

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

## ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Constraints on Museum resources and budgets became clearer in 2010 but we managed one final season of opening on summer Sunday afternoons from April to October before a major review of opening times and staffing at the end of the year. With an exciting and varied programme of exhibitions and events – this was largely Bucks archaeology and history year with the Human exhibition in the early summer – visitor numbers held up well in 2010 at 105,900 (2009: 116,500). Sales of Roald Dahl Children’s Gallery tickets were maintained at around 20,000 for the year.

This was another good year for the schools service with 14,200 pupils visiting both the Museum and Roald Dahl Children’s Gallery in school groups. Schools workshop sessions provided in the Museum continue to account for more than half of the school visits in total. New history, archaeology and science-based sessions were developed to complement the exhibitions programme.

Winter in the Art Gallery began with *50 Years of Toys*, a nostalgic feast for the children of the ‘60s and ‘70s in a pre-digital age, from Lego to Sindy and Action Man, Puffin Books to Pelham Puppets. Fun for all generations as mystified younger ones discovered how a vinyl record was played with a needle.

From March to July, the Gallery showcased the cream of the County’s archaeology and history in the exhibition *HUMAN-half a million years of life in Bucks*. It brought together the best of the Museum and the Society’s collections with some stunning loans from the British Museum, some never before shown in the County, including Roman glass vessels from Radnage, one of the gold shoulder clasps from the Anglo-Saxon burial at Taplow and the hoard of five Bronze Age gold torcs discovered in Milton Keynes in 2000. This was a splendid show which covered the same periods (Palaeolithic to Tudor) as and complemented the Solent-Thames Archaeological Research Framework papers available on the County Archaeology pages at <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/archaeology/buckinghamshire.page>,

published as the Society’s Bucks Paper no. 15. The exhibition launch in March marked also the publication of the Society’s monograph *An Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire*, edited by Michael Farley, see <http://www.bucksas.org.uk/publications.html>. Over 8,000 visitors enjoyed the *Human* exhibition and over 500 came to a free event day *Making the Past* which showed the skills of flint knappers, bronzesmiths, weavers, lace-makers and chain mail armourers.

The Museum was delighted to be supported by both the Friends & Patrons and The William Harding’s Charity for the exhibition, and also for our linked programme of four twilight lectures and gallery talks. The lecture series was well-supported, comprising:

Professor Chris Stringer *Ice Age Man in Britain*  
Sam Moorhead *Rewriting the History of Roman Britain*

Michael Farley *Life and Death in Saxon Bucks*  
Ruth Goodman *A Practical Guide to Tudor Witchcraft*

Collections Showcase, the HLF-funded gallery in the Viney Room, complemented the archaeological theme, featuring the best of our rich collections and cases filled also with the work of six of the County’s project groups. Local metal detectorists lent spectacular metalwork and Treasure finds for display.

Ros Tyrrell, our Finds Liaison Officer for Bucks and Milton Keynes, had another busy year, entering finds information into the Portable Antiquities Database [www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk). By 2010, after 7 years’ work, over 5,000 Bucks finds have been recorded on the PAS website database. This reporting and recording of Treasure and public archaeological finds in Bucks and Milton Keynes is really showing results, not least in the acquisition for the museum collections of a splendid range of Treasure items with funding support from the Friends and national funders. See the accessions

list below for some outstanding examples.

As a complete contrast and back by popular demand, the *Holograms 2* show followed on from July to October half term, attracting 11,500 visitors to a second selection from the Jonathan Ross Collection of both amazing 3D images and holograms applied to everything from bank cards to comics and toys. Bucks Art Society mounted a successful and beautiful selling exhibition of paints, prints and sculpture in November, just in time for Christmas.

Georgian Room exhibitions began with our project with Jane Muir to display her recent paintings on the theme of *Legends of the Wildwood: the Green Man and the Fool in the Forest* with wood-carvings by Mick Waterhouse. It was a pleasure to bring their work together with linked objects from the collections, from a medieval silver gilt mount to a Foliate Heads textile by John Piper.

Over the summer, we showed again the spectacular paintings of Hartwell House and gardens by Balthazar Nebot, 1738, including the recently researched and identified 'Ninth Nebot', a view of Hartwell and the town of Aylesbury in the distance, painted 20 years later in the 1750s. From October, local group *Sparksartists* filled the Georgian gallery with their gorgeous Altered Books in *Book This Space*. Amazing what can be created from a former Bucks Library book! For the national *Big Draw* event in October, over 200 people were inspired by *Book this Space* and by *Sparksartists* to create their own paper bag books.

