

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM TRUST

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

### VISITORS

Attendance numbers overall were slightly down by 0.3% to 88.9k. Income from schools visiting rose to £68102 and, following price rises in spring 2016, general Dahl Gallery admissions income was 4.8% up to £39438. 2016 holidays, 2017 February half term and 2017 Easter holiday activities were well attended, with a record figure participating in the 2017 Easter Egg trail (192 children). Shop and cafe trading saw a 12.5% increase to £37777 with the best showing from the café, which now benefits from significant refurbishment and increased birthday party income.

The Roald Dahl Children's Gallery was refurbished during the year by Redman design in close partnership with David Erskine for the Dahl Gallery at a cost of £55k, largely paid for by grants and a £25k draw-down from the county council purchase fund. The installations were completed for the Christmas holidays, replacing several key pieces of equipment and many of the improvised graphics installed over the 20 years since first installation.

Learning Manager Vicky Scrivens left in September 2016 for a new post and Bucks County Museum recruited Sarah Jones from her Volunteer Coordinator role. Sarah started as the new Creative Learning and Engagement Manager in January 2017. School visits were amalgamated to a 4-day week to reduce education staff costs.

The Learning Team carried out an Arts Award project for 300 children in the summer, based on the *Art of Islam* exhibition with the part-time staff carrying out the marking of the children's work. Although there were some excellent achievements from children involved, the project exceeded the funding available to support this project and took up a lot of learning team staff time.

### EXHIBITIONS

- *Romans*: April – 3 May (Milton Keynes Central Library)

- *Little Pieces of Heaven* continued until 18 June 2016 (Special Exhibitions Gallery)
- *Historic Views of Bucks*: until 2 July 2016 (Georgian Room)
- *Nature Detectives MK*: 25 July – 1 September 2016 (Milton Keynes Central Library)
- *The Art of Islam*: 26 March – 24 Sept 2016 (Art Gallery & Collections Showcase)
- *Mushroom Magic*: 8<sup>th</sup> October (Learning zone)
- *The McDowall Collection of British Neo-Romantic Art*: 19 Nov – 28 Jan 2017 (Art Gallery)
- *Making an Impression: Beds, Bucks and Herts Print Society*: 8 October – 5 November 2016 (Art Gallery)
- *Unmaking the Modern: the work of Stanley Anderson*: 22 Oct – 28 Jan 2017 (Collections Showcase)
- *Roald Dahl's Buckinghamshire*: 2 July – 7 Jan 2018 (Special Exhibitions Gallery)
- *Beyond Description*: (Jane Muir retrospective) from 21 Jan 2017 (Special Exhibitions Gallery)
- *Spirit of Legends*: from 11 February (Art Gallery)

Over 9000 visitors came to *The Art of Islam*, averaging 65 per day: about 14% (1313) were from Muslim heritage, representing a major change in our visitor profile.

Small exhibitions have continued to tour the following libraries without charge: Burnham Library, Gerrards Cross Library, Great Missenden Library, High Wycombe Library. We have reported that this tour will cease in the autumn: however, in the report period it has continued so far and our Library volunteer has agreed to continue to initiate new displays and to install at Gerrards Cross and Burnham for the future, ensuring a continuing presence in the south of the county.

The museum has additional support from the Muir Trust, which funds a biennial residency for an established artist to respond to the museum collection or displays. For 2017 the selected artist is James Fox, a textile artist from Lancaster. His studio will be set in a ground-floor gallery from 16

September. By way of celebration of Jane Muir's own work a retrospective exhibition (titled *Beyond Description* and covering four themes) and accompanying music concert was held Jan – April.

## STAFFING

The County Museum worked in partnership with the County Council's Commercial Manager Ruki Makin from the Registrar's Office to put on events such as the 'Wedding Fair' in February and other events and exhibitions from April 2017.

The Admin Officer at Halton was made redundant in September. Her post and workload were no longer viable because the volume of work had reduced considerably in recent years.

Richard De Peyer announced his intention to retire in June 2017 and the recruitment process was started in February 2017. In May 2017 Sue Shave was appointed as his successor: she took up the position of Museum Director from 1 August 2017.

Museum volunteers contributed 3600 hours of their time this year, representing over 700 working days supporting the work of the County Museum Trust.

## ACQUISITIONS

**Archaeology:** There have been 83 additional archaeological deposits notified that will lead to deposits in the future as part of the County Museum collections rather than the Trust collection. Following a decision of our board in January we have warned archaeological contracting bodies that charges for archaeological deposits at the museum will rise from their current level of £17.50 per box to £100 per box more properly reflecting the costs of perpetual deposit and the requirement on developers to make provision for deposit of material excavated during development of sensitive sites.

