Newport Pagnell in 1959.

We loaned a number of original documents for display in the splendid 'Buckinghamshire in the Civil War' exhibition at the County Museum. Among them were the plan of the manor of Duntun, 1653, which John Hampden's son, Richard, had inherited from his father, a receipt for horses requisitioned by the parliamentary army, 1643, and the account book of Sir William Paget of Marlow and London, 1649–1650, which is chiefly of interest for showing how ordinary life continued against the background of extraordinary upheaval. One item came from the records of Christopher Eggleton of Ellesborough, which we hold on deposit from the BAS, namely the account of his arrears of pay as a sergeant-major in the parliamentary army dated 1650. Both the royalist and parliamentary armies had difficulties paying their soldiers, which not surprisingly led to dissatisfaction and low morale.

A selection of photographs of prisoners in the receiving books of the county gaol at Aylesbury in the 1870s formed the basis of the County Museum's imaginatively-presented exhibition, 'The Hidden Poor'.

Events staged for the 2004 Archives Awareness Campaign included an Open Day in November and a 'Ghost Walk' through Aylesbury town centre on the night of 28 October. Instead of the 40 people we were expecting, over 160 turned out, but in spite of – or because of – this, it was a great success. Both events were repeated in 2005.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Freedom of Information Act (FOI), 2000, which came into force on 1 January 2005, has had a major impact on our work. Our Modern Records Manager is now also the FOI Officer for the Buckinghamshire County Council. As well as answering many of the enquiries from the general public, he also advises members and officers on requests for access to information. The Council received 128 requests for information between January and the end of April. It is fair to say that much of this information would have been released anyway, but the FOI Act has definitely created a culture of openness

amongst Council officers and has also made the public more aware of their rights.

ARCHIVES ON THE INTERNET

A recent addition to our website is the Buckinghamshire Historical Directories database, which contains over 5,000 entries from directories between 1792 and 1832 and can be searched by surname, occupation and town.

The ever-popular Object of the Month archive now includes a toll book, recording sales of horses and cows sold at Ivinghoe horse-fair, 1613, 18th-century recipes for potting mushrooms and Lady Eyre's 'good ordinary cake' that 'will keep good 3 months' (with appropriate health and safety warning) and the memoranda book of William Heybourn of Bledlow. One extract describes the 'Great Snow' of 29 April 1805, some of which lay until 7 May. A handbill on the trial and public execution of John Tawell at Aylesbury in 1845 prompted the donation of a different one on the same subject from Blackburn Museum and Art Galleries.

SERVICES TO SCHOOLS

Significant steps have been taken to develop our services for schools, identified as an area for improvement in the National Archives inspection of 2003. We have re-introduced local study facsimile packs tailored to particular schools, and our website has a new feature, Victorian Children in Prison, adapted from the Victorian Prisoners Database, which is aimed at the QCA Unit 11 question – What was life like for children in Victorian Britain?

In addition, following some successful pilots, our staff are now able to visit schools to give interactive talks on aspects of history in the local area. One subject on offer, for example, is the Second World War, which we first presented at Chesham Bois School. We used Ordnance Survey maps and photographs to show what local life was like at the time and then moved on to evacuation, rationing and bombing. We showed a typical week's rations,

and also took along some home-made carrot biscuits specially made for the occasion – these proved very popular! The files of wartime bomb damage that we hold yielded a report on a bomb which landed near the school in 1944, demolishing a house and causing some casualties. The children acted out the local response to the incident and were given parts to read, such as 'Incident Officer' and 'Great Missenden Rescue Party'.

MISCELLANEA

The Centre appeared in an edition of Channel Four's *Time Team* programme about Gordon's Lodge, Hanslope, for which a number of our maps were filmed. Fittingly, in the 200th anniversary year of Trafalgar, some Nelson letters in our collection were published for the first time in Colin White's book, *Nelson: New Letters*.