The Museum would like to thank all our supporters and volunteers who have helped or funded the Museum to deliver this exciting and expanded programme of events and activities, to acquire for the collections and, less prominently, to provide essential care for all the Bucks and Milton Keynes collections in store and on display.

Notable accessions to the collections included:

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACQUISITIONS

**2010.93.1** Hoard of 19 silver medieval coins from Wendover; hoard is dated c1230; found by metal detectorists and donated to the museum

**2010.101.1** Bronze ecclesiastical seal; medieval; official seal of Missenden Abbey; seated figure with inscription around edge

**2010.114** Bronze Age hoard of scrap metal, prob-

ably a founder's hoard; includes fragments of a sword/rapier, a spear, unidentifiable sheet fragments and a piece of cake; also includes almost complete chape from sword scabbard; found with metal detector at Little Hampden and purchased as Treasure

**2010.125** Hoard of 1476 bronze late Roman coins, c350 AD, to be known as the 'Milton Keynes hoard'; found with metal detector and purchased as Treasure; associated with the hoard is a small group of sherds from a coarse ware pottery container; hoard possibly associated with the fall of the usurpers Magnentius and Decentius and the visitation of Paul the Chain to Britain in 353 AD.

**2010.135.1-5** Roman iron objects from Fleet Marston; includes 2 axe heads, a lynch pin and a butchers hook; found with metal detector over some time and not apparently a hoard

**2010.135.6** coin die; iron; Roman; truncated pyramid shape, engraving not visible due to corrosion, identification not certain; found with metal detector at Wing (later finds in 2011 have included coin blanks and a possible second die from same site)

**2010.136.1** Bronze Roman coin, *Dupondius* of Domitian 84–96AD from Marsh Gibbon

**2010.137.1** brooch; bronze; Iron age/Roman; bent, pin missing, undecorated; found in Aylesbury

**2010.200.1-2** Pair of gold ribbon torcs; Middle Bronze Age, 1500–1150 BC; possibly for wearing as bracelets/armlets, rather than around the neck; hooks at both ends and narrow section in centre, deliberately twisted but complete; found at Ellesborough with a metal detector and purchased as Treasure

**2010.201.1** Roman bronze coin, found in Berton churchyard; c343–348 AD; house of Constantine

**2010.201.P** Pot sherds, 29, Roman; from back garden in Berton; includes 1 sherd Samian ware, a painted rim, as well as coarse ware body sherds and flagon base

#### ART ACQUISITIONS

**2010.15.1** *Bassetbury Mill* by Lorna Cassidy, etching, no 12/15, 1966

**2010.23.1** *Portrait of Annie Shrimpton* of Long Crendon by Judith Greenbury, oil on canvas, 1950s

**2010.24.1** *Portrait of William Rickford MP* by William Hudson, oil on panel, 1818

**2010.49.1-4** Portraits of four directors of Hazel,

Watson & Viney Ltd; *George Watson, Walter Howard Hazell, Joseph Elliott Viney, Col. Oscar Vaughan Viney*; oil on canvas cut from frames,

**2010.59.1-4** Four mixed media prints from the Stowe Series by Ivan Green, 2009; *Covert of the Maze, Thy Muse has Sung, Sleep and Solitude, North Front*

**2010.74.1-4** Handwritten poem with pen and ink drawing and process engraving of a nativity scene by Paul Nash, 1909, with handwritten letter from Nash to his first love Sybil Fountain; copy of *Aerial Flowers* written by Nash, published posthumously in 1947

**2010.156.1** *Stoneware sculptural pot* by Bryan Newman, slab built, citadel shaped structure

**2010.160.1-2** two hand coloured prints of *Quarrendon Chapel* from Gentleman's Magazine, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 1817; SE view, Interior view

**2010.161.1** *Grange Farm, Kimble* by John Nash, pencil and watercolour sketch, 1923

#### CLOTHING AND TEXTILE ACQUISITIONS

**2010.19.1** Fuchsia pink satin dress with heavily beaded bodice; designed, hand-sewn and hand-embroidered by donor, Mrs Kitteringham, in 1950s; Mrs Kitteringham was a court dressmaker, much in demand in the years leading up to WWII during the Debutante era; at the time of donation Mrs Kitteringham was 90 years old and living in Chalfont St Peter

