

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2006–2007

2006 in the Art Gallery began and ended with exhibitions celebrating anniversaries. It opened with *Bucks Finest*, highlighting 100 years of the Society's Museum and the last 50 years of partnership with the County Council. It was followed by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded exhibition *Into the Woods*, when the art gallery was turned into a forest to explore the County's rich woodland heritage – from the chair making industry of the Chilterns to the wildlife of the woods. In funding exhibitions, the HLF encourages a high level of local relevance and community involvement. *Into the Woods* provided both by working with local wildlife groups and by encouraging visitors to be actively involved in the conservation and use of the County's wooded landscapes.

The Art Gallery also hosted the striking and powerful exhibition of work by Sonia Lawson RA. Sonia has long been a supporter of the Museum and is a trustee of the Muir Trust, which provides an Artist in Residence every two years. The autumn saw the fourth highly successful fund-raising 'Off the Wall Art Market', run by the Friends of the Museum. The year ended with the *Milton Keynes: Image and Reality* exhibition to celebrate 40 years of one of Britain's most famous new cities from its architecture to its public art.

Georgian Room exhibitions ranged from *Getting to Know Bernwood*, which explored the findings of the County Archaeological Service's HLF funded project about the ancient forest of Bernwood, to *Fairy Rings and Witches Butter*, with loaned fungi models from the British Mycological Society and mushroom photographs from Buckinghamshire Fungus Group member Nick Jarvis. The Museum worked with the Buckinghamshire Military Museum Trust to produce another HLF funded exhibition, *Picking up the Threads*, which looked at conservation work undertaken on two flags owned by the BMMT. This was the first time that the HLF had funded such a conservation project and the very positive public response to the way in which the conservation process was explored in the exhibition proved the worth of HLF's support.

In June 2006 Collections Showcase was launched, the HLF funded gallery in the Viney Room to showcase treasures from the stored collections through a series of drawers and cases. The initial display highlights included specimens from the County's herbarium, examples of 18th century dress and Greek and Roman amphorae.

2006 saw an increase in both the number of events and in visitor attendances. Museum Fun Day events included *Rock and Fossil Day* held on 29 April, *Museum and Galleries Month* in May, *Roald Dahl Festival* on 8 July, *National Archaeology Week* 15 – 23 July, *Mushroom Magic* 7 October and *The Big Draw* 21 October. A new programme of events for the summer holidays was provided in conjunction with the *Into the Woods* exhibition and the wide variety of events was made possible by the HLF funding. Events held in July and August included a landscape week, woodland week, Tudor and Roman weeks. Additionally, museum staff joined colleagues from the wider Culture and Learning Service to provide a display stand at the County Show on 31 August. Visitors had the chance to see Roman replica armour and Victorian dress and to make brilliant bugs to take home.

September 2006 became a month of celebration. On 16 September, public events marked Roald Dahl's 90th birthday and on Saturday 23 September the Museum celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery with a splendid party for 2,000 visitors, friends and former colleagues. In October, the Museum was delighted to work with the Society at the Quarrendon Open Day to heighten public awareness of this important Tudor site. Tudor fun and games were brought to life with replica costume, toys and the chance for visitors to make a Tudor Rose. Visitors could also see Tudor objects from the Museum collections.

This was a record year for the schools service with 16,629 pupils visiting in school groups. New sessions developed for schools and provided in the Museum increased in popularity, accounting for almost half of the school visits. Themes include *The Romans in Bucks* and *The Victorians* as well as

joint all-day workshops provided with CBS on *The Jury – Victorian Crime and Punishment* and *Making Victorian Life a Real Experience*. Increasing demand for Museum sessions in schools led to the Schools Learning Team offering a new outreach service that reached 308 children at four Buckinghamshire schools. The purchase of *The Jury* painting and increasing demand for Victorian schools sessions at the Museum led to the redisplay of the Victorian area in *Touch of Bucks*, looking at the themes of Victorian Schooldays, Crime and Punishment and Made in Aylesbury.