**HS2:** BCMT has been investigating the possibility of an agreement to become the approved repository for Bucks heritage collections including excavated archaeology and natural science heritage which may be the result of HS2-funded excavations. BCMT met with HS2 staff in September and now have a local point of contact, although there is no commitment to deposit collections with the Trust as yet.

**Lenborough Hoard Acquisition:** Major grants were received from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Art Fund, The Headley Trust, the Rothschild Foundation and both the Friends, and the Patrons, of the museum, alongside substantial public contributions, and an online crowdfunding campaign. This is one of the largest hoards of coinage from the period ever found in Britain, consisting of 5,248 silver pennies, found wrapped in a sheet of lead. The coins come from the reigns of Ethelred II and Cnut, and were buried around AD 1035. Once cataloguing is complete, the coins will be displayed at the County Museum as well as at the Old Gaol in Buckingham and Milton Keynes Museum. The Norwegian embassy agreed to host a reception on Nov 25th for opinion formers and potential donors.

**Social History:** There are 72 new accessions into the social history collection, including an old painted sign from the *Buckingham Arms Hotel* in Great Missenden, a framed WWI propaganda poster issued by Jacksons of Aylesbury, a Paralympic Games flame torch from Rio 2016, and a collection of items – including a barometer – from a one-time employee at Negretti & Zambra in Aylesbury.

**Art:** There have been eight additions to the Buckinghamshire art collections, comprising a group of preparatory work for 'Hidden Image' by Jane Muir that was found in store; a pencil drawing of 'Wing Church' by Niemann Smith donated by BAS; a watercolour of 'Walton Lodge Cottage' by Barbara Hilliam, acquired on behalf of Milton Keynes Museum; a moulded glass panel by Jessica Ecott; a Japanese woodblock print of 'Hambleton Weir' by Laura Boswell; a linocut print of 'Hunter's Moon' by Laura Boswell; a ceramic sculpture of a cormorant by Lorraine Izon (10<sup>th</sup> Muir Trust artist in residence) and a ceramic bowl by Karen Rance (exhibited in *Creative Connections* exhibition). The last five items were donated to the museum collections by Marilyn Jackson from the collection of her late husband, Adrian. A display of the series of paintings of Hartwell House and gardens by Balthasar Nebot from 1738 was prepared and installed from July 2016 in the Georgian Room and brings these fine paintings onto permanent display for the first time, following changes to our insurance arrangements.

**Natural History:** Juvenile Peregrine. One of three peregrine chicks raised to near-adult size on the County Hall peregrine platform, Aylesbury, in 2015. Sadly, this bird flew into the building and died. The cost of taxidermy was generously paid for by a member of the Buckinghamshire Bird Club.

Other acquisitions for this period comprise a number of rock and fossil collections forming part of a large backlog of offers to the museum collection, including material from the bottom of Pitstone Cement Works' Quarry No 3, now flooded as part of the transformation into BBOWTs College Lake Nature Reserve in the early 1990s.

#### LOANS

- The loan of 2005.92.1 'Ivinghoe Beacon' by Brian Bennett, oil on canvas, to Chairman's Office at Judges Lodgings continues, as does the long loan of pottery to Cambridge Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology, loaned out in Dec 2015 for an exhibition on the archaeology of childhood. The sherds are unusual as they show children's fingerprints. The loan to Tring Local History Museum of medieval whole pots also continues until July. It forms part of their main display gallery.
- A Michael Cardew jug has been loaned to Tate St Ives for exhibition; we have renewed a 5-year loan of Saxon metalwork and medieval coins to Thame Museum and have loaned a silver goblet to the Aylesbury Club for their annual Duck Dinner.
- Research and negotiations were undertaken in respect of the potential loan of a large oil painting 'A Scene from the Risorgimento' by Gerolamo Induno to the V&A for their inaugural Opera exhibition in their new galleries from Sept 2017.
- McDowell Neo-Romantic Paintings: BCMT approached the McDowell Trust with regard to possibly loaning 130 key paintings for display in the proposed new HLF-funded galleries. The Museum Director and Chairman met with the Trustees of the McDowell Trust in September to discuss the proposal for the future.

#### COLLECTIONS WORK

**Archaeology:** The ongoing volunteer project to catalogue in detail the museum's human remains

collection has been greatly assisted by two grants from the regional MDO – one to facilitate the purchase of specialist conservation equipment and train the volunteer team in its use, the other to employ an osteoarchaeologist to oversee the final stages of the examination and documentation of the material. It is anticipated that the project will be completed during 2017.

