

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013/4

During the review year things hotted up for the transfer of the museum to Trust status. Trustees worked tirelessly on detailed transfer documents and reviewed many aspects of future operation including recruitment over the summer of a new Director. Alas, this were not to be and things unravelled in December when the appointed Director withdrew and exhausted Trustees stood down, leaving the museum under County Council management for budget preparation and new financial year.

This report reviews the period until April 2014, and while transfer to trust has been resolved at the time of writing it was a year of challenges and uncertainty, during which staff have seen some of the most radical changes in recent years. The retirement of Sarah Gray as Museum Director in October, the failure of the HLF bid for redevelopment of the Museum Resource Centre at Halton and the qualified approval of accreditation status as 'provisional' rather than 'full' reflect problems of direction and certainty during continuing budget cuts and the long discussions about Trust status, but there has been much to celebrate too. Sarah's retirement follows a career of many years spent at the museum, to which she originally came from Hertford Museum as registrar before her promotion as Director. Her work has been tireless and celebrated most recently in the major exhibitions on the English Civil War and 'Splendid Stitches'. We should be grateful for her energy and enthusiasm for the museum and for Bucks history. During the interim period from October 2013 to April 2014 Ruth Page from the County Council Culture and Leisure Unit held things together and led the recruitment for a new Director, then working with Richard de Peyer to recruit a new Trust Chairman and advertise for Trustees. Without her efficiency and resilience things could have got a lot more difficult.

Overall visitor numbers remained fairly static at 91088 (92013 last year) with visits to the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery slightly down at 19662 (18177 in 2012/13) and to the County Museum

galleries 63283 (63964 last year). The general stability here is in contrast to the success of the main exhibitions *Splendid Stitches & Exotic Embroidery: A Treasure House of Textiles* (9<sup>th</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> July) which attracted 7030 through the Art Gallery, and *Treasures of Wood and Woodland* (20 July – 2<sup>nd</sup> November), which was seen by 5122. 'Splendid Stitches' was paired with *Splendid Samplers & Smocks*, and then the Muir Trust embroidery residency exhibition by Naomi Ryder, both in the Georgian Room, and the three exhibitions were celebrated with one of the Museum's most in-depth programmes of talks and workshops for many years. Our special thanks go to the Patrons for a substantial grant towards the textile exhibition programme to the Muir Trust, and the Arts Council for supporting the residency as usual, to the Chiltern and Aylesbury Embroidery groups and, as principal lender to 'Splendid Stitches', the Embroiderer Guild. Finally in this part of the report we should mention work towards the exhibition *Friars: the Music Club that Rocked the World* which opened on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, achieving 514 paid for admission during the review year and continuing on successfully until July 6<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition marked a departure into paid-for exhibitions and was generously supported – indeed substantially led – by David Stopps, the promoter behind the club and its success. Elsewhere, the museum loaned to *Treasures in MK* exhibition at MK Gallery (24 Jan – 30 Mar) and the *Fashion and Gardens* exhibition at the Garden Museum in London (12 Feb – 24 April), both including two of the Nebot paintings of Hartwell, which are owned by BAS. Geology and Archaeology featured in a special show in the Collections Showcase area was loaned to the *Early Aylesbury* exhibition (the first 144 million years). Natural History taxidermy collections were also loaned for Marlow Museum's *Marlow Wildlife* exhibition during June – December 2013.

Readers will be familiar with the continuing generosity of the museum Friends and Patrons, who contribute substantially to acquisitions and

to the success of exhibitions and other regular costs. 2013 saw some increases in membership, helping the Friends and Patrons to a healthy year-end balance and the museum to substantial grants of nearly £17000, the largest part of which was a contribution by the Friends for the *Splendid Stitches* exhibition (£1270 in 2012–13). Many of the following list of Archaeology acquisitions have been assisted by Friends' grants, retaining the museum's unique position of having acquired every Item declared as Treasure under the Portable Antiquities Scheme arrangement, in total a sum of £2860 of small grants.

Schools Education and Holiday Activities remained a strong theme during the year and were rare instances of growth with the County Museum attracting 7946 pupil visits (7445 in 2012/13) and the Roald Dahl gallery 7442 (6846 in the previous year). During the year, 1520 children came to the holiday activities with 1000 accompanying adults. Congratulations are due to Vicky Scrivens who has maintained close budget control and team leadership through the year, and thanks also to Emma Mastin, Carolyn Costello who the schools team. A special feature of the programme was the Heritage Open Days co-ordination which the museum undertook for seven local venues across Aylesbury. This was led in large part by Vicky and Emma and delivered by the Schools team and the Centre for Bucks Studies.