The overall visitor total for April 2006-March 2007 was 123,975, a slight drop from 2005/6.

The Museum's involvement in the national *Portable Antiquities Scheme* went from strength to strength. The DCMS funding for the scheme finished in March 2006 but a further two years was provided by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, ensuring funding until March 2008. This allowed for the reporting and recording of Treasure and other public archaeological finds in Bucks and Milton Keynes through Ros Tyrrell, our Finds Liaison Officer, who had a busy year in 2006, attending metal detecting rallies across the County. With the help of a long-standing volunteer, Ros also entered finds information into the Portable Antiquities Database www.finds.org.uk, including a Roman coin hoard from Cold Brayfield and a 17th century dress pin from Ivinghoe Aston.

The Museum took part in another national scheme, the National Inventory Research Project. Through a group of dedicated researchers, the Project explored non-British oil paintings hidden away in museum collections across Britain. For the Museum, Dr Anne Cowe researched twenty paintings including a group of nine from Denham Court, which formed part of the house's architectural decoration and her findings will enrich the object history of the paintings.

Notable accessions to the collections included:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACQUISITIONS

2006.5 Medieval: 13th century gold finger ring with purple garnet, found near Wendover. Purchased with the aid of Friends of the Museum and MLA/V&A Purchase Fund and the Headley Trust.

2006.6 Anglo-Saxon: late 6th-early 7th century silver-gilt disc brooch fragment, found near

Edlesborough. Purchased with the aid of Friends of the Museum.

2006.7 Roman: copper-alloy folding knife handle; in the form of a panther, with a single paw; traces of the iron blade are visible in the back of the knife; found by metal detectorist near Buckingham. Purchased with the aid of Friends of the Museum.

2006.21 Roman: plate brooch, lozenge-shaped, copper alloy, with most of enamel surviving in centre; 2nd/3rd century AD, found near Beaconsfield.

2006.22 Medieval: silver quatrefoil brooch, pin missing; 14th century; found by metal detectorist at Slapton. Purchased with the aid of Friends of the Museum.

2006.23 Late Bronze Age: founders hoard, 15 fragments of palstaves and socketed axes. North Bucks.

2006.25 Silver dress pin, decorated head, bent into hook shape. Hambleton. Purchased with the aid of Friends of the Museum.

2006.196 Hoard of 18 silver Roman coins (denarii). West Wycombe. Purchased with the aid of Friends of the Museum.

2006.206 Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian: gold bracteate pendant; late 5th-mid 6th century AD, slightly crumpled. Hambleton. Purchased with the aid of Friends of the Museum and MLA/V&A Purchase Fund and the Headley Trust.

2006.218 Collection of 70 Neolithic/Bronze Age flints from Gerrards Cross area.

2006.219 Collection of 55 lead bale seals and tokens, ranging from medieval to modern; found across Buckinghamshire with metal detector.

Art Acquisitions

2006.20.1 Watercolour by Rex Whistler showing Bierton Church, 1940.

2006.40.1-2 Two portraits of Mr and Mrs Grubb of Horsenden attributed to John Zoffany, oil on canvas, 1770s.

2006.214 *The Wood Engravings of John Nash* by Jeremy Greenwood with 12 woodcuts by John Nash, 1987.

Clothing and Textile Acquisitions

2006.8 Group of children's early 20th century clothing from Millard family.

2006.158 Five needlework mats made by girls from Aylesbury schools.

Natural History acquisitions

2006.207.1-6 Six herbarium specimens of Aylesbury town-centre trees, collected by Mike Palmer.

2006.215.1 One specimen of Mistletoe from Bletchley collected by Roy Maycock.

2006.221.1 Green Woodpecker, Chalfont St Giles, Peter Walker.

Social History acquisitions

2006.30.1 Glass dish marked with Nestles Milk on base.

2006.31.1-8 Group of items relating to Nestle factory, Aylesbury.

