

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

October 1976 - May 1977

EXCAVATIONS, FIELDWORK, FINDS PROCESSING.

Northampton Museum, Guildhall Road, Northampton. Help always welcome in processing of finds from excavations. Contact: Mr W R G Moore, Keeper of Archaeology. Tel. 34881.

Northampton Development Corporation. Excavation on neolithic site at Briar Hill, 4 October onwards; excavation on Saxon/medieval site in Northampton, 18 October onwards; washing and marking of finds at the Archaeological Centre - even a few hours help is very useful. Contact: Mr J H Williams, Archaeologist, NDC, Cliftonville House, Bedford Road, Northampton. Tel. 46444.

Upper Nene Archaeological Society. Excavations continuing on Roman site at Quinton; weekends. Contact: Mr R M Friendship-Taylor, 8 Pinetrees Close, Hackleton. Tel. 870312.

Westfield Museum, West Street, Kettering. Help welcome with finds processing. Contact: Mr F Lyall. Tel. Kettering 2315.

Weekley, nr. Kettering. Excavations on an Iron Age site continuing; weekdays and weekends. Contact: Mr D Jackson, 122 Ardington Road, Northampton. Tel. 35889.

Peterborough and Werrington. Sites being excavated for the Nene Valley Research Committee and the Dept. of the Environment. 14 September - Easter 1977. Contact: Mr D F Macreth, 32 Hall Lane, Werrington, Peterborough.

M1 - A1 Link Road. Fieldwork to identify sites on the line of the proposed route. Contact: Mr P Foster, 21 Clive Close, Ise Village, Kettering. Tel. Wadcroft 3391.

Woodburcote. Excavations on Roman site; weekends. Contact: Mr R E Turland, 47 Martin's Lane, Hardingstone, Northampton.

LECTURES

Thursday 7 October. Sir Philip Duncombe, 'Water Eaton over the last 100 years'. Bletchley Arch. and Hist. Soc. Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8.00pm.

Tuesday 12 October. Dr Glyn Daniel, '150 Years of Archaeology'. Northants. Nat. Hist. Soc. and Field Club. The Humfrey Rooms, Castillian Terrace, Northampton.

FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by PETER FOWLER, 'EXCAVATIONS AT CADBURY-CONGRESBURY 1968-73'. NENE COLLEGE, ST GEORGE'S AVENUE, NORTHAMPTON, 7.30pm.

Saturday 16 October. Professor John Evans, 'Environments in Prehistoric Art'. CBA Group 9. Oxfordshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, 2.30pm.

Thursday 21 October. Mr M McCarthy, 'Anglo-Saxons in the South Midlands'. South Northants. Arch. Soc. The Sponne School, Brackley Road, Towcester, 7.30pm.

Monday 25 October. Mr W R G Moore, 'Prehistoric Flints'. Wellingborough and District Arch. Soc. 'Gaywood', 27 Park Road, Wellingborough, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 27 October. Professor Charles Thomas, 'After Rescue - What Next?' (The first Beatrice de Cardi Lecture: Oxford University, Dept. for External Studies and CBA). Regents Park College, Oxford, 8.15pm.

Friday 29 October. Miss Carolyn Dallas, 'Excavations at Castor, Peterborough'. Upper Nene Arch. Soc. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton, 8.00pm.

Thursday 4 November. Mr R L Odell, 'Ironmongery of Bygone Days'. Bletchley Arch. and Hist. Soc. Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8.00pm.

FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER. TOM HASSALL, 'LATE SAXON TOWNS OF THE SOUTH MIDLANDS'. JOINT MEETING, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND SOUTH NORTHANTS. ARCH. SOC. THE SPONNE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY ROAD, TOWCESTER, 7.30pm.

Friday 26 November. Mr D Jackson, 'Recent Excavation in North Northants.' Upper Nene Arch. Soc. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton, 8.00pm.

Thursday 2 December. Mrs D Embleton, 'The Anglo-Saxons'. Bletchley Arch. and Hist. Soc. Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8.00pm.

Wednesday 12 January. Mr D Hall, 'Recent Results of Parish Surveys'. Wolverton and Dist. Arch. Soc. Crown Inn, Market Square, Stony Stratford, 7.30pm.

Thursday 13 January. Members Evening. Bletchley Arch. and Hist. Soc. Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8.00pm.

FRIDAY 21 JANUARY. MALCOLM TODD, 'LATE ROMAN TOWNS'. JOINT MEETING, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND MIDDLE NENE ARCH. SOC. PALMER BLOCK, OUNDLE SCHOOL, GLAPTHORNE ROAD, OUNDLE, 8.00pm.

Friday 28 January. Miranda Green, 'Romano-British Religious Bronzes'. Upper Nene Arch. Soc. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton, 8.00pm.

Thursday 3 February. Miss M E Baines, 'Great Linford - A Medieval Village'. Bletchley Arch. and Hist. Soc. Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8.00pm.