Ros Tyrrell, the Finds Liaison Officer for Bucks and Milton Keynes, had another busy year, recording archaeological objects found by the public. In 2014 1,063 records of objects found in the county were uploaded onto the Portable Antiquities Scheme database. The highlights included a copper alloy swan-necked pin dated around 800–600BC, and a complete decorated copper-alloy purse frame of an unusual type, in use around AD1550–1650, both from the Quainton area. In addition, twenty potential treasure finds were recorded.

Notable accessions to the collections included:

#### SOCIAL HISTORY/COSTUME & TEXTILES

**2013.21.1-2** Two metal fragments salvaged from the crash site of the aeroplane 'Youth of New Zealand', which crashed near Aylesbury in 1934 after refuelling Sir Alan Cobham's plane during his attempt to fly non-stop to India.

**2013.22.1-2** Two newspaper cuttings detailing the 1934 crash near Aylesbury of the aeroplane 'Youth of New Zealand', Sir Alan Cobham's fuelling plane in his attempt to fly non-stop to India.

**2013.27.1** Commemorative drinking mug to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II; designed by donor and given to all children at Westcott School, Bucks in 2012.

**2013.31.1** Ercol 'Quaker' Windsor armchair with seat cushion, c1960–1970

**2013.63.1-4** Four negatives of aerial photographs of Aylesbury taken during the 1940s.

**2013.64.1** Iron strong box from St Michael and All Angels Church, Waddesdon, probably originally used to hold church plate and/or parish records.

**2013.66.1-2** Two vinyl gramophone records of the Three Musketeers played by Hazell's band of Aylesbury.

**2013.91.1** Hand crafted wooden flower made in the gypsy tradition by Stuart King at a demonstration at the County Museum to coincide with the "Treasures of Woods and Woodland exhibition 2013.

**2013.117.1** Very large wall hanging incorporating quilting, applique and embroidery, made by staff and pupils at St Mary's School, Aylesbury, to commemorate its move in 2000.

#### ART & STUDIO CERAMICS

**2013.51.1** Map of Buckinghamshire, steel plate engraving, hand coloured, by Thomas Moule from Barclay's Complete and Universal English Dictionary published 1841–1850

**2013.68.1** Watercolour painting of a granary barn, on staddlestones, at Sedrup Farm, outside Stone, by Harry Sachs, 1950

**2013.81.1** 'Sharon's Afternoon Tea' by Naomi Ryder, free machine embroidery on silk chiffon, 2013, created for 9th Muir Trust Residency

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

**2013.15.1-60** Hoard of 60 medieval silver coins, comprising 38 pennies, 21 cut halves, and 1 cut farthing; deposited 1250–1260; found at Oakley found with metal detector and declared Treasure.

**2013.16.1** Hollow gold pendant; medieval; backplate missing; in the form of a Tau cross; 15th/16th century found at Gawcott; probably originally a reliquary; the Tau cross form is often

associated with St Antony, and may be related to protection from ergot poisoning.

**2013.18.1** Slightly distorted, post-medieval gold cloisonné aiglet or lace end. Found by metal detector at Wing, and declared Treasure. Originally enamelled, but much of the enamel is lost.

**2013.29.1** Roman silver finger ring; complete, but slightly distorted; decorated with angular V shaped notches; 4th-5th century AD; found with metal detector at Hambleden and declared Treasure.

**2013.32.1** Two silver Roman republican coins; found with metal detector at Little Missenden and declared Treasure.

**2013.48.1** Gold and amber pendant; Anglo Saxon, probably 7th century; gold suspension loop is damaged, and amber is degraded, but the pendant is complete; amber is very unusual as a set gem in Saxon jewellery, but it is not unknown; found with metal detector at Gawcott and declared Treasure.

**2013.67.1-713** Collection of 713 Roman bronze coins, not a single hoard, found over a period of years at Fleet Marston with metal detector.

**2013.69.1** Gold finger ring, distorted but complete; late C17 – early C18; plain inner band, over which is a patterned layer raised into hollow D shape, eight petalled flower buds and leaves make up the design; monogram on inside of J(or T) and C in a shield; found with metal detector at Tyringham and declared Treasure.

**2013.80.1** Silver medieval brooch; annular, slightly distorted, space for 8 collets for jewels, but all empty or missing; AD1200–1400; found with metal detector at Cold Brayfield and declared Treasure.