2006.100-139 40 Buckinghamshire 17th century halfpenny and farthing trade tokens from various towns around the county. In collections but not previously accessioned. These included:

2006.102 trade token, C17, 1671, halfpenny, issued by William Gome of Chesham, design open pair of shears, Manton 59, Ratcliff 50

2006.103 trade token, C17, 1668, halfpenny, issued by John Carter of Great Horwood, design scales, pierced, Manton 90, Ratcliff 80

2006.104 trade token, C17, farthing, issued by Thomas Smith of Great Marlow, design two guns crossed, Manton 109, Ratcliff 98

2006.105 trade token, C17, farthing, issued by John Davis of The Drapers Arms, Newport Pagnell, design initials IID, Manton 120, Ratcliff 110 keys, Manton 131, Ratcliff 119

2006.110 trade token, C17, farthing, issued by John Hartlee of Buckingham, spelt Bvckinggam, design cinquefoil between initials IH with a diamond stop over the I, Manton 41A, not in Ratcliff

2006.111 trade token, C17, 1658, farthing, issued by Joseph Grimsdale?, Beaconsfield, initials IMG 'B' over date, Manton 29, Ratcliff 26

2006.121 trade token, C17, farthing, issued by John Harding of Wycombe, design initials IMH, Manton 206, Ratcliff 183

2006.195 Brown-card suitcase with handle and two metal locking catches, containing 39 pieces of sheet music and lyrics. Brown monochrome marble-effect lining paper. Used by Bert Lee, music hall artist in Aylesbury from c1930-1939.

2006.210 Handmade besom broom, made by Adam King of Holmer Green, 2006; birch-twig head with hazel or ash handle, head bound to handle by galvanised wire.

*Sarah Gray MA AMA
County Museum Curator*

CENTRE FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE STUDIES

REPORT FOR APRIL 2006–MARCH 2007

We are grateful to the Society for its generosity in purchasing for us a petition relating to the Swing Riots at Stone in 1830. This document, acquired at auction in February 2007, is discussed in the Notes section. By coincidence, last year Great Marlow PCC deposited a bundle of papers relating to measures taken by local magistrates and inhabitants to protect themselves against potential Swing rioters. These records include minutes of a committee that met almost daily in late November and early December 1830.

A full list of the 118 accessions received in 2006 will appear on our website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/archives. A few highlights are noted here.

The earliest records are among an additional deposit of documents relating to the Hall Barn Estate at Beaconsfield and include: deeds of properties in Buckinghamshire and other counties ranging from the 13th century to 1775; three 15th-century royal charters to the abbey of Burnham; and Edward VI's grant (1551) to Sir John Williams of a weekly market and annual fair in Beaconsfield.

Title deeds from other sources include: the appointment of trustees to Bury Farm, Amersham, and other lands of Sir William Drake in Amersham, Little Missenden, Chesham and Hughenden (1645) the conveyance of The Vache estate at Chalfont St Giles from Hester Fleetwood to James Clayton (1696), Hester's marriage settlement (1651), and deeds of 12 and 14 East Street, Olney, and a messuage and bake-house in Dag Lane (1820), also in Olney. Two boxes of deeds and papers were donated relating to the estate of the Williams family of Brands House, Hughenden, including a messuage in Cholesbury with land in Cholesbury, Drayton Beauchamp and Buckland, messuages in Pauls Row and Hogg Lane, Chepping Wycombe, three cottages and Marsh Grove in Lower Marish, Wycombe, the dyehouse and cottages in St Mary Street, Chepping Wycombe, and property in Missenden and Hughenden.

The Cowper and Newton Museum, Olney, placed in our care an album of 176 letters from the poet William Cowper to Joseph Hill, which it had

recently purchased with assistance from the Victoria and Albert Purchase Grant Fund.