We are currently involved in a number of projects, on which we hope to be able to report real progress next year – the Buckinghamshire Wills Database (a digitised version of our wills indexes), the Buckinghamshire Community Archives Project (working with local communities to protect and promote their archives) and the Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Manorial Documents Register (producing an electronic survey of all known manorial records for the two counties). We are working in co-operation with a number of partners, including the Archaeological Society, which has kindly pledged financial assistance towards the Manorial Documents Register.

To keep up-to-date with all our activities, you can subscribe to our new e-mail newsletter, *Off The Record*, published quarterly (copies also available by post for a small charge). The first issue includes new accessions, forthcoming events, news on projects, conservation and an article on the letters of George Church, a convict transported to Tasmania in the 1840s.

Our website address is www.bucksec.gov.uk/archives.

Roger Bettridge
County Archivist

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

REPORT FOR 2004

The main achievements in 2004 were the commencement of the 'Getting to Know Bernwood' and 'Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past' projects, both funded by the Heritage Lottery. With the appointment of Becky Wilcox and Kim Biddulph to these projects the service reached a complement of six delivering a range of educational and outreach activities on top of the core work in planning and the Sites and Monuments Record.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Service completed a joint report for Buckinghamshire County Council, English Heritage and Milton Keynes Council on the implications for the historic environment of major long-term growth centred on Milton Keynes. The study used historic landscape characterisation to contrast the partial and limited coverage of designated assets (mainly listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments) with the rich heritage of the countryside. The report was submitted to the official inquiry into the proposed growth plans and was instrumental in securing proper recognition for cultural and green infrastructure in the final amended plan. The report is available on the County Council's web site (see web address below).

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Planning and conservation advice casework involved 644 consultations, a small reduction on the previous year but the 212 requiring positive follow up represents a significant increase. The year saw many small-scale evaluations and watching briefs, reported in Archaeological Notes. The most significant results were obtained at the former Sanderson factory at Denham, where an undisturbed Early Mesolithic campsite was discovered beneath the access road. Dense scatters of worked flint and tools were found beneath a layer of peat together with animal bone, hazel nutshells and the site of a campfire. This discovery will add to our understanding of the exceptionally well-preserved

Late Glacial/Early Post-Glacial landscape of the Colne Valley. The Museum of London Archaeology Service is preparing a report. Excavation continued at The Lee quarry, Denham, revealing more Roman cremation pyres. Other notable discoveries were made on the older Thames gravel terraces of South Buckinghamshire indicating that these areas, previously little studied in Buckinghamshire, were settled in the Iron Age and Roman periods. An Iron Age settlement was partially excavated on a Thames Water pipeline where it ran close to the recently discovered hillfort at Taplow – it will be interesting to see whether the settlement is contemporary with or post-dates the hillfort. Geophysical survey and trial trenching for a quarry extension at Wexham confirmed the presence of Roman settlement that had been indicated by observations by a local amateur during previous quarrying. A full excavation is planned prior to mineral extraction.

In the Chilterns, Birmingham Archaeology Unit excavated a Bronze Age ring ditch and ritual deposits in Chesham. Further north again, the proposed major developments around Aylesbury require the service's continuing involvement, particularly in relation to the protection of two scheduled ancient monuments at Quarrendon and Broughton, both of which pose significant challenges.

CONSERVATION

The Archaeology Service secured a £10,000 per annum grant from English Heritage to improve management of ancient monuments. The first monument to be tackled has been Medmenham hillfort, a privately-owned Iron Age earthwork outside Marlow which suffered badly from trees blown over during the storms of the 1990s and subsequent scrub growth. Grant aid has cleared parts of the rampart removing scrub and unstable trees. The site is accessible to the public and an interpretation board is planned in partnership with a local group, Archaeology in Marlow, who are undertaking research on the site. It is hoped that the grant will

be maintained on an annual basis. Applications would be welcomed from owners of eligible monuments. Further information can be obtained from David Radford at the Archaeology Service.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION (HLC)

The English Heritage supported Buckinghamshire HLC Project has made good progress completing its mapping of the whole historic county, including Milton Keynes. HLC aims to map the historic dimension of the modern landscape, distinguishing ancient woodlands from modern plantations, parliamentary enclosures from older fields etc. It provides a tool for planning, land management and raising public awareness of aspects of the historic environment which have not always generated much professional interest and yet are fundamental to understanding our modern countryside. A report is to be published and the results will be made available over the web as part of the 'Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past Project' (see below).

