

..... ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will take place at Chute House at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 6th July 1972. Before that date we will invite nominations for election to the Committee. The AGM will be followed by a short review of the Spring excavations at Ructstalls Hill.

..... ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due on 1st May. Adult £1; student 50p; husband and wife joint subscription £1.75. Please let us have your subscription as soon as possible.

..... 1972 EXCAVATION: RUCTSTALLS HILL

Spring season:

20th, 21st May	Saturday, Sunday*
25th May	Thursday evening
27th, 28th, 29th May	Saturday, Sunday, Monday*
1st June	Thursday evening
3rd, 4th June	Saturday, Sunday*

Autumn season:

19th, 20th August	Saturday, Sunday*
24th August	Thursday evening
26th, 27th, 28th August	Saturday, Sunday, Monday*
31st August	Thursday evening
2nd, 3rd September	Saturday, Sunday*
Terminal date to be decided	

* 10 am to 6 pm at weekends.
7.30 pm onwards, Thursday evenings.

As current members know, this site is an Iron Age/Romano-British farming settlement, with dating so far based on the first century AD. Last year's excavation was a trial dig to establish the nature of the site and to determine priorities. This year we must complete the investigation of the whole site (100 metres by 100 metres). It is clear from last year's dig that we can expect to find at least three main phases of habitation, and we may have complicated areas where several structures overlap. This type of farming settlement is the kind of site that occurs frequently around Basingstoke, but previous excavations have been rapid and incomplete because of road or housing development, and we need to give Ructstalls Hill as thorough an examination as is possible in the one year that is available. The site is so important that the Society has been given a grant by the Department of the Environment for its excavation. Most of this grant will be spent on the hire of a mechanical excavator to remove topsoil and to backfill, as the area involved is so much larger than that tackled last year. We also need to

acquire our own equipment (such as that used last year was on loan from the Hampshire County Museum Service).

At the beginning of May a magnetometer survey of the site is being undertaken for the Society by Tony Clarke of the Department of the Environment (who lectured on the use of such surveys on 23rd March). This will be of the greatest help in giving us a basic plan of the settlement, as it will indicate the position of the main ditches and pits. We can then remove the topsoil from as large an area as possible, and a very important part of our work this year will be the detailed planning of all features (ditches, pits, post holes etc) so exposed. We shall have to choose the most significant of these features for excavation, so that we can get the maximum information possible out of the site.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS! Please try to give as much time as you can. All help needed! Bring friends.

..... SUMMER EXCURSIONS

July 22nd (or 29th): Excursion to
UFFINGTON CAMP (Iron Age hillfort with White Horse hillside figure in chalk);
WAYLANDS SMITHY (Neolithic chambered tomb recently excavated);
BARNISLEY PARK (Roman villa where a thirty-year research excavation is taking place);
CIRENCESTER (Cathedral, museum).

The coach will leave from the car park behind the Railway Station (i.e. off Vyne Road, near the Great Western Hotel) at 9.30 am and will return about 8 pm. Bring sandwiches for lunch, and either bring sandwiches for tea or make your own arrangements in Cirencester. We will confirm the date nearer the time. Please let us know if you plan to come, a week before the excursion date.

August 17th (Thursday evening): Excursion to
DANEbury (Iron Age hillfort currently being excavated).
See Vic Emery's lecture on 11th May, and the recent issue of Current Archaeology.

Own transport arrangements. Meet at Danebury at 7.30 pm. This is a Hampshire County Open Space and there is ample parking. Site reference: SU 324 377, 3 miles NW of Stockbridge. Vic Emery will meet us on site and show us round. Excavations at Danebury continue throughout August, and guided tours are also arranged on Saturdays and Sundays - but we hope that after 17th August you will spend your weekends at Ructstalls Hill!

..... FUTURE LECTURES

We have several interesting speakers in mind for the 1972/3 lectures, and we are booking Chute House for the following dates:

28th September; 2nd November; 30th November; 21st December;
25th January 1973; 22nd February; 29th March; 26th April.

As before, these are all Thursdays and all except one are the

last Thursday of the month. We hope that this will give members enough notice to make their plans for next year.

..... M3 RESCUE WORK

(a) Construction of the Motorway from Popham to the Otterbourne Bypass is due to start at the end of 1974, and at least fifty sites are known to be threatened. Preliminary field-walking is being arranged, and we shall be glad to pass on the names of anyone interested in this to the M3 Committee.

(b) As we are committed this year to Ructstalls Hill we have not formally offered any help by the Society for 1972, but if we have no emergency excavation ourselves in 1973 we suggest that the Society should help with the proposed excavation of a DMV (Deserted Medieval Village) at Popham. Details of this excavation have not yet been announced, but Stephen Moorhouse can tell you about the site, and we shall give dates etc when they are decided.

..... FIELD NAMES SURVEY

Are any members interested in undertaking a survey of field names and path names of a limited area around Basingstoke? Some information is already available in the Victoria County History and an article in Archaeological Journal based on Saxon land grants, while many names were noted by Mr Willis on maps held by the Hampshire County Museum Service. What is needed now is to get as much information as possible on field names and path names from farmers and local people, and to collate this with what is already known. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary.

..... INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

We are glad to welcome the formation of a new BASINGSTOKE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP and hope to have close contact with them. Members are undertaking various projects, individually or in groups, and meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at 7.30 to 9 pm in the annexe at the Shrubbery Girls' School (not the Teachers' Centre - go up the drive and turn right at the top). The annual subscription is 50p. The Chairman, Philip Morris (103 Maldive Rd) is a member of our Society, and several people are joining both.

..... SOME OF THE LOVELY HAMPSHIRE VILLAGES

One of our members, Mrs Elise Whitlock, has recently published a delightful booklet SOME OF THE LOVELY HAMPSHIRE VILLAGES which will be of interest to newcomers to the area and also to the more established inhabitants. It can be obtained from Crosby's bookshop (London Street), price 30p.

..... FINDS FROM BASING HOUSE

Stephen Moorhouse's report on FINDS FROM BASING HOUSE has been published in two parts in Post Medieval Archaeology - in Volume 4 (1970) and Volume 6 (1971). This is a definitive account of material from our most important local site, and such an account has been long awaited by Post-Medieval archaeologists.

..... BOOKS BY NORMAN WEBSTER

Members who came to Mr Webster's lecture on 29th April know how enjoyable an approach he has to the people and events involved in the construction of railways. His two books are:

JOSEPH LOCKE, RAILWAY REVOLUTIONARY
Allen & Unwin, 1970
£3.25

THE GRAND JUNCTION
Adams & Dart (due out shortly)
£2.80

Mr Webster is also busy on a third, a detailed study of the London and Southampton line.

..... RESCUE

RESCUE has now been formally constituted as a Trust for British Archaeology, to draw public attention to the urgent needs of rescue archaeology and to raise funds for rescue work. It now has 2,400 members and is building up a network of liaison officers over the whole country. RESCUE has sponsored surveys of threatened areas and given encouragement and financial support for eleventh-hour work at Dover and Tewkesbury. Many more members and much more money are needed! Donations to:

RESCUE
25A The Tything
Worcester.

STOP PRESS

Basingstoke Technical College are arranging a public lecture at The College on Monday 15th May, at 7.30p.m. entitled "The Chemistry in Conservation of Antiquities" by Mr. W. A. Oddy from the British Museum.

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