

Educational Project Update

The second year of the Society's Archaeology for All at Upper Row Farm Project

2009 was another extremely successful year for the Society's Educational Project. After providing an update to members at the February AGM, Les, Bob and I then gave a presentation to the CBA and other archaeological groups at the inaugural Community Archaeology conference at the University of Exeter.

In the spring there were numerous visits to schools and visits to Upper Row Farm by the Woodland Folk Ventures and other groups including Bath City College.

Ceri Lambdin

Volunteers worked hard in the Museum Barn, creating a classroom area and a kitchen in May and June, which was just in time to host a visit from Bathwick Historical Society and in the following weeks, several schools.

In July we purchased a video camera which has enabled us to record many of the project activities and put them on the website, starting with the Festival of British Archaeology Open Day (formerly National Archaeology Week) held on July 18th. We have always put on an event and this year with our Educational Officer we were again able to structure this and have an Archaeological Challenge where children participated in a variety of activities, answered questions and received a certificate at the end. The roundhouse building, which you can read more about on page 34, had kicked off at this point and enthusiastic children and adults made great progress on the walls during the open day. We had tours of the Blacklands site and the Roman Garden and we also had numerous activities available in the Museum Barn, which was a necessity due to the terrible weather leading up to and on the day. We had 110 visitors and 27 volunteers, much lower numbers than usual due to other events and the poor weather.

More school visits followed, before the Educational Project took a break for school holidays.

Invasion Day! (Excavation Open Day) took place on September 5th and this time we didn't run an Archaeological Challenge. Instead, we were invaded for the day by *Deva Victrix Leg XX* from Chester whose motto is '*Ultima Intra Pugna; Prima Intra Taberna*' which translates from Latin to 'Last into battle; first into pub'. They were exceptional and spent the whole day talking to visitors about life as a Roman soldier and explaining the contents of a marching pack. Roundhouse building continued and by the end of the day, the walls were pretty much complete. Experimental archaeology expanded with Julian Back building an oven and cooking pizzas. We had 220 visitors and 22 volunteers. If you missed out on the day, then take a look at the videos on the website and put the date of 17th July 2010 into your diaries when they will return (more details on page 49).

September saw a visit from the Freshford Historical Society and more groups visited Upper Row Farm in October and November.

During 2008 and 2009 the Educational Project engaged over 2600 members of the public and 56 BACAS members gave their time and effort. This has resulted in 4718.25 volunteer hours giving us fund matching of £101,105.36, well over our target of £62,400. But please keep filling in the forms when you volunteer as it all helps towards our next application for Heritage Lottery funding. The project will formally come to a close as planned at the end of September 2010, but the educational work that BACAS does, will continue on. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed towards the success of this project!

More primary school visits are scheduled for 2010 along with the continued expansion into secondary schools and visits to the farm from more interest groups. Open Days are already scheduled for July (Blacklands) and September (Homefield) to tie in with the Society's research projects. Experimental archaeology will continue in numerous ways during 2010 and as ever, if you would like to help out with the project in any way, then please contact me, Les Hayes or Tavis Walker.