

N E W S L E T T E R

NUMBER 8

May 1973

.....WALK ROUND WINCHESTER

Fred Aldsworth, of the Winchester Research Unit, who gave us such a fascinating lecture on Winchester recently, has very kindly agreed to give us a guided tour round Winchester.

Meet at the west entrance to the Cathedral

at 2.30 pm on Sunday, 3rd June.

PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME. There is a lot to see.

There is no need to book in advance, but we would like to have some idea how many to expect, so could you please let Mary Oliver or Barbara Applin know if you want to come? This is a unique opportunity to see Winchester in the light of up-to-date research. \*\* - see page 2.

.....ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We shall hold the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Chute House at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 28th June. Papers for the meeting will be sent out soon, but meanwhile we invite nominations for Officers and Committee, and any items of business to add to the agenda. The business meeting will be followed by a review of the recent seasons at Ructstalls Hill.

.....RUCTSTALLS HILL 1973

The three-week season was very successful, with the pits producing some very interesting material - from querns and loomweights (again) to pieces of a bracelet of bronze wire.

Plans for future excavations this year are not yet certain, but please be ready for a call for help. If the Department of the Environment excavations at the Deserted Medieval Village at Popham begin this year we hope that a good number of the Society will be able to help; otherwise we have plans for trial excavations in Basingstoke or perhaps another return to Ructstalls Hill.

.....BLACK DAM NATURE RESERVE

Philip Morris tells us that the Hants and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust are acting as agents for the Borough of Basingstoke in preparing the Fishponds (to the left of the track by which we reach Ructstalls Hill) as a nature reserve, to be known as the Black Dam Nature Reserve. They are writing an explanatory booklet about the Fishponds, including details of the geology and history of the site - known at one time as New Ram Springs. We have been asked to appeal to any members who have any information about the site - or about the track past the Fishponds - to let the Secretary or Philip Morris (103 Maldive Road, Popley - tel: 27877) have a note of it as soon as possible.

.....POT WASHING/MARKING

We are still meeting on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm in the annexe behind the Museum - but numbers are falling! Please come and help, or come to collect a boxful to wash or mark at home.

.....SUMMER EXCURSIONS

Provisional dates to note for your diaries:

14th July

Day excursion to Rockbourne Roman Villa, Breamore etc.

August

Evening visit to Danebury - date to be announced

16th September Half-day guided tour of Southampton.  
Further details later.

..... LECTURE PROGRAMME

Anyone who forgot the dates of the last two lectures missed two very interesting talks! Don Cross gave a fascinating account of the varieties and vagaries of road signs, and Fred Aldsworth's authoritative and up-to-the-minute account of excavations in Winchester whets our appetite for his guided tour on 3rd June. It is a pity that the audiences were so small. We hope that members will support our monthly lectures more fully when they start again next September - particularly as one of the lecturers who has promised to speak to us is a world-famous figure in the realm of carbon 14 and the scientific analysis and treatment of archaeological objects: Dr A. E. Werner, head of the British Museum Research Laboratory.

..... BAS DISPLAY

We are most grateful to the Eastbourne Building Society for inviting the Society to arrange a small display in their window in Winchester St. Anyone who has seen it will recognise the contribution by Richard Rushent-Oram.

..... BOOK BOX

We have a Book Box on long loan to the Society. If you would like to borrow from it, please come to the annexe behind the Museum on a Thursday evening. It contains:

ROMAN FARMING	K D White
PHOTOGRAPHY IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ART	S K Matthews
EXCAVATIONS NEAR WINCHESTER	
CATHEDRAL 1961-8	M Biddle
THE ROMAN VILLA IN ENGLAND	A E F Rivet
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHY	H C Simmons
PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS	M B Cookson

..... UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON: Dates of interest

- 19-21 Oct 73 The Early Modern Towns of Wessex (last of the 'Winchester Weekends' on urban archaeology).
- 17-18 Nov 73 Rescue Conservation Workshop (instructional course for beginners and semi-experienced amateur archaeologists. Numbers limited; early enrolment essential.
- Jan 74 Bones Seminar - weekend, handling human and animal bones.
- 8-1 Feb 74 Rural Settlement in Southern Britain (Neolithic-Iron Age).

Details and application forms from: Mrs J Pocock, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Southampton SO9 5NH. Tel. 559122 Ext. 466.

..... PLACES TO VISIT

We thought any members who have not visited Fishbourne or the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum might like to have the enclosed leaflets.

..... SUBSCRIPTION

A reminder that subscriptions are due on 1st May. Please renew your subscription as soon as possible.

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\*\* We hope that this tour will give us time to visit also the Winchester Saxon and Norman Exhibition of Art and Architecture which opens in the Cathedral on 25th May.