The Museum is also in the process of acquiring a very important metal detected find – a rare late Roman casket cremation burial with a rare carnelian intaglio gem, a very fine bronze jug and platter. The metalwork accompanying the cremation is extremely unusual, but was in a very fragile state when found, and required expensive conservation to prepare it for display. This is currently being carried out thanks to a very generous private donation, and a grant from the Trustees of the Haverfield Bequest.

**Art:** A new store for framed art has been created from the old packing room and racked out. Art has been moved from the costume and textile store to free up shelf space in this store. Art work for Milton Keynes has been identified and stored separately ready for future transfer.

**Natural Science:** Work has been done to increase Public Access to the Museum's Herbarium. This ongoing volunteer project comprises two strands. The first is the updating of the scientific names of specimens and standardisation of collection details so as to make the data available to users of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre and the National Biodiversity Network. The second comprises the photography of all herbarium specimens to increase access through the Museum's website.

The entomology documentation backlog project continues to capture data from the 30,000-strong pinned insect collection. Geology identification and documentation backlogs continue to be tackled. An ongoing volunteer project is underway with one team carrying out identifications on a backlog of unincorporated material into the geology collection and another volunteer recording the new data onto the Museum's database and also incorporating specimens into the overall collection storage sequence.

**Social History:** A major task has involved overseeing re-racking and updating of data records

for three social history stores and installation of large agricultural items from a corrugated iron lean-to into the new purpose-built double garage. A second major job was the receipt in August and the audit of the Embroiderers Guild collection at Halton.

**Portable Antiquities Scheme:** New Finds Liaison Officer Arwen James updated the office protocols and recording systems in line with the PAS National Policy. Three self-recorders were taken on, and attended training sessions. This helped with the relationship between archaeology and metal detectorists, with a good connection to the Milton Keynes Club. Finds days have been set up at the County Museum, Old Gaol Museum and Wycombe Museum: these proved to be very successful and allowed the FLO to prioritise workload. Finds are now being recorded in a three-month turnover and the records promoted, allowing them to be fully available to researchers. Treasure and finds numbers continue to increase annually. A Treasure and finds exhibition is currently being organised for July 2017, which will involve detectorists displaying their finds alongside acquired treasure items, and other smaller outreach events.

## TALKS

The History Curator, Will Phillips, presented 13 external talks to paying local groups up and down the county, including Central MK WI, the Chiltern Probus Club for Ladies and the High Wycombe Retired Teachers Association. The other curators also undertook many external talks across the county and all curators have been involved with behind-the-scenes stores tours for local groups. Will Phillips also organised and undertook museum object handling sessions across two sites in Milton Keynes as part of Heritage Open Days 2016 and was joint organiser for the Eid Festival at County Museum in summer 2016.

## Museum Accreditation

Richard De Peyer submitted the Museum Accreditation Return and revised documentation to the Arts Council in October 2016 for a renewal of the Accredited Museum status as a continued kite mark of industry standards of governance, collections care and visitor experience.

## PARTNERSHIPS

**Milton Keynes Council:** The main work under the Milton Keynes SLA agreement has focussed on the preparation of the Milton Keynes material to be relocated to Milton Keynes Museum new stores from April 2018. The Finds Liaison Officer and Social History Keeper have also provided content for some Milton Keynes Museum events such as Heritage Open Days, undertaking handling and object-related activities.

BCMT assisted Milton Keynes Council with plans to use heritage for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2017, such as the display in the main shopping centre to mark the commencement of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The Trust also installed an exhibition at MK Central Library on April 2017 on the Ice Age and prepared extensive selections and logistical work on behalf of MK Library. Planning commenced to support a temporary exhibition to celebrate the installation of the Elizabeth Frink Horse sculpture on Silbury Boulevard in 2018.

**Embroiderers Guild:** BCMT signed an SLA with the Embroiders Guild in August 2016 to store the 7000 objects in the national collection from the Guild at the Halton Resource Centre under the care of Social History Keeper, Will Phillips. The SLA agreement included an audit of the Guild collection with all items to be recorded on the Modes database. The local Guild members expressed interest in volunteering with BCMT to help with the audit and collections care and the group began work in December 2016/January 2017.

The Embroiderers Guild also moved the national office to Church Street, where CEO Terry Murphy worked from August 2016. The Guild were also offered a permanent showcase area in the main museum so that Guild members from all over the country could visit displays of their collections. A large temporary exhibition featuring treasures from the Guild collections is being developed for July – October 2017 in the main Art Gallery.

