Hanney Archaeology

AGM Report 2017

Apologies that I am unable to be present this evening. The dreaded lurgi has struck and I am hunkered down to try to see it off!

The Project has had two main foci: firstly the cataloguing of finds from access days and metal detecting; and secondly work at Garstane Paddock in East Hanney.

Finds cataloguing is continuing. Villagers have shown great interest in knowing something about the things they have dug up in their gardens, and finds expert Elise Fraser has been very helpful in researching information and talking to people about their finds. Marion Carter has done sterling work with her metal detector, and will show some of her finds this evening. The cataloguing of her finds will continue, and all the data so far accumulated will be passed to the HER (Historic Environment Record) at Oxfordshire County Council. This will also be posted on the History Group website when it is up and running.

Work in Garstane Paddock has included a geophysical survey which I have reported on previously. There has also been a survey of the earthworks which is now awaiting completion at Historic England. There will be a metal detector survey at some point in the future. This will complete the work at the paddock for now. A report will be produced which will be shared with the HER and also, hopefully, placed on the website.

This will complete this phase of archaeology although cataloguing will continue as already noted. I will no longer be leading substantive work, but the Committee will decide whether there will be any future archaeological investigations and I will be happy to advise.

There are many people I would like to thank for their help, some of whom are not directly linked to the village – I have tried to use my contacts to ensure the best outcome archaeologically for this work. My friends from Reading University have helped with set up of the grid in the paddock and general advice. Elise Fraser has done fantastic work on finds. Surveyors from Historic England have been instrumental in ensuring the earthworks survey is of the highest standard. William Wintle has provided an excellent geophysics report. And, of course, thanks are due to Sue and Ian Brown for allowing us to wander all over their paddock on several occasions.

I am grateful to the History Group Committee for their financial help, and their trust in me to see this through.

Special thanks go to all those from the Hanneys who have shown interest and turned out to help. In particular I would like to thank Lamorna Zambellas and Paul Sayers who have been, and continue to be, extremely supportive. Together we hope to provide a report which shows the potential for archaeology as a tool for further understanding the history of our villages.

Once again, I am sorry not to be able to speak to you about this in person. If there are queries or comments I am happy to receive them via the History Group Committee.

Chris Ball 7.11.2017