**2013.93.1** Bronze figurine, standing nude male with helmet and sword belt, holding a human head in one hand, and possibly an animal head in the other; possibly a Romano-British deity, but more likely a C19 fake; an identical piece is 1983.412.1, and a further identical example is at the Rijksmuseum in Nijmegen, where it is also considered a fake.

**2013.102.1** Gold medieval iconographic finger ring; complete, but hoop distorted; found with metal detector at Wing, and declared Treasure; bezel shows St John the Baptist holding the Lamb of God, or possibly St Francis, inscription around the outside is “nul si bien” – none so good.

**2013.103.1** Gold Medieval finger ring; complete; found with metal detector at Wing, and declared

Treasure; set with red cabochon garnet, band very thin wire; 13th-early 14th century similar example from Wendover: see 2006.5.1

**2013.104.1** Silver iconographic medieval finger ring; hoop incomplete; found with metal detector at Dunton and declared Treasure; bezel is engraved with two crude figures, probably saints, although unidentified; shoulders engraved with flower design

**2013.122.1** Copper alloy Romano-Celtic lion figurine, on integral plinth; found with metal detector near Saunderton

**2014.1.1** Small silver gilt fragment, with relief decoration, probably part of an equal armed Saxon brooch; AD425–475; found with metal detector at Princes Risborough and declared Treasure

**2014.2.1** Quoit brooch; early 7th century; consists of two separate discs, one silver, one copper alloy, that were once soldered together; both are very thin; the silver front plate has an engraved design, possibly intended to imitate cloisonné; very unusual, no exact parallels at time of finding; brooch pin missing; the copper alloy disc is very fragile, and in 2 pieces; found with metal detector at Stone and declared Treasure.

**2014.3.1** Silver gilt medieval pendant; showing crossed keys of St Peter; the device in front of the keys is either St Peter himself, or possibly the Papal triple tiara and the vernicle; only the top half of the pendant survives; 15th century; found at Whitchurch with metal detector and declared Treasure.

**2014.4.1** 2 Roman silver coins; Republican; found with metal detector at Stokenchurch and declared Treasure.

**2014.9.1** Silver Anglo-Saxon disc brooch; 9th century; from Great Horwood and Nash area; extensive niello inlay and Trewhiddle-style decoration; pin missing; 3 silver rivets around edge survive, but a 4th one is missing, only the hole remains; otherwise complete; important and unusual brooch; found with metal detector and declared Treasure.

**2014.10.1** Roman finger ring, gold; 1st-2nd century AD; very small, possibly for a child, or a votive object; stylized phallus in relief on bezel; found with metal detector and declared Treasure.

**2014.11.1** Silver medieval needle case; lower half only; AD1150–1450, found at Stone with metal detector and declared Treasure; hexagonal tube with alternating panels of hachured chevrons.

## EXCAVATION ARCHIVES

- 2000.59.1** Evaluation at Lathbury  
**2002.104.1** Evaluation and trenching, Cowper Tannery, Olney  
**2003.67.1** Excavation, Cowper Tannery, Olney  
**2003.154.1** Evaluation/trenching at Walton Manor, Walton  
**2004.129.1** Evaluation/trenching at Olney Road, Lavendon  
**2004.165.1** Evaluation/watching brief at The Avenue, Worminghall  
**2006.212.1** Evaluation/watching brief at Campbell Park site 'G', Milton Keynes  
**2009.193.1** Archaeological fieldwork at 15 The Green, Brill  
**2009.258** Evaluation at Chicheley House, Newport Pagnell  
**2010.131.1** Watching brief at Saint Mary's Church, Church Street, Princes Risborough  
**2011.139** Trenching at Riley Road, Marlow  
**2011.158.1** Trenching at Aylesbury High School  
**2011.246.1** Watching brief at Desborough Castle: no associated finds  
**2012.16.1** Watching brief at Shogmoor Lane, Crooked Chimney Cottage: no associated finds  
**2012.38.1** Excavation at Warren Wood, Little Marlow  
**2012.62.1** Watching brief at Brill Sports and Social Club, Church Street: no associated finds  
**2012.63.1** Watching brief at Cromwell Gardens, Broomhurst: no associated finds

- 2012.64.1** Watching brief at Hawridge Court, Church Lane, Hawridge: no associated finds  
**2012.84.1** Evaluation at Monks Mede, Burton Lane, Monks Risborough  
**2012.96** Watching brief at Windsor End, Beaconsfield: no associated finds  
**2012.98** Watching brief at High Street, Marlow: no associated finds  
**2012.99.1** Watching brief at Kimbells Close, Shabbington: no associated finds