**2010.103.1** Wingrave Music Festival commemorative tee-shirt, early 2000s

**2010.112.1-3** Pair of black safety shoes in original box; made by Gifford Newton & Sons of Chesham; bought by donor in mid-1990s

#### NATURAL HISTORY ACQUISITIONS

**2010.75.1** Dried specimen of *Ganoderma lucidum* (fungus) from Northmoor Hill Wood, collected by J. Shepherd and J. Carey, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**2010.202** Chaffinch nest, rich in lichen, found on garden path, Aylesbury garden, collected by Lesley Griffith, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010

#### GEOLOGY ACQUISITIONS

**2010.76.1** Fossil echinoid (*Acrosalenia* sp) from near Wolverton, collected by Peter Essan

#### SOCIAL HISTORY ACQUISITIONS

**2010.16.1** 17<sup>th</sup> century silver fob seal; die engraved with shield, mantling and crest of griffin passant; found by metal detectorist at Stoke Mandeville and purchased as Treasure; arms and crest subsequently identified by College of Arms as those of Payne family of Petworth, Sussex

**2010.20** Clock mechanism originally used in Market House clock in Market Square, Aylesbury with a commemorative Civic Crown plate and book titled '*New Direction for County Government*', presented to George Conchie, Bucks County Councillor 1981–89 on the occasion of the centenary of County Governments in 1989

**2010.21.1** Post Office Savings Account book, used by donor in Aylesbury between 1959–69

**2010.44.1** Small bronze watch key, inscribed 'A.D. Crouch, Aylesbury, Watch Maker and Jeweller'

**2010.72.1** Automatic electric slow cooker with original instruction leaflet; purchased by donor c1980 'because they were fashionable and the neighbours had one'; used at Cumberland Close, Aylesbury.

**2010.73.1** Photograph of donor's father standing beside his Cubitt car, c1927

**2010.77-83** Wooden printing blocks, photographs and documents relating to Samuels Printers of Silver Street, Aylesbury, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century

**2010.95.1** Iron marker used to mark position of livestock pens and market stalls in Market Square, Aylesbury; originally set into stone setts in Market Square (some remain in situ); probably late 19<sup>th</sup> century

**2010.96.1** Post-medieval silver artefact (probably a brooch frame) found by metal detectorist at Long Crendon

**2010.97.1-18** Election leaflets and flyers from Buckingham, delivered to donor's home in 4-weeks prior to General and Local Elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

**2010.99.1** 16<sup>th</sup> century silver gilt button found by metal detectorist at Hambleden and purchased as Treasure

**2010.100.1** 16th century silver gilt ornament for dress or hat in the form of a flower, perhaps a Tudor rose; found by metal detectorist at Mentmore and purchased as Treasure

**2010.113** Display unit with drawers containing reels of Dewhurst's Sylko silk substitute yarn for sewing; used on counter of donor's shop/post office

at Long Crendon, c1955–56

**2010.138** Bronze Tudor button found by metal detectorist at Ellesborough.

**2010.153-4** Kop Hill Climb centenary medal and programme from weekend of 25/26<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**2010.158** Aylesbury Brewery Company wall plaque from The Bell at Berton

*Sarah Gray MA AMA  
County Museum Curator*

# CENTRE FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

In 2010 147 accessions were received. Some of the highlights are given here.

Chesham Building Society (originally Chesham Benefit Building Society) deposited its historical archives, following merger with Skipton Building Society. At the time of the merger, the Chesham was the oldest surviving independent building society in the country, dating back to 1845. That is the year in which the minute books and registers of shareholders begin, with the registers of payments and of deposited deeds of mortgaged properties starting in 1846. Overall, the records form a significant addition to the material on the history of Victorian Chesham.

Aylesbury Vale District Council deposited a large quantity of records created by its predecessor authorities. These include the minutes of the Aylesbury Parish Burial Board, along with registers of graves and burials in Aylesbury Cemetery. The Board minutes run from its beginning in 1855 through to 1908, when its functions were taken over by the Market, Allotments and Cemetery Committee of the Urban District Council. Five volumes of Winslow Rural District Council minutes were also received, completing the set for 1872–1974, covering the period of the existence of the Council and its predecessor, Winslow Rural Sanitary Authority. Other deposits from AVDC include photographs of Aylesbury from the 1970s and 1980s showing Friars Square, Bedgrove Estate, schools and other buildings, the canal basin and the cattle market. On the closure of Aylesbury Civic Centre in 2010, we took in what appears to be a full set of posters advertising events held there since its opening in 1975 and also many of the individual show files.

