

Wychwoods Local History Society

Annual Field Walk 2002

One day in September, twenty members and friends continued the Society's long-running archeological survey of local parishes, which started in 1984, by 'walking' one of Mr Richard Hartley's fields after the harvest.

The thirty six acres off New Road, Shipton were marked out into regularly-spaced 'lines' using orange flags and volunteers set off, each armed with a large plastic bag and sharp eyesight, to walk along a line and collect anything man-made or connected with human activity they could see, in other words, any object which shouldn't be in the middle of a field!

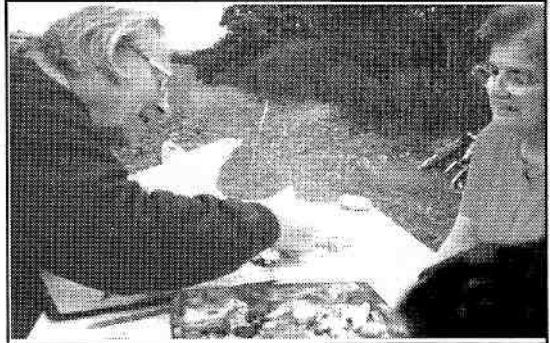
Finds included bones, clay pipe, pieces of pottery from medieval (and possibly also Roman) times as well as more recent centuries, pieces of brick and slate, coal and slag from nineteenth century steam-ploughing and threshing, and fragments of metal. Fifty pieces of worked flint which had been brought in and used by prehistoric man included seven scraping tools and some thin blades.

One exciting find was a Bronze-Age flint arrowhead, somewhat damaged since its use some four thousand years ago! Detailed identification of the objects found will take some time, but everything collected helps to build up a picture of land-use and settlement in the past.

The Society is aiming to examine all available fields in the parishes of Milton and Shipton, and new volunteers are always welcome.

Children have particularly keen eyesight and love finding 'treasures', so accompanied children are always welcome. We shall be fieldwalking again in August or September 2003, and interested readers can receive details of future walks by contacting me on 01993 830494.

Margaret Ware



Frank Ware with volunteer field walker,

