

THE MUSEUM

From the archaeological point of view the most important event was the financing by the Department of the Environment of the new post of Archaeological Records Assistant and Andrew Pike took up the post on the 1st October, 1976. This will enable the Museum's Sites and Monuments Record to be improved and brought up to date. The work of the County Museum's Archaeological Group has again been invaluable and details of this are given in the Archaeological Notes.

In the historical field, much time has been spent on the reorganisation of stores, but some new displays have been executed. A County Museum Oral History Group was formed with the intention that it should co-ordinate and encourage the collection of verbal history information from older Buckinghamshire residents. Unfortunately not as much has been accomplished as was hoped due to lack of staff, but some progress has been made in this, and also a written questionnaire on food and drink in the county has met with a good response.

A Water and Wetlands Survey has been started by interested volunteers, but as yet insufficient work has been done in the county. The initial search for sites is followed up by the Nature Conservancy Council with a view to consideration being given to the conservation of the best of them. A hedgerow survey to locate hedges with a good variety of species, which can also be interesting to historians, is also being carried out.

Amongst the temporary exhibitions held mention should be made of the one organised by the Society in February, 1976, entitled 'History on the Ground - Recent Work by Archaeological and Historical Societies in Buckinghamshire'. The Museum is greatly indebted to the people who organised this and it proved to be of the greatest interest to visitors. We were fortunate also in being

able to borrow from the Danebury Trust an exhibition 'Life in an Iron Age Hillfort – Excavations at Danebury, Hants' which had previously been displayed at Winchester City Museum. The exhibition was held here because of the number of hillforts in this county and some material from the Ivinghoe Beacon excavations was added to that from Danebury.