Hillesden PCC deposited three drawings by George Gilbert Scott for restoration work at All Saints Church, completed in 1875. Other architectural drawings received were a number of plans by Burgess, Holden and Watson of Beaconsfield, including proposed work for G. K. Chesterton. This material was deposited by A&Q Partnership, following display in the County Museum's exhibition, 'Arts and Crafts: Architecture in Beaconsfield' – in preparation for which we had already carried out extensive conservation work, removing adhesive tape and backing papers, re-lining the plans with Japanese paper and repairing tears with lens tissue.

We purchased a collection of 20 pocket diaries for various years between 1758 and 1813, at least some of which were written by George Pitt Hurst, a Newport Pagnell solicitor, and one by Mrs Hurst, filling in gaps in the series of their diaries already held here among the records of the Uthwatt family.

A miscellaneous collection of business and family records was deposited relating to Timothy East Ltd, a family firm based in Princes Risborough and Aylesbury. Timothy East was born at Meadle in 1845, the son of Thomas East, saddler, harness-maker and tanner, and later apprenticed to James Cotter, fellmonger (dealer in animal hides). From this beginning, the family developed various business interests. When the firm was incorporated in 1913, the articles of association defined the business as: coal and coke merchants, builders' merchants, dealers in artificial, chemical and other manures and fertilisers, wool staplers, fellmongers, hide and skin merchants and dealers in butchers' offals, general carriers, railway forwarding and receiving agents, railway wagon owners, warehousemen and bonded and common carmen.

Trade unions were represented by a deposit of printing union records, including minute books of the Typographical Association, Aylesbury Branch, 1911–1929 and 1967–1971, and of three Buckinghamshire branches of SOGAT between 1969 and 1982.

An interesting curiosity is a volume compiled by Octavia Farmbrough, born in 1842 and sometime of Denbigh Hall, Simpson, which contains replies by family and friends to a list of questions about their likes and dislikes. Octavia was the daughter of a farmer, Francis Farmbrough of Bierton and later Simpson, and married Alfred Rose, a chemist with a shop in London. The volume, compiled between 1865 and 1886 and containing about 100 replies, provides an interesting snapshot of the tastes of a middle-class circle of the time. For example, Handel received by far the most mentions as favourite composer (34), no doubt because of his contribution to the English choral tradition, followed a long way behind by Beethoven (14), Mozart (12) and Mendelssohn (9).

Another notable item is a volume initially used by the parish clerk for recording christenings (with some dates of birth), marriages and burials for the parish of Lavendon, 1695–1711, but which was then used by another member of his family as a commonplace book, including marriages in other parishes, details of livestock, cures for diseases of livestock, and details of wages paid.

Personal items received include three letters by the children's author Alison Uttley and a scrapbook on the boxing career of Don Smith (1920–2000) of High Wycombe and Prestwood, with a plate that Smith won in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany in 1944.

Contemporary records are represented by the Fulmer Archives Project, who deposited all the records they have collected documenting many aspects of modern life in the parish, from mains drainage to Best Kept Village competitions and the Sports and Community Association.

Finally, English Partnerships made another huge deposit of records of the former Milton Keynes Development Corporation, including board minutes, printed items, photographs, slides and plans, which tested our ingenuity in finding storage space we did not know we had to store them.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies (CBS) website now includes our wills database, an index to all the wills and administrations we hold in the records of the archdeaconry and peculiar courts, 1483–1858, plus some held in other repositories. The database was officially launched at CBS in

May 2007 and we are grateful for the assistance of the Buckinghamshire Family History Society in checking the 30,000-plus entries.

The Sharing Wycombe's Old Photographs website (www.buckscc.gov.uk/swop), containing over 15,000 photographs of High Wycombe and area, was launched at High Wycombe Library by the actor Colin Baker (an ex-Doctor Who) in July 2007. It was discussed in more detail in last year's *Records*.