Wednesday 9 February. Mr P White, 'Industrial Archaeology'. Wolverton and District Arch. Soc. Crown Inn, Market Square, Stony Stratford, 7.30pm.

Friday 25 February. Mr P Woodfield, 'Post-Medieval Pottery'. Upper Nene Arch. Soc. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton, 8.00pm.

Thursday 3 March. Mr J H Williams, 'The Origins and Growth of the Medieval Town of Northampton'. Bletchley Arch. and Hist. Soc. Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8.00pm.

FRIDAY 18 MARCH. JOHN RAY, 'A VISIT TO ANCIENT EGYPT'. JOINT MEETING, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND NORTHANTS. NAT. HIST. SOC. AND FIELD CLUB. HUMFREY ROOMS, CASTILIAN TERRACE, NORTHAMPTON, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 18 March. C Rouse, 'Church Murals of Buckinghamshire and in Passenham Church, Northants'. Markham Memorial Lecture. Community Centre, London Road, Stony Stratford, 7.30pm.

Friday 25 March. Mr P Liddle, 'Excavations in Leicester'. Upper Nene Arch. Soc. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton, 8.00pm.

Wednesday 6 April. Mr H S Green, 'Bradwell Roman Villa'. Wolverton and District Arch. Soc. Crown Inn, Market Square, Stony Stratford, 7.30pm.

Friday 19 April. Mr K Field, 'Ring Ditches in the Ouse Valley'. Upper Nene Arch. Soc. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton, 8.00pm.

Thursday 5 May. Dr G Alexander, 'Royal Attacks on Episcopal Wealth in 16th century England'. The Historical Association, Northampton Branch. Wellingborough Wrenn School, London Road, Wellingborough, 7.30pm.

SATURDAY 7 MAY. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by RECENT WORK IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY (MEMBERS REPORTS MEETING). THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BRIXWORTH, 2.00pm.

Friday 27 May. Christine Mahany, 'Excavations in Stamford'. Upper Nene Arch. Soc. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton, 8.00pm.

COURSES

David Parsons, English Medieval Architecture. 24 meetings, 7.30-9.00pm, from 27 September. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. Fee: £7.20.

R L Greenall, The History of Northamptonshire. 24 meetings, 7.30-9.30pm, from 29 September. The University Centre, as above. Fee: £7.20.

Hugh Collinson, Taste and Fashion in English Church Monuments. 2.00-3.30pm, from 30 September. The University Centre, as above. Fee: £3.60.

C C Taylor, The Northamptonshire Landscape. 6 meetings, 7.00-8.30pm, from 30 September. The University Centre, as above. Fee: £1.80.

G H Starmer, R O'Rourke et.al., The Archaeology of Old Crafts and Industries. 23 meetings, 7.30-9.00pm, from 1 October. The University Centre, as above. Fee: £6.90.

Certificate Course in Industrial Archaeology (3 years). Thursday evenings. University of Leicester, Staff Tutor in Archaeology, Department of Adult Education, University Road, Leicester.

DAY SCHOOLS AND WEEKEND CONFERENCES

Sunday 3 October. Coach Trip to the Cotswolds to visit Avoncroft Museum and Burford. Wellingborough and District Arch. Soc. Contact: The Secretary, Miss L A Fairey, 95 Croyland Road, Wellingborough. Tel. Well. 223936.

Saturday 9 October. David Parsons, The History of Brixworth Church. Day school, 10.00am-4.00pm. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. Fee: £1.00.

22-24 October. Anglo-Saxon Symposium. A conference on Anglo-Saxon Church Archaeology. Oxford University, Department for External Studies, Rewley House, Oxford.

30 October. Michael Greenhalgh and Peter Wiseman, The Idea of Rome. Day school, 2.30-6.00pm. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. Fee: £1.00.

11 November. C C Taylor, B K Roberts, Prof. D G Kendall, W C Howell, The Analysis and Interpretation of Village Plans. Day school. Leicester University, Department of Adult Education, University Road, Leicester.

19-21 November. Roman Art. A conference in honour of Professor Jocelyn Toynbee. Oxford University, Department for External Studies, Rewley House, Oxford.

26-28 November. Miss Sheila Spire and Dr T P Wiseman, Pompeii and Herculaneum. Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Wellingborough. (SAE).

3-5 December. Medieval Industry. Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks. Oxford University, Department for External Studies, Rewley House, Oxford.

17-19 December. Dr A Kendall and Adrian Digby, The Archaeology of the Mayas and Incas. Knuston Hall, as above.

14-16 January. A J Clarke and D Haddon-Reece, Geophysical Prospecting for Archaeologists. Knuston Hall, as above.

5 March. Dr D Keene, J Campbell, Prof. G Martin, Historical Documents, Topography and the Archaeology of Towns. Day school, 2.00-5.30pm. The University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton.