Societies for which records were received include Hazlemere Residents Association, 1952–2009, Great Missenden Lawn Tennis Club, 1904–1981, Aylesbury Welsh Society, including minutes, 1979–2009, the Royal British Legion (Ellesborough Branch, Women's Section), 1937–2010, and Waddesdon and District Horticultural Society, 1899–1994, together with a

copy of the history published in 2010 for its 110th anniversary. Records of the Buckinghamshire Baptist Lay Preachers Association, including minutes, 1905–1989, were also deposited, and various records of Slough (and District) Civic Society.

Local historians whose collections and papers were received were the late Dr John Lloyd-Hart, including his research notes on the history of Tindal, the Royal Bucks and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals and copies of two photographs of Florence Nightingale with nurses at Claydon House in the 1880s; the late Maurice Foulger of Whitchurch, including four Fire Brigade Occurrence Books, 1942–1971; and Jane Francis, who had arranged to hand over her research notes on historical parish and schoolmasters' libraries a year or so before her death (obituary in *Records*, 51, 266–7). An older generation was represented by a scrapbook of the 1850s and 1860s, compiled by the author Gordon Willoughby James Gyll or perhaps another member of his family. In addition to items on contemporary events in Wraysbury and area, it includes reviews of his *History of Wraysbury and A Tractate on Language* and items relating to his son's participation in horse-racing and amateur theatricals while serving as an officer in the Royal Artillery in Gibraltar.

Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records transferred records of the architects Max Lock, Easton, Pearlston and King (MEPK), comprising drawings and files for projects in the New City of Milton Keynes, including Crownhill, Downs Barn, Furzton, Loughton, Shenley, Springfield, Stantonbury, Walnut Tree, Willen, and also projects in Amersham, Aylesbury and Buckingham (mostly 1990s). Bedfordshire also passed on photographs of work by the architect Victor Farrar (died 2006) on the restoration of historic buildings, including churches in Hanslope, North Marston, Walton and Emberton, Crawley Grange and Newport Pagnell War Memorial, together with plans for the new interdenominational church at Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes (Holy Cross).

Business records that were received include three ledgers of a butcher's shop in Chesham for 1799, 1822 and 1904, which were discovered in a loft in Church Street, Chesham, during building work in 1992; four account books, 1821–1862, of Thomas Harding of Marsh Gibbon, cordwainer; and catalogues and samples of products produced by Cheverton and Laidler, later Chevler, of Princes Risborough, manufacturers of stationery and packaging.

Letters from Constantine O. Phipps (1861–1921) to his sister Beatrice, written at school and college (prep school in Weybridge, Marlborough and Exeter College, Oxford), were deposited. In later life Phipps became vicar of Aylesbury and then of The Lee.

As always, deeds represented a substantial part of our accessions. This year's harvest included the bargain and sale of three watermills in Lavendon to Robert Eccleston, 1631 (received via Essex Record Office); the conveyance by the Earl of Rosebery of land for the erection of Cheddington Methodist Chapel, 1902; deeds of properties in Frogmore, High Wycombe, including cottages, Kings Head Yard and houses on Oxford Road, purchased by the Treacher family, furniture makers, and eventually sold to the Taplin family, corn merchants; the release of a farm at Green End in Radnage from Sir John Lowther Johnstone, baronet, and his wife Charlotte to William Stone of The Camp in Dorton, 1809; deeds of a farm at Cowley in Preston Bissett, 1740–1855; and three deeds (purchased at auction) relating to the Verney family of Claydon House, including a mortgage to raise Mary Verney's marriage portion in 1790.

Finally, miscellaneous single items included a broadsheet account of the execution at Aylesbury in 1823 of John Williams or Banks, alias Velveteen Jack, John Milsom, alias Cribb and his brother Henry Brown, alias Cribb, all for horse stealing; the rules of 'The Sufferers Friend', a society for 'visiting and relieving the distressed of all denominations', in Haddenham, Cuddington and Dinton, 1845; and the ground plan of a hostel for Jewish refugees at Maids Moreton, surveyed in 1949 prior to additional building work.

