

## **Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

### **County Museum Report**

Since the last meeting of the forum, the intention to deposit 50 site archives has been notified to the museum, 9 of which are from the Milton Keynes Council area.

The museum has made several acquisitions under the Treasure Act in the last six months, including a Medieval silver mount, probably from a book or a casket, in the form of a “green man” – a bearded face, emerging from between sprigs of foliage. We have also acquired two 17<sup>th</sup> century silver dress pins, and a small hoard of 31 late Roman bronze coins.

An exhibition in the museum about the PAS and metal detecting in the county will be opening in October, and will feature all of the treasure finds acquired by the museum over the last few years, as well as objects lent by detectorists. The exhibition will run until February. There will be sections about the work of the PAS, Treasure, the problems of nighthawking, and the examples of projects showing the benefits that can come when metal detectorists work with archaeologists. There will also be cases of finds from each of the clubs that operate in the county. We are hoping that this exhibition will encourage more detectorists to report their finds to the PAS, as well as encouraging them to come into the museum, which (anecdotally) many of them have never visited. Hopefully this will help interest more of the detectorists in the archaeological and historical aspect of their hobby.

Over the summer, a very successful summer fun day on an archaeological theme, tied in with National Archaeology Week saw over 900 visitors in the museum, meeting re-enactors and metal detectorists, trying Roman board games, and making mosaics. This was followed up by a series of activities for children about what we can learn from archaeology, and how archaeologists work.