We have purchased a library subscription to the Ancestry.co.uk website, which means that it can now be consulted free of charge at CBS or at any Buckinghamshire County Council library and study centre with People's Network machines. All seven of the UK censuses between 1841 and 1901 are on the website. In the case of Octavia Farmbrough above, it was possible to locate her on all the censuses between 1851 and 1901 in a matter of minutes, from Bierton in 1851 and 1861, to 441 Edgware Road, London, in 1871–1891 and Oxfordshire in 1901. When the 1871 returns for the Farmbrough family showed that she had left her parents' home, suggesting that she might by then have married, it proved possible to locate her in London on the basis of Christian name only, though this may not work for more popular names! The subscription to Ancestry also allows readers to see the original images so that they can check any transcription errors.

We assisted the Hanslope and District Historical Society to photograph the map of Hanslope of 1779, compiled for Edward Watts, and this has now been successfully mounted on that Society's website. As the map itself measures 10 foot square, the photography was no mean feat and its availability on the internet should make general access much easier, though the original can still be seen in our Archive Searchroom by arrangement.

OUTREACH

Documents held in CBS were featured on the Channel Four *Time Team* programme about Chesham Bois and we contributed items to several County Museum exhibitions, including 'Into The Woods' (the Boarstall Cartulary), 'MK40' on the 40th anniversary of the new town of Milton Keynes, and 'The Jury' study days. We also hosted a meeting of the Slough Heritage Forum, providing an opportunity to show some of our numerous pre-

1974 holdings on that area, which is now of course in Berkshire. The County Archivist was interviewed on BBC Three Counties Radio on the thorny question of when Aylesbury became the county town of Buckinghamshire.

We gave twenty talks on Family History in libraries throughout the county, both introductory and advanced topics, and took part in the successful Quarrendon Open Day, organized by BAS in September 2006. The County Archivist gave his inaugural lecture as president of the Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society on 'Lord Desborough and the 1908 London Olympics' and also spoke on the history of the Judges' Lodgings, Aylesbury, at a dinner there hosted by the Chair of Aylesbury Vale District Council. As part of our services to schools, a number of groups made joint visits to CBS and the County Museum, studying sources relating to the Victorians, and altogether nearly 2,000 people, children and adults, attended a CBS learning event. Under the Learning Links programme funded by Museums Libraries and Archives South-East, CBS and the Museum, in partnership with a local school, developed a project on The Tudors, which has resulted in the production of a DVD now on sale.

Our quarterly newsletter, *Off the Record*, continues to appear and topics this year have included: Philip Petty, born in Tingewick, who fought in the American Civil War; our Archives Awareness exhibition *Where Do You Think You Live?*, which

focused on Horn Street, Winslow; valuation records of the 1920s and 1930s; the marriage of a 96-year-old bridegroom in 1693; Freedom of Information; our services to schools; and the Manorial Documents Register Project, which is on course to be completed in 2008. Regular features include recent accessions, conservation work, and news of forthcoming events. If you would like to subscribe, please contact us.

KEDERMINSTER LIBRARY

Under the Charity Commission Scheme of 1911 which established the Trust that administers Sir John Kederminster's Library at St Mary's Church, Langley Marish, the Archaeological Society supplies one of the four Trustees – currently Mr David Jefferson. In addition, the County Archivist is nowadays ex-officio Secretary to the Trust. This report therefore seems the right place to pay tribute to Mrs Muriel Kemp, who retired in 2007 after more than 30 years' service as the Library's Honorary Curator. All the members and officers of the Trust would wish to record our sincere thanks for the care and devotion with which she has looked after the Library and for the way in which she has generously shared her knowledge with the many visitors she has welcomed there over the years.