#### TITHE MAPS DIGITISATION

Working with Buckinghamshire County Council's Countryside Service, we were able to digitise our

collection of the county's tithe maps dating from the 1840s. Altogether maps were drawn up for almost 150 parishes in the county, perhaps three-fifths of the total number, providing invaluable information about land ownership and occupation, land use and field names. As reported last year, the accompanying apportionments, which record this information, are currently being transcribed by volunteers.

#### USE OF THE RECORDS

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies appeared in the BBC television series, *Restoration Home*, in the programme on Calverton Manor, as a source for information on the murder of Grace Bennet. Her burial in 1694 is recorded in the parish register of Beachampton, though in the event this document was not shown in the broadcast.

The Centre was represented at the re-dedication of the restored Boer War memorial on Coombe Hill. Our records relating to the creation of the memorial were used in the research for the new plaques. We were also represented at the opening of the new visitors' centre at Langley Park, because the records of the former owners, the Harvey family, had been used in compiling the new interpretation panels at the Park. The panels also provide visitors with information on the Kederminster Library, which is attached to St Mary's Church, Langley Marish, but belongs to Buckinghamshire County Council as part of the Langley Park estate.

County Council files provided a substantial amount of the source material for an article by Dr Guy Ortolano on plans for a new monorail city in North Buckinghamshire in the 1960s. These plans were never implemented, although a new town did, of course, emerge as the present-day Milton Keynes. Dr Ortolano's article was published in the *Historical Journal*, but was also summarised in the *BBC History* magazine.

#### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

Volumes 35 and 36 of the Record Society's series, *Winslow Manor Court Books*, I: 1327–1377 and II: 1423–1460 have now been published. The volumes are translations by Dr David Noy from the original Latin texts in Cambridge University Library and they cover Winslow and Shipton, Granborough and

Little Horwood, all of which belonged to the Abbey of St Albans. The volumes are priced at £50 for the pair, with reductions to Record Society members, and are available through the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies from the County Archivist, who is the Society's Honorary General Editor.

As always, you can keep up to date with the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies through our quarterly newsletter, which gives details of recent

accessions, cataloguing and conservation work, and any changes to our services, e.g. opening hours and charges. The newsletter is available free if sent electronically, but a small charge is made if to be posted. Changes to our service are also announced on our website at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/archives](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/archives).

*Roger Bettridge*  
*County Archivist*

# COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

REPORT FOR 2010–2011

In March 2010 the long-lived Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16) covering the treatment of archaeology in the planning process was replaced by a single integrated and slimmed-down historic environment policy, Planning Policy Statement 5. Fortunately, the well-established and successful principles of PPG 16 were translated into the new policy and can now be applied to any ‘heritage asset’ of archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest. Moreover, the definition of heritage assets is not restricted to legally designated sites like listed buildings or scheduled monuments but can apply to anything where a genuine interest can be substantiated. The County’s Historic Environment Record is now clearly the first port of call for informing planning decisions affecting any aspect of the historic environment. Introducing these changes has inevitably been a learning curve both for ourselves and our archaeological, heritage and planning colleagues in both the public and private sectors. Reports which would have been perfectly acceptable archaeological assessments under PPG16 have had to be considered in a new light leading to some interesting debates which are still working their way into professional practice; for example through a revision of the Institute for Archaeology’s Standard and Guidance for desk-based assessment.

## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Planning and conservation advice casework involved 594 consultations, of which 212 required positive follow up. The year saw mainly small-scale evaluations and watching briefs, which are reported in Archaeological Notes. Among the more interesting discoveries was an evaluation by Thames Valley Archaeological Service at Long Crendon Industrial Estate, which identified a Romano-British enclosure complex on a hilltop location with possible prehistoric and Saxon activity. Excavation of deep basement car parks by Wessex Archaeology took place at William King Flour Mill in Denham, allowing analysis of the alluvial deposits along the

River Colne. Assessment of the environmental samples taken from the stratigraphic sequence should enable a greater understanding of the chronology of sedimentary sequences in this part of the Colne Valley, known to contain significant archaeological remains.

## HIGH SPEED 2

Consultation on a preferred route for a new High Speed Railway between London and Birmingham running diagonally across the county from Denham to Turweston precipitated strong resistance from many interest groups and the County Council. The promoter’s assessment identified only a handful of heritage impacts in Buckinghamshire but in contrast an historic environment assessment by the County Council using the Historic Environment Record identified numerous archaeological sites, historic buildings and landscapes which could be destroyed or seriously harmed either by construction or operation of the railway. This evidence was used to inform responses to the consultation which stressed that the promoter’s environmental statement was wholly inadequate and that much more work would be required for a complete assessment. The County Council considers that the business case for HS2 has not been substantiated, and that the environmental harm of the scheme has not been given appropriate consideration.