## NATURAL HISTORY

- 2013.54.1-18** Collection of herbarium specimens featuring notable Bucks trees including the Ankerwycke Yew, native Black Poplars, Aylesbury Prunes and Edlesborough Box (Mike Palmer)  
**2013.95.1** Buzzard, found dead in 2009 near Kingsey by David Wilson. Mounted by Derek Frampton  
**2013.96** The Willen Collection. 17 drawers of moths and some butterflies collected by George Higgs in his back garden in Willen, MK, between 1967 and 2012

## GEOLOGY

No acquisitions

*Collection Team  
 Buckinghamshire County Museum*

# CENTRE FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2013–2014

In 2013 we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Buckinghamshire Record Office, now the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies (CBS). It was in 1938 that the Clerk of the Peace for Buckinghamshire and Clerk of the County Council, Colonel Guy Crouch, secured the approval of the Standing Joint Committee of the County Council and Quarter Sessions for the appointment of a County Archivist. In his report to the Committee on 5 April 1938, Colonel Crouch explained that he had custody both of the records of the County Council, established in 1889, and of the much older county archives:

I have for some years been concerned at the condition and method of arrangement of the numerous and important documents which are in my custody as Clerk of the Peace on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant as *Custos Rotulorum* as well as the more recent documents and records of the County Council and its Committees, such as minute books, reports, correspondence, etc.

The records that he held as Clerk of the Peace consisted of:

the Quarter Sessions Records, Parish Inclosure Awards, plans deposited by railway companies and other undertakers in connection with applications for parliamentary powers, and title deeds to land or buildings purchased for county purposes.

‘All these documents’, he noted:

are frequently required for reference, either by county officials or members of the general public, and their proper preservation and accessibility is a matter of considerable importance.

The origins of the court of Quarter Sessions – the county meetings of the justices of the peace – lay in the 14th century. In Buckinghamshire the surviving records date back to the 17th century,

including the order books (from 1678) and rolls (from 1700). Records continued to be created until the abolition of Quarter Sessions courts and the post of Clerk of the Peace under the Courts Act of 1971. The Quarter Sessions records also include many historical administrative records arising from their judicial functions, such as registers of alehouse licences and duplicate land tax assessments. The Acts of Parliament under which parish inclosure awards were made in the late 18th and 19th centuries usually required a copy of the award and map to be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace, and from the late 18th century onwards companies wishing to build railways, canals and other public undertakings had to deposit plans with the Clerk of the Peace.

All these records were accommodated in the old County Hall (now the Crown Court) at the south side of the Market Square, Aylesbury, which was built between 1720 and 1740. Some were in a fireproof record room constructed well over a century before the Clerk’s 1938 report, but this was full so that other records had to be stored in various rooms in the basement, neither fireproof nor even damp-proof. Colonel William Le Hardy, who had been commissioned by the County Council in the 1930s to publish calendars of the earliest Quarter Sessions records, had complained about how dusty the archives were, particularly the rolls.

Improvements were already in train, however, because in 1937 work had begun on ‘four ancient cells’ in the old County Hall, under the office of the Clerk of the Peace and fronting the Market Square, which were damp-proofed, concreted and fitted with steel shelving and electric light and power to form what Colonel Crouch called:

four excellent though small muniment rooms . . . , in which a considerable quantity of the existing records can be re-arranged and re-indexed when there is a staff available to carry out the work.

By 1938 fourteen counties had already set up what Colonel Crouch called ‘a proper County

Record Office' (the first being Bedfordshire in 1913) and had appointed an archivist or special assistant to take charge of the county's records. Archivists' salaries varied between £250 and £500 per annum and for Buckinghamshire to secure a 'properly qualified officer' would, he suggested, need a salary of at least £300 per annum. He rather spoiled the effect of this by saying that 'I am not convinced the work here would justify the appointment at that grade' and suggested that £250 would be enough, rising to £300 by increments. The Committee decided to recommend to the full County Council the proposal for the appointment of an archivist – and at the salary of £300 rising by increments to £360.

On 12 May the County Council accepted this recommendation and on 16 May Mr M. Paul Dare was appointed as Buckinghamshire's first County Archivist. The unusual swiftness of the appointment was possible because he had recently been runner-up for the post of County Archivist of Essex and was highly recommended by the Clerk of the Peace for that county. Colonel Crouch considered it 'unlikely that an advertisement would secure any better qualified candidates', and after consultation with the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Cottesloe, offered the post to Mr Dare.