BAS has approved the rental of attic space to the Embroiderers Guild as an income generator for the Museum and has confirmed this to Bucks County Council as head lessors.

**National Paralympic Heritage Trust (NPHT):** BCMT developed a working relationship with the National Paralympic Heritage Trust and was awarded a grant of £5000 to create a draft SLA and Collections Development Policy in August to

support the NHPT HLF Round 2 Application for £5 million.

The Paralympic Heritage Trust was awarded over £1.6 million by HLF in March 2017 to set up, collect and display Paralympic material. Bucks County Museum will act as their agents in storing collections and servicing the development of new displays at Stoke Mandeville stadium and six satellite exhibitions over the next few years.

British Military Museum Trust: Social History Keeper, Will Phillips, continued as curatorial advisor for the Bucks Military Museum Trust, including attending quarterly committee meetings in Swanbourne, advising a local resident wishing to gift her collection of Islamic Art to a public institution and a Patron of Bucks County Museum on storage of collection of family heirlooms.

#### FUNDING PROJECTS

Heritage Lottery Fund Application for Church Street: Bucks County Museum Trust submitted an application for £3.2 million to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the redevelopment of the Church Street galleries in December 2016. This bid was notified to the Trust as being unsuccessful in March 2017. The Trust is reconsidering the application and intends to revise the project bid to £2 million and to resubmit this application in a few months' time.

National Portfolio Status – Arts Council England: Bucks County Museum Trust applied for the new Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation funding for Band 1 in January 2017. The Trust

was notified in June 2017 of the successful outcome of the application for National Portfolio Organisation status to start in April 2018 and run until 2022, initially with funding of £100,000 per year. The funding will support the development of a range of community engagement initiatives with diverse communities locally, programmes for under-5s and development of volunteering opportunities.

Preparing for Profit: The ACE-funded Preparing for Profit joint regional museums project was completed in March 2017 with seven partnerships benefitting from retail and catering expertise and funding to implement consultant proposals. BCMT was able to install an EPOS system in December which is benefitting efficiency of sales and management of retail and catering.

Reaching New Horizons – Volunteer Project with Milton Keynes Heritage Trust: This project was mainly led by Sarah Jones until she started her new Learning role in January 2017: Museum Director Richard De Peyer completed the project in March 2017. The project covered around 30 volunteers supporting collections care at Halton Resource Centre and had also involved the setting up of good-practice volunteer management including policy and induction documents and processes. Training sessions were also offered to develop volunteer knowledge and skills. The Museum successfully acquired the *Investors in Volunteers Award* after assessment in June 2016.

*Sue Shave*  
*County Museum Director*

# CENTRE FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2016–2017

During the year 2016-17, the team has been adjusting to the new structure that we brought in last year, and recruiting some new staff to complete the full structure of the team. We welcomed Katherine Doyle as our Community Outreach and Projects Archivist and Victoria Reid and Peter Kent as Public Services Officers in July 2016.

## CATALOGUING

The catalogue for Milton Keynes Development Corporation was added to the online archive catalogue in preparation for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Designation Order, which established Milton Keynes as a New Town in January 1967. Other work continued on converting some of our older catalogues so that they are viewable and searchable through the online catalogue, which is quite a lot of work considering the office has been cataloguing material since the 1930s and cataloguing standards have changed a lot in that time.

## DIGITISATION

CBS continues to work on getting collections digitised and made more widely available. In particular, CBS has been working closely with Bucks Archaeological Society on their map collection deposited in the Archives. BAS has very kindly funded the digitisation of approximately 70 maps covering a geographic spread of the whole county. Those maps are now held digitally as well as physically, and are more widely available to users in the Archives search room and will, in due course, be available in the BAS Library.

CBS has also been working for the last few years on wholesale digitisation of collections, starting with the wills and probate collection and the marriage licence collection. Our plan is to get these digitised in their entirety, once the required conservation work has been completed to ensure that they are in a fit state to be copied.

## OUTREACH

CBS's World War One project, *Great War Bucks*, funded by CBS, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Milton Keynes Council, is due to run until December 2018. Over the course of 2016–17, work has continued with the volunteers who are researching and writing biographies for men and women who have a connection to the county and were impacted on by the war. We have also been involved in a number of events, showing our exhibition about the county and the war in a number of different locations around the county.

We have continued to work with Beaconsfield and District Historical Society on the cataloguing and arrangement of their collection of local history material about the local area.

The National Paralympic Heritage Trust was successful in their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding towards their project to preserve the heritage of the Paralympic movement in the UK. CBS are their archive partner and we are taking in collections on their behalf. This also means that CBS are supporting NPHT with their programme of exhibitions and education.