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

The HER experienced a slight reduction in use compared to previous years with 95 direct enquiries. We suspect that more people are using our local Unlocking Buckinghamshire’s Past website and the national Heritage Gateway, but specific figures are not available. There were a number of enhancements during the year, including the completion of records for national and local heritage designations and the addition of records from the Portable Antiquities Scheme database. The Unlocking Buckinghamshire’s Past website

was completely redesigned using new software, and the HER was also made available online through the Heritage Gateway. A project proposal for HER21 funding was submitted to English Heritage but unfortunately was not successful. The HER also embarked on an extensive data scanning project prior to moving to a new open-plan office in County Hall. In future the HER will be increasingly looking to conduct searches entirely digitally without the need to visit our Aylesbury office.

#### HISTORIC TOWNS PROJECT

The year saw production of reports on Chesham, Chalfont St Peter, Gerrards Cross, Great Missenden, Stony Stratford and Marlow, (available on the County Council website). In addition, events to promote the project were held at South Bucks, Chiltern and Wycombe District Councils. The data and reports will be held by the Historic

Environment Records for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes respectively.

#### FUTURE

In the New Year, we became aware of the full enormity of the financial pressures facing the County Council. Around the same time the leader of the natural environment team left and, in the spirit of the times, the natural and historic environment teams were merged under the writer's management pending a major departmental review.

*Alexander (Sandy) Kidd  
County Archaeologist  
Buckinghamshire County Council*

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 2010

### DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Archaeological planning and related casework comprised 217 consultations, of which 51 required positive follow up.

During 2010 there were 17 sites which had archaeological works commencing, comprising 1 excavation, 10 trial trench evaluations and 6 watching briefs. Highlights included:

- Further excavations at Manor Farm, Wolverton where activity spanning the Upper Palaeolithic to the Saxon period has been revealed. The Upper Palaeolithic activity being the first recorded *in situ* remains of this period from the borough (See *Archaeological Notes*)

### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

The Historic Environment Record was consulted by external researchers 29 times in 2010.

Over 8000 Milton Keynes HER records were published alongside more than 1.5 million national and local entries on the Heritage Gateway in February 2010 complementing the data already available through the MKi Observatory Heritage Theme.

In late 2010 the Senior Archaeological Officer commenced a mini-audit of the HER and an accompanying case-study, for which funding was granted from English Heritage. A key outcome of the mini-audit will be an HER action plan for the next 3 years.

### OUTREACH

In February and April the Conservation and Archaeology Team hosted two Year 11 work placement students, the second of which was shared with local contractor Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.

A successful Milton Keynes launch of ‘An

Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire’ was held at the Central Library in March. The event included an address by the then Deputy Mayor Debbie Brock and the President of the County Archaeological Society, Dr Richard Gem OBE.

Between April and June the Senior Archaeological Officer was involved as advisor and participant in the production of the MK Underground project film, in partnership with local charity MK Arts for Health.

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September the Senior Archaeological Officer gave a guided walk around the archaeology of the Ouzel valley to a group of 25 as part of Heritage Open Days.

On November 13<sup>th</sup> the Cllr Debbie Brock, the Mayor of Milton Keynes, opened the fourth Milton Keynes Council Archaeology Day. This event, held across the Central Library, was well attended as usual and attracted press and radio coverage. The day included a fascinating talk by Louise Loe from Oxford Archaeology on the Fromelles Project, and a very entertaining presentation by Mike Luke of Albion Archaeology on his career in field archaeology. Ros Tyrrell of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the Magiovinium metal detectorists and stands from the Western Front Association, CLASP and the City Discovery Centre also proved popular. The themed story time for under-fives in the Children’s Library was complemented on this occasion by a heritage themed art workshop hosted by MK Arts for Health and artist Jane Charles.

### STAFFING

An additional Conservation Officer (Charlotte Reynolds) was recruited to the team as a replacement for external consultants and to undertake a survey of Buildings and Heritage at Risk within the borough.

*Nick Crank, Senior Archaeological Officer  
Conservation & Archaeology Team  
Milton Keynes Council*