The new County Archivist, who was 35 years old, was a graduate of University College, Leicester, and had been research secretary to George Farnham of Quorn House, an authority on manorial records, and later assistant to Henry Hartopp as editor of the published roll of freemen of Leicester. He had also spent a period of four years in India, partly as literary advisor on the *Times of India* and partly investigating and restoring the archives of Rachol Seminary, Goa. He then returned to archaeological work in England before this appointment.

By the time of Mr Dare's appointment a room in the County Hall had been adapted for use as the archivist's office. It was situated on the ground floor at the front of the building on the side adjoining the town hall arches.

The windows in the new muniment rooms were sealed and two fans and electric heaters provided. Two doors were made in the coal cellar and outer passage of the muniment rooms to protect the archives from coal dust. The archivist also secured the replacement of old wooden cupboards in the basement by steel shelving. These cupboards were damp and unfortunately had been crammed

full of hundreds of deposited plans (mainly of railways and canals). The plans themselves were badly damaged and their removal, cleaning, restoration and storage were the first tasks undertaken by the archivist, along with cataloguing. He also converted a back-basement into a laboratory repair-workshop, completed in January 1939, for which chemicals and porcelain equipment were purchased to the value of £2.

Mr Dare quickly set about building up the archives by collecting records from outside bodies and individuals. Then, as now, records were acquired on deposit, as outright donations or by purchase. He initially concentrated on acquiring inclosure records and the very first entry in the new accessions register is of inclosure papers of Amersham, received on 8 June 1938, which belonged to the solicitors, Francis and How of Amersham. In fact, like much of the early material that was collected, these documents came from the Museum, where they had been lodged in the absence of a record office.

The next project, to survey all the records held in parish churches around the county, was curtailed by the outbreak of war in 1939 and the consequent petrol rationing. The war also led to an extended period of absence for Mr Dare (October-December 1939) on service with the Field Security (Intelligence) Police, during which time the archives were left in the care of his wife as archives clerk. Mr Dare resigned as County Archivist in 1940 and for nearly two decades thereafter, the archives were administered by an archives clerk under the direction of the Clerk of the Peace. It was not until 1957 that Mr Jack Davis, who had been the archives clerk since the end of the war, was appointed to what was described as 'the vacant post' of County Archivist, a post which he held until 1976 when he was succeeded by Mr Hugh Hanley.

In 1951 the Record Office moved to converted rooms in the Judges Lodgings, which included a public search-room, but it retained its muniments rooms in the old County Hall. The additional space provided by the move enabled the Record Office to begin the process of receiving the superb archive collection of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, which until the establishment of the Record Office had been the main archive-collecting body for the county.

A new chapter in the history of the Record Office began in 1966, when the New County

Offices building was opened, with purpose-built strong-rooms for the archives, as well as accommodation for public and staff. Perhaps inevitably - and probably in common with every county record office in the country - additional space has since had to be provided in order to cope with a public demand and an inflow of records that have increased beyond expectation. A grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2001 enabled us to increase and upgrade our strong-rooms, to expand the archive search-room and to bring into the Record Office the Local Studies Library (formerly part of the County Reference Library), the new service being officially opened in 2002 under the new name Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies.

Whatever changes of name, staff and location there have been, there has been a clear and essential continuity in the history and development of the archive service from 1938 to the present day. This is embodied in the successive accession registers since that first one was started in 1938, though nowadays the register is kept in the form of an electronic database. The first register, which covers the period 1938–81, has now become an archive in itself, in which capacity it has been the source for most of the material in this article.

### Accessions

The executors of the late Major J.G.B. Chester (obituary in *Records of Bucks*, 53, 333) completed the deposit of the family's historic archives by passing to our care the illuminated pedigree of the Chester family, compiled by the herald Peter Le Neve (Rougecroix) in 1697–1701, and the Letters Patent of Henry VIII, 4 December 1545, which granted to Anthony Cave of Tickford the manors of Drayton (Northants), Chicheley and Thickthorns, the rectory and advowson of Chicheley, a messuage and lands in Drayton and Daventry (Northants), the tithes of Willen, and properties in Ekeney, Sherington, Emberton, Hardmead, North Crawley, Tickford and Willen, all of which had formerly belonged to King Henry VIII's College, Oxford. This document is particularly notable for a sketch portrait of the king inside the initial letter H.