As always, CBS continues to offer talks and events for groups and a number of different sessions have been held over the course of 2016–17, including training sessions for projects run by some of our partners.

As mentioned above, January 2017 saw the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the designation of Milton Keynes. As part of CBS's contribution to the year of celebrations, we developed an exhibition on 'Milton Keynes in Fifty Historic Records' – telling the history of Milton Keynes through 50 different records in our collections. The selected records can be seen on the project blog at <https://mkin50records.wordpress.com/>.

## ACCESSIONS

The Centre accessioned 128 collections during

2016. The selected highlights of these new deposits are as follows:

- Digital images of photographs of Liscombe Park (property of the Robinson family), including estate workers, from a family album, 1907–1908; also a photograph of possibly Italian Prisoners of War from World War One, 1914–1918
- Records of the Chesham Conservative and Unionist Club, comprising minute books, 1939–1976 (12 volumes), one volume of separate committee minutes, 1956–1960 (1 volume), register of individuals authorised to seal documents, 1924–1956 (1 volume), and photograph of the Club premises on High Street, with a history of the site
- Deeds comprising: Cottages in Bierton or Hulcott, by the village green and main road (earlier deeds have 22 acres pasture in Hulcott), 1714–1801; Messuage, water mill called Dunmill, Dunmill Close (3 acres) and other land in Whitchurch, 1710–1816; Deeds and papers concerning property of Durley family in Bierton and Whitchurch, 1750–1919, including family wills, purchase of cottages in Bierton in 1864, and correspondence with solicitors
- Plan showing land attached to Dadford Farm and Brick Kiln Farm in Stowe, undated, and pedigrees of Bennett family of Stowe (compiled in 1995), George family of Stowe, and Handscombe family (places including Buckingham), CD of photographs of Bennet family (from an album) with notes on individuals who have been identified
- Deeds and papers relating to 114 High Street, Great Missenden (also includes references to Prospect House, 108 High Street, 1952, the White Horse Public House and cottages, 1888, and the parish workhouse, 1839)
- Papers relating to John Talling of White House Farm, Iver Heath comprising: Tenancy agreements for White House Farm, 17 Nov 1908 and 2 Mar 1911 (2 items), National Registration cards for John Talling, Ada Blanche Talling, Elsie Florence Talling and Gladys Blanche Talling, 1915 (4 items), agreement for construction of a bungalow, for J. Talling by Ernest Cotton, 5 June 1925, with two specifications April, May 1925 (3 items), sale particulars for 22 plots of building land on Church Road, 5 May 1927, receipt for rent of land on North Orbital Road, Shredding Green, paid to Bucks County Council by John Talling of Trewarded, Bangors Road, Iver Heath, 31 January 1935, and National Savings Card for E.J. Talling, nd
- Deeds of property on Chesham High Street, 1685–1782, also fire insurance certificate for 4 cottages on High Street, issued to the Trustees of the Baptist Chapel, 23 January 1855, St John Ambulance certificate for Edwin East of Chesham, January 1899, letter about sale of the Town Hall, sent to Edwin East, 25 June 1947, with 2 photos of Town Hall and one of a bell, 2 notes on religious subjects, 1816, 1820, administration of Robert Holmes Snell of Weston, Lincoln, farmer, 1859, and probate of will of Thomas Pinchbeck of West Cottingwith, Yorkshire, labourer, 24 December 1878
- Deeds and papers relating to 155 Park Street, Aylesbury (previously known as 115 Park Street, and originally as 11 Mill Row)
- Records relating to Pitstone Cement Works including: photographs and slides, video and CD about nature reserve on the site, also heavy goods vehicle drivers licence for Graham Atkins, 1973–1990 (who worked for Castle Cement)
- Reports produced by the Bucks County Council Departments of Architecture and Planning, mainly relating to village plans and conservation areas, 1960s–1970s
- Photographic negatives (including glass plate) from the Bucks Herald
- Records relating to the surveying, mapping and aerial photography of Milton Keynes by Milton Keynes Development Corporation, including details of surveying jobs, 1970s–1980s, aerial photography undertaken, 1980s, study on a Land Information System for Milton Keynes, 1990, articles about mapping by M.F. Anderson, Chief Land Surveyor, Ordnance Survey plan marked with areas of new city, 1967, publications about the new city, MKDC telephone directory, and two videos containing highlights of a decade of TV coverage, and an event for the Silver Jubilee of Milton Keynes 14 March 1992
- Deeds and papers relating to 26 Kitchener Road, High Wycombe, 1966–1987, with copies of extracts from an earlier deed and plan, undated but prior to construction of houses on Kitchener Road
- Planning applications for Milton Keynes during the first two decades of the New City