11-13 March. J H Thornton, J Waterer et.al., Leather for Archaeologists and Conservators. Knuston Hall, as above.

1-7 April. A E Brown and C C Taylor, Field Archaeology and the Landscape. Week course. Knuston Hall, as above.

5 May. Mrs M Gelling, Place Names and the History of England. Leicester University, Department of Adult Education, University Road, Leicester.

13-15 May. Elizabeth Pye, First Aid for Archaeological Finds. Knuston Hall, as above.

29 March - 5 April. Study Tour of the Welsh Borderland. Based on Preston Montford Field Centre. Oxford University, Department for External Studies, Rewley House, Oxford.

THE WORK OF THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Council of the Society represents both individual members and local societies interested in the archaeology of the county and it is important that the membership as a whole is aware of the work which the Council is doing. The following resume looks at work presently and recently undertaken by the Society's officers and Council.

1. Publication of the Journal. An important publication produced by the Editor, Mr A E Brown, enabling excavation and fieldwork in the area to be rapidly brought before a wide audience.
2. Lecture Programme. A series of about five meetings are organised every year by the Meetings Secretary, Mr B C Hastings. Nationally known speakers are invited and lectures held in association with member societies at different locations around the county. Lectures about the archaeology of Northamptonshire and the work of the NAS can be arranged for interested groups - clubs, schools, etc. through the General Secretary, see below.
3. The Calendar. A Calendar of excavations, fieldwork, lectures and conferences is circulated to members twice yearly.
4. Exhibitions. Apart from the journal and lecture programme the Council brings archaeological information before the public through exhibitions at libraries, agricultural shows, etc.
5. Museums. Within the last year a sub-committee of the Council has produced a report on museum facilities in the county and this report is now being considered by the County Council.

6. Library Facilities. Since Northamptonshire is without a university or other library of similar calibre the Council is concerned about the available facilities.
- a. Preliminary discussions are underway to investigate the possibility of establishing a society library. The NAS has been offered exchange journals by several societies and it is possible that a library could be established at a relatively low cost.
- b. A catalogue is being prepared by the General Secretary of archaeological journals etc. available at the various institutions and society libraries in the county. It is hoped that this will be complete and available to members very shortly.
7. Planning Proposals. The Council is approached by the County and District Councils with details of proposed road schemes, developments, etc. and invited to submit reports on any archaeological sites which may be affected and evaluate their importance (whether preservation, excavation, or watching-brief would be preferable). In the case of the Wollaston by-pass for example the Society has suggested that the proposed route be moved to avoid an extremely important complex of Roman, Saxon and Medieval settlement sites.
8. Fieldwork. A considerable amount of fieldwork is organised in the county by local societies, in order to identify archaeological sites which may survive only as slight traces of earthworks or as a scatter of building stones or pottery. In this way the picture of settlement in the county over the centuries is gradually being built up. The proposed M1-A1 route across the north of the county is presenting the Society with a major task. Sites need to be identified as early as possible so that the information can be passed on to the planners and the route modified if at all possible. Mr P Foster, a member of the NAS Council is co-ordinating the work of several local groups each of which is responsible for a particular stretch of the route.
9. Excavations. The NAS advertises current excavations through the Calendar, where volunteers are required for on-site or off-site work. In these times of severely restricted public expenditure the amount of money available for excavations is low and the help of volunteers essential if the archaeological information is to be recovered before destruction by development. As important as the excavation itself is the post-excavation work of processing finds: washing, marking, cataloguing, etc. and the production of the final report. Unless this work is undertaken the results of any excavation are lost to other archaeologists and to the general public.

There is a tremendous amount of interesting work to do in the county both in the original field investigation and also in the publicising of this work so that an ever increasing proportion of the general public will be aware of the archaeological heritage of the county and the necessity to preserve its remains for future generations if at all possible. The Society needs active members. You do not need to be a member of the Council to help in any of the activities described in this report. If you would like to offer help in any respect, please contact the General Secretary. Similarly if there are any matters - planning proposals for your area, developments already in progress - which you think the Council should discuss, please send details. Remember that the effectiveness of the Society and the importance attached to its opinions depend on an active membership.

General Secretary: Mrs F Williams, 41 Stannard Way, Brixworth, Northants. Tel. 880688.

County Archaeologist

The County Council has recently re-appointed an archaeologist, Mr A Hannan, to the post formerly occupied by Mr P Everson. With the support of the Department of the Environment, the County Council is now planning the appointment of two archaeological assistants in early 1977, to carry out survey and post excavation work.

The role of this county archaeological service will be:

- to collect and evaluate archaeological and architectural evidence arising from survey in the county,
- to monitor the activities of the destructive agencies and assess the threats to the archaeology of the county,
- to form priorities for dealing with threatened sites, in consultation with archaeological interests in the county and region,
- to prepare the results of earlier excavations for publication.

Premises are temporarily in the County Architect's Department at Wootton.

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