

Lecture by Prof. Renfrew
THE RADIOCARBON REVOLUTION
7.30 pm. 28th November
Chute House

All members are encouraged to make sure they attend our last lecture before Christmas. Professor Renfrew is an expert on his topic, which is also the subject of his recently published book 'Before Civilization: The Radiocarbon Revolution and Prehistoric Europe'.

LINKS WITH THE PAST
7.30 pm. 12th Dec.
Chute House

The next date in our calendar after Professor Renfrew's lecture on 28th November, is the Members' evening, Links with the Past. I need say no more than please bring some object or objects which the rest of us will try to identify. 1974 has been an eventful year for the Society, a year in which we have broken 'new ground' in more ways than one and made new friends in other societies. Therefore I hope to see you all not on the site or at a lecture, but at our own evening.

As in previous years, Links with the Past will be held at Chute House starting at 7.30 pm. The price will be the same as last year, that is 40p. for adults and 20p. for those under 14. Friends of members will be very welcome.

L.G. FAWCETT

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Bob and Barbara Agglin have now moved from Gordon Close to 138 Old Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke RG21 5EN. Their telephone number, however, remains the same, at Basingstoke 65439.

ANGLO-SAXON ART: THE WESSEX REVIVAL

At our meeting on the 31st October we again welcomed David Hinton, who gave the second part of his lecture on Anglo-Saxon art. He showed many beautifully prepared colour slides to illustrate the craftsmanship which went into the fine detail of many of the objects found, particularly Alfred's treasure and some of the rings and trinkets commissioned by his Queen.

He traced the Mediterranean influence on the illuminated texts produced at Canterbury and later, as a result of Alfred's patronage, at Winchester, which about two centuries later, was to become the centre of European Art. The revival of learning, which had been neglected in Wessex since Roman times, was considered and he described how it was built on foundations laid by Alfred.

After such a lecture one can only sit back and wonder at the technical know-how and artistic skill of these people and the economy which could support it. Thank you, Mr Hinton, for a most interesting and thought-stimulating lecture.

L.G. FAWCETT

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANCIENT AGRICULTURE
Conference at Oxford, 11 - 13 October

The conference touched on themes which will already be familiar to our members who attended the Southampton conference on Rural Settlement in Southern Britain. Peter Fowler opened the proceedings with a talk on Archaeology and Ancient Agriculture, and he was followed by Andrew Fleming talking on Evolutional Concept and the Development of the Wessex Landscape and Collin Bowen talking on Farming in Southern Britain B.C.

On the Saturday afternoon the conference made a visit to Butser Hill to the experimental Iron Age farm which is run by Peter Reynolds who is currently lecturing in Basingstoke on Iron Age and Roman Britain. It was especially pleasing, therefore, to hear the conference's support for the project, as Butser is perhaps becoming so well known to us that we are in danger of treating it with overfamiliarity, and it is well to be reminded of both the unique nature of the project and of the high regard in which it is currently held.

Following the visit, Professor F.D. White delivered an excellent lecture on Aspects of the Agrarian History of Italy. His passionate intensity and forceful method of delivery are familiar to those of us who heard him lecture to our society earlier this year; his detailed analysis of two areas of Italy - Campi Marci and the Pomptine Marshes - showed the wealth of information which can be deduced about a limited area using every source available, modern as well as ancient, practical as well as written.

David Hall showed a brilliant application of the same principle in Britain, to his own area of Northamptonshire in the Medieval period, where a picture of local agriculture over 400 years has been painstakingly built up almost entirely by part time work. It remained for Christopher Taylor of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments to deliver a well-documented warning against oversimplification by expounding a series of problems in elucidating agricultural features which misled the fieldworker - in particular geological features and archaeological features both earlier and later than those desired, from Roman roads to later drainage systems, water meadows and fishponds!

P.M.C. JUDKINS

RESCUE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP
16/17 November

This course, held at Harriet Costello School, Basingstoke, was well attended by members of the Society, as well as others drawn from as far afield as the Channel Isles and Northampton. The tutors leading us through this interesting weekend were both conservators at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory in London, Mr John Price and Mr Ian Cross. The morning sessions were devoted to illustrated lectures dealing with such subjects as the conservation of fragile pottery, recommended packing materials and adhesives, stabilisation of metals and lifting techniques. The emphasis throughout the course was on first aid methods which were reversible in the laboratory and on safe techniques which didn't destroy evidence only retrievable under laboratory conditions.

The Saturday afternoon session was reserved for practical work which allowed us to gain valuable experience in pot restoration, metal cleaning with a vibrator, microscopic examination and the lifting of a delicate object (the part being played by a heap of wet sand!) using polyvinyl acetate and polystyrene foam. We all especially enjoyed this part of the proceedings and were filled with

the hope of doing some of the routine conservation of our excavated material ourselves.

On Sunday afternoon we visited Southampton University's Conservation Laboratory where Mrs Klingelhofer demonstrated some of her equipment. Altogether it was a most interesting and useful course, both for fieldwork and for following up techniques. We are grateful to Southampton Extra-Mural Dept. for organising the course in Basingstoke and especially to Pam Judkins, who worked very hard on the detailed organisation and to whom the smooth running of the course is due.

M. OLIVER

BONES SEMINARS

Members of the Society who have been attending the seminars on animal bones led by Iris Gregory on recent Wednesday evenings in the Museum Annexe have found them extremely interesting and useful. Iris gave us full clear information in her talks and illustrated her points by providing very good specimen bones for us to handle and compare.

The first talk covered a wide range of general information including the sort of animals likely to be found on archaeological sites, dates of arrival and extinction of various species, and the type of knowledge that study of bones can provide on methods of agriculture and other aspects of culture in antiquity. In the second lecture Iris detailed the arrangement of the skeleton and the proper names for different bones and then provided us with samples to identify. The next step was to look at the differences between the same bone from different animals, again illustrated with a wealth of excellent specimens. After devoting her fourth talk to the stages of growth in animals and the methods by which one can tell the age of an animal, we moved on to spend the last two evenings starting to put what we had learnt into practice by looking at some of the bones from Ructstalls Hill.

It is to be hoped that these illuminating evenings will not stop here but will help us to develop what we have learnt by working on bones from Society excavations. Our grateful thanks to Iris Gregory.

P.M.C. JUDKINS

C.B.A. GROUP 12 OPEN MEETING Salisbury, 2nd November

The C.B.A. meeting this year was held at Salisbury and several members of the Society braved the appalling weather to visit the exhibitions. Twelve societies within the Group provided exhibits which were of a very high standard, but in particular I was impressed by a mounted sequence of microliths from Braishfield, Hants. (Lower Test Valley Archaeological Study Group). Two Bronze Age barrows on the line of the M3 were shown in model form and other exhibits included recent work from the Channel Islands.

In the afternoon the main speaker, Mr Collin Bowen spoke about the Evolution of the Landscape Project co-ordinated by the Society of Antiquaries, the object of which is to survey the whole area with a view to recording all types of archaeological features, the emphasis being on surveying rather than digging.

Mr Henry Cleere, Director of the C.B.A. then spoke of the present discussions taking place amongst archaeologists of founding an Institute of Archaeology. It is proposed that archaeologists should be divided into three grades, and the point was firmly made that although the profession would be regulated by this body, it was not proposed that amateurs should be restricted from carrying out excavations.

P.C. HEATH