- Deeds relating to property in Bledlow Ridge (called The Bledlow Ridge Estate, owners include the Gibbons family, Frederick Burdett and the Saunderton Land Company) including windmill, cottages, land (freehold and copyhold), Druces Farm, Coopers Farm, Ridge Farm and White Lodge, with land in West Wycombe and Wheelershill Wood in Radnage, also plan of property in Bledlow Ridge including Hall Lane Farm, Coopers Farm, Ridge Farm, Bottom Farm and Loxboro House (marked with waterpipes), all stored in metal deed box labelled Charles L. Smith, 1907
- Deeds relating to messuage and land (including Corner Wicks) in Stoke Mandeville, 1717–1772, The Poplars (house, corner shop, 2 cottages and orchard) in Berton, 1869–1893, grant of a right of pasture for one cow in Wick Mead, Tring, Hertfordshire, 1800, and will of John Short of Nash (in Whaddon), made 1871, proved 1876
- Deeds relating to conveyance of next presentation to the Rectory of Newton Blossomville, sold by George Farrer to Ann Wills Toovey Toovey (including abstract of title reciting deeds from 1834)
- Additional deceased patient files from the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital
- Additional records of the estate of the Earl of Egremont (from the records of Brown and Merry) comprising: rent accounts, 1903–1907, 1911–1918 (3 volumes), agreement to lease Upper Weald Farm to Benjamin Smith and Charles Brooks, 17 Jan 1859, letter about the financial affairs of the tenant at Rectory Farm and his possible intentions, 11 Sep 1886, list of occupiers of properties in Lower, Middle and Upper Weald, 19 Feb 1929, sale catalogues for pieces of land in Calverton, 1902, 1903, 1907, sale catalogues for livestock and agricultural implements, 1926, 1932, sale catalogue for Calverton Estate including Calverton Cottage, Lower Weald Farm, Middle Weald Farm, Upper Weald Farm, 32 cottages and land (461 acres), 30 June 1933, plan for alterations to 6–8 Middle Weald (two cottages) with photographs showing before and after, 1937, papers about bomb damage to Fairfield Farm, Upper Weald, 1940–1941
- Drainage plans for the new city of Milton Keynes
- Deeds relating to three cottages near the church in Penn, sold by Robert Taylor to Emanuel Hobbs, then to Rev. William Mussage Bradford and others (including copy of will of Robert Taylor, 1749), 1749–1827 (4 deeds), and conveyance from William Tottenham to William Loosley of land on Bridge Street in High Wycombe, 1 June 1867
- Papers relating to sale of Badgers Oak Farm on Cublington Road, Aston Abbotts
- Deeds, plans and papers relating to development of shops at Numbers 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220 (Post Office), 222, 224, 226 and 228 on Farnham Road in Slough, 1958–1963 (Cullworth Properties), three deeds relating to property of Kind and Company, builders, on Farnham Road, 1958, Slough Trading Estate, 1963, and registration of title to land on Larks Hall Road, 1968 (Cullworth Properties), deeds, plans and papers relating to development at Brockhurst Nurseries in Farnham Common, 1958, 1–9 Christopher House and 1–7 Robin Parade on Rosewood Way in Farnham Common, 1960, by E.E. Reed and Company, builders, with sale of shares in the Company, 1961
- Records of the Ravenstone Hospital Charity (formerly Almshouses), including: accounts, 1881–1885, accounts and vouchers, 1914–1954, correspondence 1906–1953 (subjects include fee farm rents and investments, correspondents include the Charity Commission), schedule of fee farm rents 1905–1930, receipt book for fee farm rents, 1954–1957, fire insurance certificate, 1920 updated to 1947, Charity Commission Orders for redemption of fee farm rents on farms at Cottingham and Willerby (Yorkshire), 1893, and Willerby, 1907, and Report of the Proceeding at the Conference of the National Association of Almshouses, 1956
- Letter from Wroth Symes to his cousin M.C. asking him to search for a deed of 1664 (made by Sumner) relating to his estate at Ickford which has been purchased by Messrs Harrison and Drury (booksellers and publishers of 18 Paternoster Road, London), with a note from the cousin that the estate was actually purchased by Mr Walker of Woodstock, undated but probably eighteenth century from the handwriting

*Laura Cotton  
County and Diocesan Archivist*



# COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

## REPORT FOR 2017

The County Archaeological Service forms part of the Transport, Economy & Environment Service's Environment Team within Environment Services. Philip Markham is the Senior Archaeology Officer, Eliza Alqassar is the Archaeology Officer (part-time), Julia Wise is the HER Officer, Paul Clements is the HER Assistant (part-time) and Simon Newell is the Environment Team Leader. Eliza has now left her part-time post with Historic England as an Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments and works four days a week for Bucks County Council. Paul's contract has been extended to the end of the 2017/18 financial year.

### DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

It has been another busy year for the team: the highlights include:

**Berry Hill Farm, Taplow:** Archaeological excavation has been undertaken on this site for a number of years, as different phases of sand and gravel extraction have been programmed. These

works have been undertaken by Wessex Archaeology and prior to excavation a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching took place. A prehistoric to Romano-British settlement site was recognised at an early stage and its excavation was timetabled so that it could be fully recorded prior to the sand and gravel extraction. Aggregate demand was such that it was agreed that the site would be worked north to south and areas would be signed off when completed. With flexibility on both sides this was amicably achieved and fieldwork has now been completed. As work progressed and the site weathered further features came to light, with what appear to be a number of phases of 'ladder settlement' and earlier hut circles. Two sunken-floored buildings were recorded: although they appeared to be of a typical Saxon plan they were dated to the Roman period. Two interesting burials were found: a full cow skeleton and a human burial (Fig. 1). We look forward to the report in due course. A training day run by Wessex Archaeology for the BCC Planning Team was a great success.

Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme: This scheme



FIGURE 1 Taplow: human and cow burials

has been pending for a number of years and has now taken place. Difficulties have arisen over this complex scheme as the site has a number of stakeholders and contains significant archaeological features such as Neolithic/Bronze Age burial mounds (which are being preserved) and other prehistoric features. The County Archaeological Service has been in discussion with the Environment Agency, their in-house archaeological advisers, the Marlow Archaeological Society, Trent and Peak's archaeological field team and Wycombe District Council's Planning Department. Difficulties have included arranging access for the Marlow Archaeological Society to undertake their investigations, the timing of the fieldwork, extent of the ground works and the height of the required bund which will go over the burial mounds to protect them. Meetings were held prior to the fieldwork taking place to get everyone 'singing from the same hymn sheet' and as the site work progressed, weekly site meetings took place. This is a complex site and may be a ritual landscape used over a period of time. Two linear features appear to be a trackway leading from the Thames to the burial site. An open day took place at the end of September 2017.

**Wainwrights, Long Crendon:** On a smaller scale to the above sites, excavation here was undertaken by TVAS prior to a residential development and revealed a moderate number of linear features, pits and post-holes, much of which was not identified by geophysical survey, but was revealed in some of the earlier evaluation trenches. The earliest activity is represented by a few finds of prehistoric struck flint and sherds of Later Bronze Age pottery. The earliest features are dated to the Iron Age and consist of a number of ditches. Most of the deposits appear to reflect the presence of early/middle Anglo-Saxon occupation. Early and middle Saxon occupation is typically recognised by the presence of houses, either sunken-floored buildings or halls, neither of which were recorded here. The most significant and unusual feature observed was a curvilinear ditch with pottery and a radiocarbon date of the late 7th or 8th century. Along with a modest amount of animal bone, these features all suggest occupation on the site. A single fragment of smithing hearth bottom from the ditch is scant evidence for smithing on the site, and while a bone-handled awl is suggestive of leatherworking, it cannot be definitively tied to this period. The



FIGURE 2 Marlow: general view of site, and Neolithic pottery

environmental remains were likewise limited, but suggest arable crops and the usual domesticated animals were consumed on the site. In summary, this modest amount of fieldwork and range of finds has, nevertheless added to an understanding of the historic topography of Long Crendon before nucleation of the village in medieval times.

#### MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEMES

**High Speed 2:** We continue to advise HS2 Ltd on draft documents and revisions and these documents now resemble standard practice through the Planning system and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. We provide advice through the HS2 Ltd Heritage Sub-Group. This group generally has two meetings per year which alternate between London and Birmingham. Of the 14 activities which HS2 will provide funding for, the historic environment is included or will have an input in 6 of these. Geophysics is still being undertaken when HS2 has access. There are some interesting results from around Fleet Marston. Archaeological groundworks have now begun, mostly in Hertfordshire but evaluation works at Stoke Mandeville, Doddershall and Calvert have now commenced (as of December 2017). It is expected that significant archaeological works will continue along the route for a number of years. This is expected to lead to a shortage of available archaeological field teams for normal planning and road schemes.

