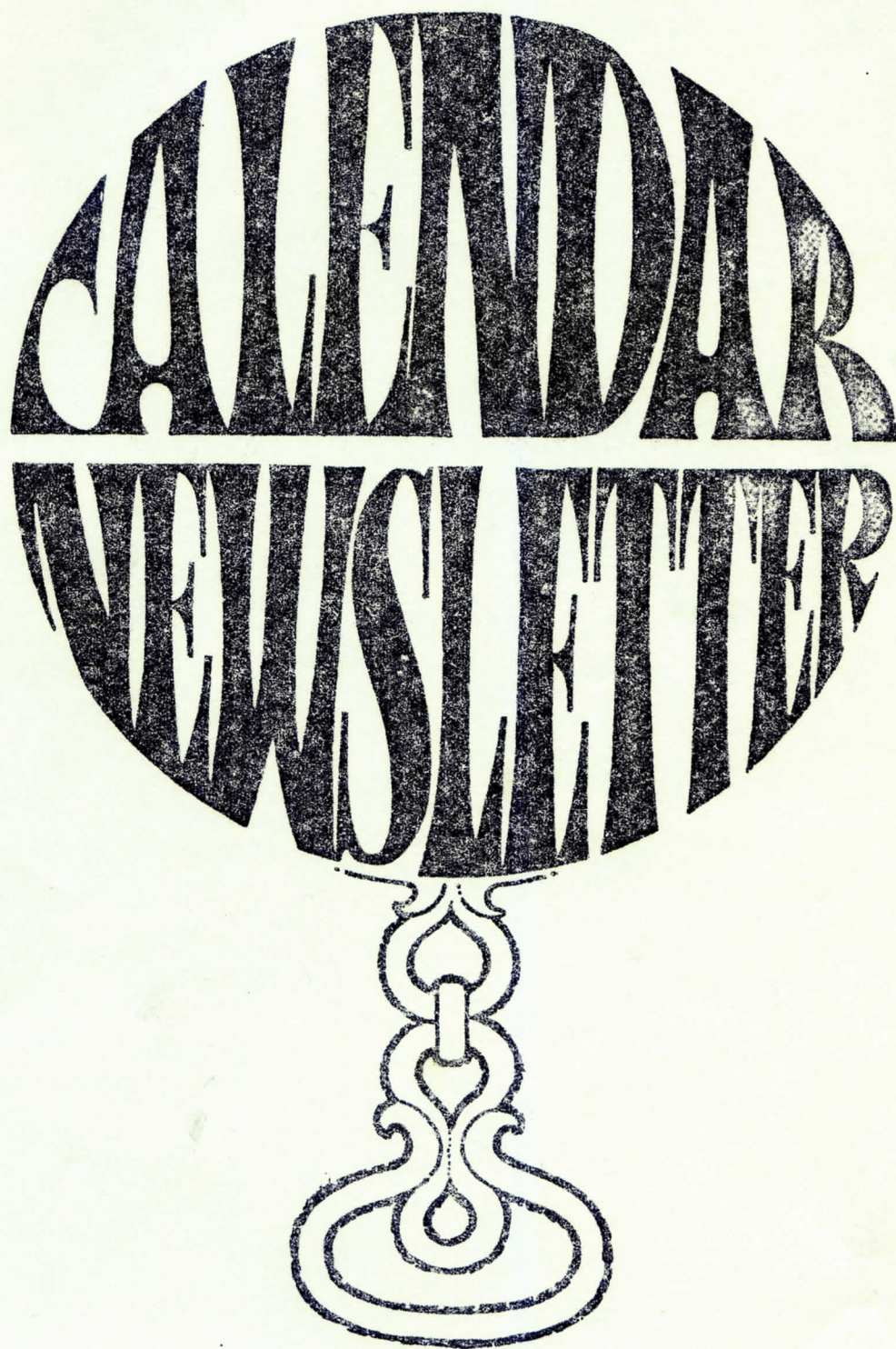


# Northamptonshire Archaeological Society



# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Calendar/Newsletter May - October 1979

## GEDDINGTON CHASE

B BELLAMY

Forests and areas of ancient woodland are sadly a very neglected area in archaeological field work, yet their archaeological potential is enormous.

