

In this issue...

Neolithic houses in the Hebrides, Viking rituals in Yorkshire, a new hill-fort in Cheshire, and tanning in Northampton—such are the highlights of this latest issue of Current Archaeology.

First, in the **Diary** we look at the *Jorvik Viking Centre*, *Stinking Fiche again*, *a New TL Dating Service*, *the New Knight at the BM*, and we have an enlarged version of *Smalltalk*, our Notice board on which you can place your notices—free!

On the beautiful sandy bay at **Dalmore**, in the Outer Hebrides, fierce storms have revealed a Neolithic settlement. Here local archaeologists Gerald and Margaret Ponting describe their efforts to rescue the site.

In **Books** we look at *Mohammed and Charlemagne*, *The Identity of Man*, *European Economic Prehistory*, *Sheep and Man*, *The Archaeology of Beekeeping*, and *The History and Archaeology of Ports*.

In **Science Diary**, John Musty looks at Varves, Viking Muck, Mudlarks and Monkeys, Bloody Residues, the Journal of Archaeological Science, and the first Accelerator Dates.

How was tanning carried out in the Middle Ages? In **Northampton**, some tanneries have recently been excavated: admittedly, they are probably post-medieval, but they give a

fascinating insight into what tanning was like in the pre-industrial era.

A new Iron age hill-fort has been discovered in Cheshire. **Beeston Castle** is one of the 'show-piece' medieval castles, but when Peter Hough began excavating there to improve access, he soon found he was excavating an underlying hill-fort.

How did **Anglo-Saxon Churches** really work? We report on a recent conference in honour of Harold Taylor at which many of the latest discoveries and theories were discussed.

At **Skerne**, the remains of a Viking bridge have recently been excavated. A Viking sword, a spoon bit, four knives, and a number of animal bones were discovered around the footings. Were these ritual deposits?

Finally **Letters** discuss *The Contents of CA*, *Edible Samian*, *Microfiche*, *Bedcanford*, *The Institute of Field Archaeologists*, *0 Tempora! 0 Morass?* and *How to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear*.

Cover Photo. The Medieval castle of Beeston projects proudly out of the Cheshire plain. Excavations have revealed that the outer ward overlies an Iron Age hill-fort.

Photo courtesy of the DoE.

227 **Diary**

230 **Dalmore**

by Gerald and Margaret Ponting

236 **Books**

238 **Science Diary**

by John Musty

241 **Northampton**

by Michael Shaw

245 **Beeston Castle**

by Peter Hough

249 **The Anglo-Saxon Church**

251 **Skerne**

by John Dent

254 **Letters**