A bundle of deeds originally found at Redrup Farm was deposited with us, including deeds of a cottage in Princes Risborough adjoining the churchyard, 1696–1762, the release of a house and malthouse in Princes Risborough (Norwood to Beddall), 1701, the marriage settlement of

Edmund Neighbour of Saunderton and Anne Dutton, 1706, and the lease of a farmhouse and land at Callowdown in Bledlow (Eyre to Darvill), 1813. Colleagues in Cumbria Archives passed on several deeds of the 16th and 17th centuries, including common recoveries of land in Long Furlong, Dunsham Field, Aylesbury, 1629, and of a messuage in Berton (Kene to Lee), 1561. Other deeds received during the course of the year relate to Bledlow Farm, 1675–1897, and the Wheat-sheaf Public House (later Old W heatsheaf Stores), Loughton, 1747–1883.

Groups and societies whose records were deposited or donated include Hanslope Women's Institute from 1925, the Inner Wheel Club of Aylesbury from 1948 until its closure in 2013 and Aylesbury Vale Probus Club, 1977–2013. The Freemasons' Lodge, Lily Lodge of Richmond, which now meets in Beaconsfield, deposited records dating back to its foundation in 1860. A trade union whose records were received is the former High Wycombe and District Branch of the National Union of Teachers, 1938–48 and 1957–85, plus their banner that was carried on marches. We also acquired a printed appeal for funds to build new premises for the Wycombe Literary Institute and High Wycombe Scientific and Mechanics Institute, 1872, as sent to Messrs Charles Early and Company, blanketmakers, of Witney, Oxfordshire. The Stewkley Local History Group donated records of the Committee for the Preservation of St Michael's Church, Stewkley, formed to campaign against the Third London Airport at Cublington and Wing in 1969, which include letters of support and petition sheets (signatories included Sir John Betjeman and numerous architects).

A member of the public kindly purchased and then donated to us a list of the occupiers of houses in Steeple Claydon, with details of previous occupiers, 1792.

We were also given a copy of an unpublished thesis, 'The Traditional Cottage of Mid-Bucks (with special reference to wichert and thatch construction)', by the late Philip H. Knighton, written as part of his ARIBA application in the 1930s. Mr Knighton, who later became an OBE and who died in 1967, was employed by Buckinghamshire County Council as deputy chief architect, 1946–48.

We received on deposit a letter of 3 September 1916 from Harriet Thorn at Aylesbury to her

son John Thorn serving in France, mentioning that zeppelins had been over London and giving general family news, including that ‘Sid’ (not further identified) might be called up, because the railway company was checking to see how many of their men could be spared for the forces.

We were given drawings (elevations and floor plans) compiled in 1989, showing the development of Walton Hall, now part of the Open University, from the early 17th century to 1830, along with a history of the Hall (including family trees) and digital images showing interior floor plans. We were also given copies of photographs showing exterior and interior shots of a building known as ‘The Chantry’, Princes Risborough, before demolition and reconstruction work. The builders included Alfred Noble, who died before 1945. The building has not been further identified.

Last in this selection of highlights from the 160 accessions received in the county archives during the calendar year 2013 is a brief in an assizes case from 1796, concerning a dispute between Elizabeth Turner, widow, and her son William Turner over the ownership of a public house, orchard and garden at Tylers End Green in the manor of Bassetsbury, which William had leased for 21 years to Samuel Rotton, Henry Allnut and James Kingston, brewers. Elizabeth claimed that he had no right to do so and that the brewers were trying to evict her.

### **Exhibitions**

The Boarstall Cartulary was loaned for the exhibition ‘Treasures in Milton Keynes’ at Milton Keynes Art Gallery in January 2014, so that the world-famous map of Boarstall village, c.1444–46, could be displayed. This fascinating exhibition brought together a wide collection of paintings and artefacts, the eclectic nature of which was epitomised in the unlikely juxtaposition of the Cartulary immediately below a drawing by Andy Warhol.

The estate map of Dame Mary Wolley showing the town and parish of Wendover in 1620, part of the BAS map collection now held in CBS, was displayed at an event hosted at County Hall about the proposed HS2 rail link. A modern Ordnance Survey map had been prepared to show how the line would cut through the area covered by the 1620 map.

### **Digitisation**

CBS took part in a national consortium for the digitisation of school admission registers between 1870 and 1914, to which we contributed about seventy registers. Our registers were included in the first tranche and they are now available for searching and consultation on the FindMyPast website. It is hoped that the greater accessibility afforded by this project will lead to much greater use by the public of this often overlooked class of record. The year 1914 was taken as the cut-off point for data protection reasons, but it means that the education records of many of the servicemen who fought in World War I can now be traced.