Many of the larger remaining tracts of woodland were once part of the royal forests afforested by William I and their survival down to the present day is due to a number of causes. These ancient woodlands are potentially rich in archaeological sites that have escaped the ravages of centuries of ploughing.

Fieldwork around Geddington Chase, parts of which were deforested around 1800 has produced a number of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon sites with some flintwork from the lighter soils. There is also an immense amount of documentary material concerning the Royal Forests in the Local and Public Record offices.

First mentioned in the Close Rolls of 1229, 'Foresta regis de Geytinton', Geddington Woods were once part of the Royal Forest of Rockingham which in a perambulation of the forest bounds during the reign of Edward I extended from Northampton to Stamford with an average breadth of 8 miles.

The term 'forest' has been in the past and still is often misinterpreted, it usually brings to mind a picture of continuous woodland cover. In fact it was an area subject to special laws to safeguard the royal game and set aside by the king for hunting, and although there were plainly tracts of woodland, the forest also contained ridings, plains and the open fields of the forest villages.

Rockingham Forest was divided into the three districts or 'bailiwicks' of Rockingham, Cliffe and Brigstock, each of which contained woodland known as 'walks'. Geddington Woods along with Farming (Fermyn) Woods were within Brigstock Bailiwick.

In 1676 Geddington Woods were granted by Charles II to Edward Lord Montagu, his heirs and assigns forever, to be deemed a chase distinct from the forest and out of its jurisdiction and boundaries. Since its disafforestation it has been known as Geddington Chase.

Situated on a high boulder clay ridge between the Harpers Brook and the Ise, it originally covered around 1400 acres, partly within the parishes of Geddington, Stanion and Brigstock. These three villages held right of common within the Chase 'in lieu of damage which such towns did receive from the deer'.

After an unsuccessful attempt in 1723, an enclosure act was passed in 1795, setting out and allotting land in lieu of and as compensation for common rights upon Geddington Chase, subsequently a considerable area was deforested and turned over to the commoners. The Chase now covers slightly less than half its original area.

Within the bounds of the Chase the woodland is divided into coppices, some of which have names that date from the 13th and 14th centuries. Each coppice is surrounded by a bank with an external ditch and many of these boundary banks are still visible within the fields of the deforested area, in fact most of the present field boundaries make use of them.

It is evident from slag patches in and around the Chase that iron smelting was common here in the past as in areas of medieval woodland elsewhere in Northamptonshire, local field name evidence also bears this out. Bridges tells us that there were four forges or furnaces here in the time of Henry II, a royal cannon foundry is also said to have been working here in the 15th century although the documentary source of this is yet to be found.

Work is continuing in and around the Chase and with the aid of documentary material in the Buccleuch collection at the Record Office it is hoped that a fuller account of the history of Geddington Chase may be put together later.

## THE END OF AN ERA

DENNIS JACKSON

The threatened closure of the British Steel Corporation works at Corby, will, if it becomes a reality, mark the end of large scale quarrying for ironstone in Northamptonshire. The extraction of iron ore has been taking place in the county on a commercial basis since the middle of the 19th century, but before this local craftsmen had been smelting iron, perhaps almost continuously, for the previous 2,500 years.

It is only over the past 12 years that a programme of archaeological observation and rescue excavation has been carried out at the ironstone quarries, but for much of the previous 100 years many important archaeological sites are known to have been destroyed with little if any record being made.

Nevertheless, work carried out on quarry sites in recent years has given us an insight into the archaeology of north Northamptonshire which we may never have the opportunity to repeat. The removal of top soil prior to quarrying has aided the examination of large areas of bedrock, year by year, and to excavate settlement, and other sites, on an extensive scale.

