

Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum – 22 September 2004

County Museum Report

Since the last meeting of the forum, the intention to deposit 63 site archives has been notified to the museum, by archaeological contracting units. This compares to 29 sites over the same period last year. This doubling of the level of notification since last year is consistent with that reported at the meeting of the forum in March this year, where 59 had been reported, compared to 28 for the same period in 2003. Prior to this year, the level of notification had been relatively stable, at least since we specifically started recording it, in 2000/2001.

We can also report that the Finds Liaison Officer, Ros Tyrrell, has identified and recorded 518 finds onto the national Portable Antiquities Scheme database, since she started in April last year, over 200 of which were recorded in the last 6 months, so the number being reported to her is on the increase. These records are viewable online at www.finds.org.uk

We have also had 4 items of treasure reported, through the finds liaison officer, since April 2004, and the museum is in the process of acquiring several of these with help from the V&A purchase grant fund, and the Headley Trust for Treasure scheme, and the Friends of the County Museum. Probably the most spectacular acquisition made through the treasure scheme in the last six months was a Merovingian gold ring, from the 6th or 7th century AD, with a fake coin as the bezel, found by a metal detectorist at Cublington. This featured as the Museum's "object of the month" in April, and can be seen on the museum's web pages at www.buckscc.gov.uk/object_of_month/Museum/apr2004.htm

Members of the forum may recall last year the museum reported an ongoing project – the Virtual Egyptologist – which involved the cataloguing and photographing of the museum's entire Egyptian collection, by a specialist from the Petrie Museum in London. The results of this project have been extremely successful. We now have an Egyptian exhibition in the Georgian Room at the museum, which will run until January 2005, and all of the objects from our collection, as well as those of the three other museums in the project, are accessible online at www.accessingvirtualegypt.ucl.ac.uk