### **The Australian Connection**

Although our normal business is to bring new archives into CBS, sometimes our role entails finding them a more suitable location elsewhere. This proved to be the case with 22 volumes of photographs and illuminated addresses presented to the 3rd Lord Carrington, later Marquess of Lincolnshire, and Lady Carrington during his term as Governor of New South Wales (NSW), 1885–90. The volumes had been held for many years at High Wycombe Library and were transferred to the Record Office about 15 years ago, but we felt that as the volumes all related to Australia, they would be most appreciated there. Accordingly, with the consent of the Carrington family, we arranged for the volumes to be shipped to the NSW State Archive in Sydney, where they proved to be of even greater interest than we had expected. The volumes were formally presented to the State Governor, Marie Bashir, and the State Minister of Finance, Dominic Perrottet, at Government House, and the event was covered in an item on the ABC news, the national television service in Australia. The Director of the State Records Authority, Geoff Hinchcliffe, expressed the general appreciation of the gift with these words:

Without the extraordinary generosity of the Carrington family and the work of the Buckinghamshire County Council in facilitating, the people of NSW would not be the lucky beneficiaries of such a generous and wonderful gift. The interest they have created within the community is amazing and they have quickly become one of the premier items of our vast archival collection.



**Judges Lodgings**

The county's art collection in the Judges Lodgings, Aylesbury, was augmented by two acquisitions in late 2013: a bust of the then Chairman of the County Council, Mr Carl Etholen, by the local sculptor Andrew Sinclair, and a cabinet portrait, in oils on copper, of John Egerton, 3rd Earl of Bridgewater, who was Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, 1686–87 and 1689–1701. A label on the back was removed during conservation and is now held here in the county archives. Although it wrongly identifies the sitter as the 1st Duke of Bridgewater

(the 3rd Earl's son), the label shows that the painting once belonged to the 3rd Earl's granddaughter Lady Caroline Egerton and was given by her to her nephew, the 1st Duke of Sutherland. The painting was to remain in the hands of the Dukes until 1972. Like all the oil paintings in the Judges Lodgings, it can now be viewed on the BBC's 'Your Paintings' website.

*Roger Bettridge  
County Archivist*

# COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

## REPORT FOR 2013 AND 2014

This has been a challenging couple of years within Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service following the departure of the County Archaeologist, Sandy Kidd in March 2013. Julia Wise (HER Officer) and Bill Boismier (Archaeology Planning Officer) carried out all planning advisory work until Sarah-Jane Farr began as Senior Planning Archaeologist in July 2013 and Eliza Alqassar returned to work in October 2013. In April 2014 Philip Markham took over from Sarah-Jane as Senior Planning Archaeologist. There have also been two changes of management, with Sheila Keene appointed as team leader in June 2013 and Simon Newell taking over from September 2014.

### DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Service was consulted on 425 planning-related and conservation proposals in 2013, and on 510 proposals in 2014, resulting in 39 development-related fieldwork projects being undertaken in Buckinghamshire in 2013 and 60 in 2014.

At 90 High Street, Marlow excavation to the rear of the existing street frontage building found a medieval pit with disarticulated human remains; comprising partial skeletons of two adolescents. Backyard burial is unusual for a medieval town centre site so close to the churchyard, and radio-carbon dating of the bones has shown them to be Bronze Age suggesting that the barrow cemetery, known to exist much further to the west, extended into this area.

Excavations by Foundations Archaeology along the line of a new electricity cable discovered evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement including a 'grubenhous' (Anglo-Saxon pit house or workshop) at Chandlers Hill, Iver.

Residential developments continue in various scales. Excavation at a development site in Aston Clinton recorded Iron Age to Romano-British settlement and revealed a large section across a Roman road, most probably the Lower Icknield Way. A public open day was organised by Eliza

Alqassar and she was invited to talk to local schools and community groups as a result.

The county has seen an increase in Solar Farm applications in recent years. Applicants are routinely requested to supply a geophysical survey together with targeted trial trenching prior to determination. Such evaluations regularly record Romano-British rural settlement remains and these areas are often removed from the development proposal or, if appropriate, involve the use of concrete footings rather than driven or screw piling.

Large-scale mineral extraction proposals in the south of the county continue and existing sites are regularly extended, providing valuable evaluation and excavation opportunities.

### HIGH SPEED 2

Detailed comments on the High Speed 2 Draft Environmental Statement were submitted in July 2013 and in January 2014 on the full HS2 Environmental Statement, as part of the overall County Council response. The service has subsequently contributed to the County Council's formal parliamentary petition. There will be significant impacts on known and potential sites of archaeological interest, notably Grim's Ditch scheduled monument, the medieval church and graveyard at old Stoke Mandeville, the Registered park and gardens at Hartwell, the Roman town at Fleet Marston and Doddershall Hall landscape. A meeting with HS2's archaeologists was held in July 2014 to discuss proposals for fieldwork at a number of locations in the county. Work on HS2 continues in preparation for the Parliamentary Select Committee hearings, and the County Archaeological Service is a member of the HS2 Heritage Sub-Group, with meetings held every couple of months to discuss route-wide issues.

