

County Museum Trust report

The county museum trust is continuing to expand its public facing exhibition programme with the well-received "Duty & Service" World War I exhibition, and a new archaeological exhibition is planned for spring next year "Little pieces of Heaven", focussing on medieval religious imagery, and showing many recent Treasure Acquisitions, most of which were reported to the museum via the PAS.

We are also, taking direction from our new Trustees, leading on a significant research project, "New Lives, New places", looking at immigration into Bucks in the Roman & Saxon periods, working in collaboration with researchers from UCL, the OU, Oxford Brookes and the Natural History Museum. The project is in the very early stages, but promises to be very exciting, opening up the museum's Human Remains collection for careful, and appropriate research with aDNA and stable isotope testing.

Two recent significant finds have made the news – a Roman cremation from near Whitchurch, with a beautifully decorated cast handle. The site was excavated by Oxford Archaeology, kindly paid for by the Emergency Recording fund. The finder, from the Weekend Wanderer's detectot club, and the landowner, very generously donated the finds, but the museum is left with the problem of conservation of the metalwork from the site – the initial conservator's estimate being around £3000. Whilst there are a number of sources for museums to obtain grants for acquisition of objects, funding their conservation is much harder. The museum used to have an in-house conservator, but that post has long since been removed.

The second find, by the same metal detecting club, a few weeks later, completely overshadowed the Roman burial. This was a massive hoard of more than 5000 Anglo-Saxon silver pennies. Given that Saxon coin hoards are usually in the 10-20 coin range, and that the museum currently has less than 50 coins from this period in its collection, it is a huge opportunity for us to acquire a nationally significant find. The hoard has not yet been officially declared Treasure, or valued, and the museum Trustees are waiting on the final valuation before deciding how to proceed. If we do decide to acquire it, it may well be with one or more partner museums, as the Staffordshire hoard was, and will require a major fundraising effort, but the result could be a significant increase in the profile of archaeology within the county. If any of the forum members are interested in supporting us in this, or have fundraising suggestions, we would be delighted to hear them.

In the 6 months since September 2014, we have been notified of 32 fieldwork projects

2014.101	MOLA	notification of archive from evaluation and trenching at Bushfield School, Milton Keynes ; archive not yet received
2014.102	Cotswold Archaeology	Archive of watching brief at Whitchurch Reservoir negative site
2014.103	Cotswold Archaeology	notification of archive from watching brief at Olney, Milton Keynes ; archive not yet received
2014.104	Cotswold Archaeology	notification of archive from watching brief at Holy Trinity, Old Wolverton ; archive not yet received
2014.105	Oxford Archaeology South	notification of archive from evaluation at Shenley Church End ; archive not yet received
2014.106	Oxford Archaeology South	notification of archive from watching brief at Church of the Holy Cross and St Mary, Quainton ; archive not yet received
2014.107	Oxford Archaeology South	notification of archive from geophysical evaluation at Haddenham ; archive not yet received
2014.108	Oxford Archaeology South	notification of archive from excavation at Creslow ; archive not yet received
2014.109	Bancroft Heritage Services	notification of archive from watching brief at Woughton on the Green ; archive not yet received
2014.110	Bancroft Heritage Services	notification of archive from watching brief at Haversham ; archive not yet received
2014.111	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd	notification of archive from trial trenching at Gawcott, Bucks ; archive not yet received
2014.112	Albion Archaeology	notification of archive from building survey at Aylesbury ; archive not yet received
2014.113	KDK Archaeology Ltd	notification of archive from evaluation at Little Brickhill ; archive not yet received
2014.114	Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd	notification of archive from watching brief at Bradwell, Milton Keynes ; archive not yet received
2014.115	Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd	notification of archive from watching brief at Little Woolstone, Milton Keynes ; archive not yet received
2014.127	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd	notification of archive from trial trenching at Church Farm, Slapton
2014.128	Cotswold Archaeology	notification of archive of evaluation at Uxbridge business park
2015.1	Archaeology in Marlow	archive of trenching at Warren Wood, Little Marlow, 2012
2015.2	Archaeology in Marlow	notification of archive of trenching at Waren Wood, Little Marlow, 2014

2015.4	Headland Archaeology	notification of archive of Trenching at barn Road, Longwick
2015.5	Headland Archaeology	notification of archive of trenching at Mill Lane, Monks Risborough
2015.6	MOLA	notification of archive of trenching at Bishopstone Rd, Stone
2015.7	MOLA	notification of archive of trenching at Bridge St, Marlow
2015.8	MOLA	notification of archive of trenching at Eaton Leys, Bletchley
2015.9	Cotswold Archaeology	notification of archive evaluation at Great Seabrook Farm, Ivinghoe
2015.10	KDK Archaeology Ltd	notification of archive of watching brief at Manor Farm, Lower Pollicott
2015.11	John Moore Heritage Service	notification of archive of evaluation at Batt Hall, Radnage
2015.12	MOLA	notification of archive of trenching at Willow Road, Great Horwood
2015.25	Wessex Archaeology	notification of archive of evaluation at Golden Mede, Waddesdon
2015.26	Chiltern Archaeology	notification of archive of evaluation at Mount Pleasant, St Leonards
2015.27	Worcestershire Archaeology	notification of archive of evaluation at Lavendon road, Olney