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD/UNLOCKING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S PAST

The Sites and Monuments Record handled 149 enquiries, a small increase on 2003.

Continued investment in the Sites and Monuments Record has been secured through the 'Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past' project. Kim Biddulph has been appointed as project officer responsible for working with consultants to produce a web-searchable version of the SMR with special modules aimed at schools, local community groups and the recreation sector. The County Council is grateful for the invaluable assistance of the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society and its members in supporting this project.

GETTING TO KNOW BERNWOOD

'Getting to know Bernwood' is a community archaeology project linked to the County Council's wider Bernwood Countryside Initiative. The project involves promoting awareness of the special heritage of the area formerly covered by the medieval Forest of Bernwood, which at its greatest extent stretched from Oxford to Aylesbury and

north to Buckingham. It will last for 18 months involving a program of walks, talks, hands-on activities and creation of an education resource pack. In 2004 the project began with a series of talks to local groups, walks and other events for Heritage Open Days, making and firing pottery with children from Brill school.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The successful expansion of the Archaeology Service has enabled us to provide a better and wider range of services than previously. The public dimension of archaeology will be improved both through web-based resources and more 'hands-on' opportunities. Advice and resources are available to help landowners manage monuments in a more sensitive and sustainable way. Historic Landscape Characterisation is helping protect and enhance the best of our historic countryside and ensure that future development is sustainable. A follow-on project is to create an integrated HLC for the Chiltern AONB promoting local peoples involvement in recognising what makes this landscape so special. In the medium term we will be looking to undertake a characterisation study of Buckinghamshire's towns to complement HLC's focus on rural landscapes.

We are also preparing to respond to the challenges posed by the national Heritage Protection Review, which promises new legislation to simplify heritage designations and consents, without reducing protection. It will also provide statutory status for 'Historic Environment Records', a resource based on existing SMRs but expanded in content and made more accessible. In future we expect to work ever closer with our key partners to promote an holistic view of the historic environment, encompassing archaeology, historic buildings and landscape within a single management framework closely related to wider countryside management, development and urban renewal agendas.

*Alexander (Sandy) Kidd
Senior Archaeological Officer
Buckinghamshire County Council*

For further information on the County Archaeological Service, visit our web site: <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/archaeology/index.htm>

MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Building developments within Milton Keynes resulted in 350 archaeological consultations and 69 archaeological events ranging from watching briefs of house extensions to evaluations of 65 ha (160 acres). Significant archaeological work occurred in the southwest of New Town in the Oxley Park, Tattenhoe Park and Kingsmead grid squares. Each of these found the ditches and roundhouse gullies of Iron Age settlements which when fully published will add to the knowledge gained from previous Iron-Age excavations at Wavendon Gate and Pennyland by the former Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit. The presence of protected species such as great crested newts, and grass snakes in these areas have necessitated special protection works, or re-timing of evaluations, in order to help preserve the species. At the Wolverton Mill grid square, the excavation of a proposed housing site in advance of development revealed a mid-Saxon settlement adjacent to a known large Saxon enclosure. This probably links to a Saxon cemetery located 850m

to the east under the former McCorquadale's premises and Old Wolverton shrunken medieval village earthworks which are situated 300m north of the site.

Major regeneration schemes commenced at Bletchley Park and Wolverton involving both the council's conservation team and the archaeological officer. Michael Ryan, the Chief Conservation Officer and lead officer for conservation and archaeology retired in March and was replaced in October by Tracey Coleman. The Milton Keynes Local Plan Enquiry finished in June and in the same month some development control powers were transferred to the new Milton Keynes Partnership Committee. The Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer also advises the new authority on archaeological matters.

*Brian Giggins
Archaeological Officer
Milton Keynes Council*