

BACAS Open Days 2011

Homefield Excavation Open Day

The final year of the Homefield Project and the training excavation at Upper Row Farm was another success for the Society.

Ceri Lambdin

I was contacted during the excavation as the BBC were looking for an archaeological site to be an example of volunteer commitment and professionalism for a report into the announcement from the Council for British Archaeology that, due to funding cuts, archaeology was now becoming more reliant on volunteers. Having featured on BBC's *Escape to the Country* last year, BACAS now has camera-savvy excavators who were more than happy to be involved, so we were duly filmed doing what we do and trying not to be seen from unflattering angles! The feature was shown on BBC Breakfast News on Saturday 16th July, coinciding with the start of the Festival of British Archaeology and our Open Day. The feature is currently still available to watch on the BBC website - search the News page for 'archaeology reliant on volunteers' and it may still be there.

Our Excavation Open Day, again had a Medieval theme to complement (most) of the archaeology. The Knights of Longshanks, a Medieval re-enactment group specialising in living history, returned following their successful visit in 2010. Their return was bigger and better than before; twice the number of colourful tents populated the field as part of their encampment and there were cooking and craft displays, hands-on archery for adults and children and a Medieval tavern, which proved to be very popular. Later in the afternoon we were treated to combat displays, which showed off the skill and knowledge of this great team of enthusiasts.

On a wet day we still had 156 visitors who were given tours of the excavation site and in total 23 volunteers helped with archaeological activities and the usual high standard of refreshments. Thanks, of course, to the Hendy family for their permission and co-operation.