Roger Bettridge FHA RMSA
County Archivist

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

REPORT FOR 2006–2007

The main achievements of the year related to the completion of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, funded by English Heritage, and the last full year of Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past, funded by the Heritage Lottery. During the year Ruth Beckley, who undertook a local historic landscape characterisation project for the Colne Valley Park, joined the service. In addition the service contributed to the Solent-Thames Regional Research Framework Project whilst core activities in planning, conservation and the Sites and Monuments Record were maintained.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

To inform the new Local Development Framework, the service completed reports for Aylesbury Vale District Council on the implications for the historic environment of new development around Buckingham, Haddenham, Wendover, and Winslow to complement a similar study of Aylesbury completed the previous year. The study used historic landscape characterisation alongside information on historic buildings and archaeology to assess the implications of growth in sectors around each town, as well as highlighting opportunities for cultural and green infrastructure. The service also supported the preparation of a draft "Green Infrastructure Strategy" for the county that highlights priorities for provision of accessible green space.

The proposed major developments around Aylesbury required the service's continuing involvement, particularly in relation to the protection of two scheduled ancient monuments at Quarrendon and Broughton, both of which continue to pose significant challenges at a time of restricted resources. Following a decision by Aylesbury Vale District Council not to proceed with the acquisition of the Quarrendon site for public open space, the service contributed to a Heritage Open Day event organised by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society. A very successful day attracted over 500 visitors and generated sufficient

political interest to establish a working party chaired by the County Council's Chief Officer with the remit of finding a viable future for the site. Management options and the formation of a conservation trust are being considered.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Planning and conservation advice casework involved 530 consultations, of which 209 required positive follow up. The year saw many small-scale evaluations and watching briefs, many of which are reported in Archaeological Notes, and a few more substantial investigations. The most significant results were obtained at Walton, Aylesbury, where medieval enclosures were sampled, and at the Weedon Hill Major Development Area where striping in advance of development revealed a Roman enclosure, structures and environmental remains, interpreted as a specialised malting.

CONSERVATION

This was the second year of the new national Environmental Stewardship grant scheme which provides farmers and landowners with grants for sensitive management of sites and landscapes. The scheme involves an historic environment strand on which this service gives advice on "higher-tier" applications. The service gave advice on just under twenty schemes this year and together with "lower-tier" schemes secured the conservation of over eighty sites.

The Archaeology Service also manages a £10,000 per annum grant from English Heritage to improve management of ancient monuments. A management plan has been prepared by Albion Archaeology to address a series of problems relating to tree management and land contamination at Danesfield Camp, Medmenham, a former military base.

Applications for future grants 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 final report on the English Heritage supported Buckinghamshire HLC Project has been published as a guide in hard copy linked to technical appendices available on the council's web site. The HLC forms part of a wider Buckinghamshire Environmental Character System being developed to integrate landscape character assessment with the historic and natural environment. Progress has continued on the Chiltern HLC Project, which undertook a pilot study on characterising the buildings of rural settlements. Funding was also obtained from English Heritage's strand of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund for a local HLC study of the Colne Valley Regional Park. This highlighted areas of surviving historic landscape and estates within a valley much altered by mineral extraction. It is now being used to inform conservation and outreach initiatives in the Park.

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD/UNLOCKING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S PAST

The Sites and Monuments Record handled 143 enquiries, a 20% decrease on the previous year, possibly reflecting availability of the self-service "Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past" online database, which by March 2007 was receiving 1800 visits per month. Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past includes special modules aimed at schools, local community groups and the recreation sector. The County Council is grateful for the invaluable support of the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society and its members in supporting this project.

SOLENT-THAMES RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS

Members of the Archaeology Service and volunteers prepared resource assessment papers sum-

marising what is known for each period across the historic county as part of this regional project run by Oxford-Wessex Archaeology. These papers were presented at a well-attended seminar organised by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and are now available on the County Council's web site. The papers are informing a regional synthesis and the development of research agenda and strategies.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The long-awaited Heritage Protection White Paper was published on 8th March 2007. It set out the Government's intention to reform the system of heritage protection in England and Wales through primary legislation, for which parliamentary time is being sought in 2008/9 to put the new system into place for 2010/11. Specific proposals include: merging of the various systems for designating important heritage sites, for getting consent for works to them, and placing a statutory obligation on all local authorities to maintain or have access to an Historic Environment Record. The Archaeology Service is taking a leading role in responding to the White Paper and planning its implementation - a challenging agenda at a time of financial stringency.