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

The number of direct HER enquiries increased from 84 in 2013 to 113 in 2014. The number of enquiries received from the general public and local groups remain relatively low: presumably most people are finding their way to the online HER on 'Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past' and 'Heritage Gateway'.

The HER Officer enhanced the HER's recording of historic buildings by inputting local buildings of note across the county. Volunteer recording projects include adding nearly five hundred war memorial records to the HER; inputting records of milestones and mileposts, with one hundred and ninety recorded to date, and inputting records of inns and public houses from reports produced by the Society's Historic Buildings Group and other local groups. There are now nearly five hundred records of inns and pubs in the HER. The HER Officer is also working in partnership with the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust volunteers on an HLF-funded pilot project researching and recording undesignated historic parks and gardens in Buckinghamshire.

The HER software system was upgraded to the most recent version in October 2014.

## HISTORIC TOWNS PROJECT

David Green has completed the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Towns Project, and finalised reports for each town are available to view or download from our website at <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/archaeology/buckinghamshire-historic-towns/>. An overall summary report was published on the results of the project and copies are available to download from the website or as hard copies.

## FUTURE

Ever increasing budgetary pressures have meant that the County Council has to undertake further reorganisation of its services, with some services externalised or delivered in new ways. A 'Future Shape' programme of reorganisation of the whole organisation is currently underway and will take effect from April 2015. The County Archaeological Service will be part of an Environment Service within Transport, Economy, Environment.

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# MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

REPORT FOR 2013

## FIELDWORK

Twenty nine development-related fieldwork projects were undertaken in the Milton Keynes area in 2013.

Particular highlights included: The excavation of an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement adjacent to Middleton Primary School, Milton Keynes village by Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd; and a trial trench evaluation in Ravenstone by Albion Archaeology which revealed remains of the former church of Ravenstone Priory.

Records of built heritage included a detailed photographic survey of Middleton Hall and Eagle Walk prior to remodelling within Central Milton Keynes's Grade II listed Shopping Building.

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

The HER was successfully migrated to Exegesis HBSMR software in September and was also re-launched on the Heritage Gateway via HBSMR in November. Moving to HBSMR brings a number of benefits including improved accessibility, greater ease of searching, cross-compatibility and integration with mapping.

Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) carried out an assessment of the archaeological resource in mineral and aggregate search areas within the county, including Milton Keynes. A case study examining the effects of mineral extraction on built heritage was carried out in the Olney area as part of this project. The resultant reports and datasets should be published via the Archaeology Data Service in 2014.

## OUTREACH

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

On Saturday 9th November 2013 the Central

Library played host to the 7th annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day. For the second year running a hands-on archaeology workshop was provided for the under 10s, this year hosted by local firm ASC Ltd.

Stands and displays included a team from the Wing Heritage Project, a study group established to improve knowledge of the village's heritage prior to the production of a neighbourhood plan. Other displays included Northamptonshire's Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP) and the Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS), plus Archaeology Day regulars Ros Tyrrell of the Portable Antiquities Service and Magiovinium Metal Detecting Club, whose wide-ranging collections of artefacts proved as popular as ever.

The biggest draws of the day were the two lectures held in the Local Studies Library. In the morning local archaeologist and resident pottery specialist on television's 'Time Team', Paul Blinkhorn presented 'Carry on Trowelling'. This proved a highly entertaining romp through the history of archaeology in the media, highlighting and debunking many myths in the process. Paul rounded off his talk with a question and answer session in which he provided fascinating insights into the making of Time Team.

The afternoon saw a real change of gear as Cecily Cropper of MFL Archaeology spoke on the subject of Forensic Archaeology, charting its development and use in criminal and post-conflict situations both in the UK and abroad. Cecily used some well-known criminal cases from the past as examples as well as touching on her own work with the United Nations in worldwide post-conflict situations.

On display from November 2013 to April 2014 in various library venues was a new exhibition of recent archaeological work from across the borough. Compiled with information from seven external contributors, the exhibition featured both development related projects and community archaeology such as the Bury Field geophysical

survey. It was accompanied by three cases of finds from the Wolverton Anglo-Saxon and Broughton Gate Iron Age and Roman cemeteries. The exhibition may be viewed online via the Discover MK website: <http://www.discovermiltonkeynes.co.uk/>

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