**East–West Rail:** This has been ongoing for a number of years: consultants have been in touch with us over the environmental statement and for providing advice on approximately two dozen ecological mitigation sites. These sites are now beginning to appear on the district council's planning weekly lists. Where agreed, these sites will usually have a geophysical survey and trial trenching; on smaller sites a strip, map and sample excavation will take place. A service-level agreement has been put in place for our input into this infrastructure scheme. The HER has provided data for an updated environmental statement.

**Heathrow Expansion:** We have been invited to a number of meetings on this and have provided advice on a number of documents as well as the forthcoming environmental statement. A service level agreement has been put in place for our input

into this proposal. The HER has been approached to supply data for the environmental statement and is awaiting agreement to proceed.

#### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

The HER database and GIS was upgraded to the latest version of the specialist industry-standard software in January. Due to the complexity of the Bucks HER bespoke elements, we were the first HER to upgrade to version 5 and the consultants spent a lot of time and effort ensuring the upgrade went to plan. Paul is continuing with geo-rectifying AP plots and contractors' geophysical surveys and loading them into GIS. Julia has recently acquired and loaded a 2012 update of surviving medieval and post-medieval ridge-and-furrow earthworks for six priority parishes in the north of the county. Progress is still being made by one of our HER volunteers on the milestones project. Our other regular volunteer has completed inputting new records for the turnpike roads in Buckinghamshire and is moving on to recording theatres and cinemas.

Julia was involved in a national project piloting the enhancement of Historic England's online National Heritage List by external partners and members of the public through the submission of additional information, website links and images. The HER was one of only three HERs testing and developing the software, which is now live. Julia has also been involved in developing national HER outcomes and detailed performance indicators in partnership with Historic England and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers. She was one of five HER Officers working on the project, which sets national standards against which all HERs can be measured as part of regular audits.

#### FUTURE

Budget pressures continue, but we retain the support of senior management and elected members, and trust the service will continue in the years to come.

*Phil Markham  
Senior Archaeology Officer  
Environment Team  
Transport, Economy, Environment  
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# CONSERVATION & ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES 2016

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Conservation & Archaeology Team received 1022 planning consultations during 2016, 516 of which were for the Senior Archaeological Officer. The team were also consulted on draft Neighbourhood Plans for Olney and Stony Stratford in addition to drafting the heritage chapter and policies for the emerging Local Plan – Plan:MK.

## FIELDWORK

Twenty four development-related fieldwork projects were undertaken in Milton Keynes borough in 2016. Projects comprised:

5 historic building records; 9 trial trench evaluations, 1 geophysical survey; 2 excavations and 7 watching briefs.

## BUILDING CONSERVATION

In January, two sculptures: *Octo* (1978–79) by Wendy Taylor; and *2MS Series No.1* (1970) by Bernard Schottlander were listed at Grade II as a consequence of the Historic England project ‘Post-War Public Art: Sculpture (1945–1985)’. It is also worth noting that *Octo* was listed after a request for a review of the decision to not list the adjacent and contemporary Norfolk and Ashton House. Conversely, in April a Certificate of Immunity (COI) was issued for the now largely vacant Food Centre (1986) in Central Milton Keynes. This should grant it protection from designation until 2021.

The contract for the 2-year project to review the borough’s 27 conservation areas was put out to tender in December 2016 and awarded to consultants Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd.

Preparation of the documents for Phase 1 of the New Town Local Heritage Register was also commenced by our appointed consultants Alan Baxter Ltd. It is expected that consultation on the draft Statement of Significance and Selection Criteria will be carried out in summer 2017.

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

In March the Historic England-sponsored revisit of the 2011 HER Audit was completed and an HER Action Plan for 2016–2019 produced and adopted. The plan includes a number of targets and activities including the drafting or revision of a number of policies and enhancement to incorporate key elements of post-1967 New Town heritage.

## OUTREACH

The Senior Archaeological Officer gave talks on recent archaeological discoveries in Milton Keynes to The Two Villages Archive Trust and the Magiovinium Metal Detectorist Club.

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Milton Keynes Archaeology Day was another successful and well-attended event attracting 500 people of all ages from Milton Keynes and beyond to enjoy the various talks, displays and activities on offer. The talks in the Events Space attracted a total of 180 people and gave insights into Saxon Wolverton, Medieval Oxford, and the now internationally renowned well-preserved 3000 year old fenland settlement of Must Farm. Many more stopped to examine the displays from local societies and metal detectorists. 2017’s event will probably be held on Saturday 11th November.

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

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