Finally, the Service has secured funding from English Heritage for a characterisation study of Buckinghamshire's towns, complementing the Historic Landscape Characterisation's focus on rural landscapes. This will begin in April 2007 and run for two and a half years and will study thirty places which are either towns today, or appear to have aspired to such status historically.

*Alexander (Sandy) Kidd
County Archaeologist
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[For further information on the County Archaeological Service, visit our web site: <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/archaeology/index.htm>]

MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

REPORT FOR 2006

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

The total number of planning applications received during 2006 was 2013, of which 263 were considered in more detail and 91 had archaeological planning conditions imposed. The 2006 consultation figures show a 10% increase on 2005.

During 2006 there were 56 sites where archaeological or historic building recording works commenced, including 10 excavations. Highlights included:

- Broughton Manor Farm (Broughton) where 6.5 hectare excavations revealed a continuous settlement sequence from the middle Iron Age to the late 4th century, including a high-status 1st century AD cremation cemetery and a series of substantial late Roman stone buildings.
- The Willen Road (Newport Pagnell) site which contained a similar sized, but lower status, 1st century AD cremation cemetery and late Iron Age to later Roman settlement.
- The Fen Farm (Wavendon) excavation which yielded 7 extremely rare decorated mid to late Bronze Age cylindrical loom weights, recovered from a pit cluster within a late Iron Age to late Roman enclosed farmstead. South of this area the remains of a de Havilland Mosquito, which crashed on a night flight to Cranfield in 1945, were recovered by a team from Twinwood Aviation Museum.
- Excavation in advance of gravel extraction by the River Ouse in Calverton, which revealed three ring-ditches, part of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, and an early Iron Age pit alignment.

SITES & MONUMENTS RECORD (SMR)

During 2006 the SMR room was used by external researchers 31 times and 5 organisations entered into licence agreements for SMR information in digital form.

The Senior Archaeological Officer conducted an English Heritage sponsored audit of the SMR. The resulting action plan for the long-term development of the SMR will improve the content, consistency

and accessibility of the resource and work towards Historic Environment Record (HER) status and the requirements of the forthcoming Heritage Protection Act.

STAFFING

Nick Crank joined as Archaeological Officer in January 2006; at the same time Brian Giggins was promoted to Senior Archaeological Officer.

The lead officer in the Design & Conservation Section left on the 19th May 2006. Her replacement, Simon Peart took up his post on the 1st December 2006. The six-month delay placed considerable pressure on the conservation staff, resulting in the postponement of planned Conservation Area Reviews. Additional support for the conservation team has been supplied in the form of two part-time caseworker posts.

OTHER INITIATIVES

The Senior Archaeological Officer contributed papers on the Built Environment, Ceremony, Ritual & Religion and Material Culture for the Post-Medieval section of the Buckinghamshire section of the Solent Thames Research framework.

Research was also undertaken into the early buildings of the Aston Martin (Tickford) Works at Newport Pagnell and the western section of Wolverton Railway works. The resultant analysis will provide valuable historic context to inform forthcoming regeneration and redevelopment proposals. This research uncovered a surprising reference to a well constructed at Wolverton Works during the 1830's. The well had an 11'6" x 8'2" bore and was 93'0" deep with two 33'-long arms at the base which were 8'0" in height. The well water proved unsuitable for both locomotives and domestic use and was soon capped.

The new Conservation Area at Little Brickhill was confirmed by cabinet in September 2006.

*Brian L Giggins, Senior Archaeological Officer
Nick Crank, Archaeological Officer
Milton Keynes Council*