Perhaps the best example of "landscape" archaeology, made possible by top soil stripping, has been at Wakerley, adjacent to the Welland valley. In 1968-70 not only was it possible to excavate a complete Anglo-Saxon cemetery, containing about 80 burials, but we were also able to examine the surrounding area and remain confident that the limits of the cemetery were known.

About 200 metres from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery an Iron Age settlement was excavated, together with buildings of the Roman period, associated with industrial and agricultural activity. In addition to excavating the settlement, related features sited some 250 metres away were located and examined, something which is only possible where very large areas have been cleared of plough soil.

Amongst the other sites revealed by quarrying, an Iron Age village has been excavated at Twywell, while at Weekley, near Kettering, excavated features of Iron Age and Roman date extend for 500 metres along the working quarry face.

It is obvious that, as much as we dislike to see archaeological sites destroyed, once ironstone quarrying stops there may never again be the opportunity of excavating archaeological landscapes on this scale in north Northamptonshire. Future development is likely to consist of small scale housing estates or infill, roadworks or pipelines, none of which is likely to threaten complete settlements, and their surrounding areas. To illustrate a point, if a new road had cut across any of the Wakerley Iron Age - Roman site, and the area affected had been excavated, the results may well have been totally misleading, in the context of the site as a whole.

It may be argued that the many archaeological sites known on the gravel terraces in the Fotheringay-Nassington area will one day be threatened by quarrying and will offer further scope for large excavations. This may be so, but modern deep ploughing and prolonged cultivation over the centuries, may well have greatly reduced the archaeological potential of the area.



NORTHAMPTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

JOHN H WILLIAMS

An excavation was begun in December on the south side of Gregory Street, Northampton, which promises to add valuable information to the picture of Saxon and medieval Northampton built up on the basis of evidence from the St. Peters Street, Chalk Lane and Marefair sites. Excavation of the ?late 17th century timber and stone building which stood on the corner of the south side of Gregory Street should provide interesting details both of method and date of construction as well as helping to extend the pottery sequence into the post-medieval period. The excavation will be continuing until the end of June - volunteers are needed (Monday to Friday).

An exhibition will be held, probably in July, illustrating Northampton's history and archaeology from earliest times. A popular booklet on a similar theme will be published at the same time. July will also see (hopefully!) the publication of the important St. Peters Street Excavation as Northampton Development Corporation Archaeological Monograph No. 2.

REVEREND PHILIP DODDRIDGE, D.D. (1702-51)

J H THORNTON

Philip Doddridge was born in London in 1702 and it is said that he first learnt the Bible stories at his mother's knee from the Delft tiles (which still exist) set round the fireplace. Perhaps because of this early instruction but also because his paternal grandfather had been a Dissenting minister following the Act of Uniformity in 1662 and his maternal grandfather a Protestant refugee from Prague, young Doddridge became deeply interested in religion. After he was orphaned at the age of 14 he was befriended by the Duchess of Bedford who offered to provide him with a university education. To have accepted this kind offer would have meant conforming to the Church of England and even at the early age of 16 his Nonconformist convictions prevailed and he declined.

It was just over twenty years later that Aberdeen University gave him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

At school in St. Albans he came under the influence of Samuel Clark, a Dissenting minister, who became his life-long friend and took part in his ordination service in 1730. In 1719 Doddridge went to John Jennings' Dissenting Academy at Kibworth in Leicestershire to train for the ministry and when Jennings left three years later Doddridge succeeded him. Here he remained until 1729 when at the earnest request of the congregation especially the young people of the Castle Hill Congregational Chapel in Northampton (now the Doddridge and Commercial Street United Reformed Church), the oldest Nonconformist church in the town dating from 1662, he was persuaded to move to Northampton.

He was ordained at Castle Hill on 19th March 1730 and remained as its minister until his death in 1751. He had never been physically strong and his health steadily declined, so much so that the Castle Hill congregation together with friends from many parts of the country, subscribed to send him to Lisbon where it was hoped a warmer climate might help him to recover. He did not, and on 26th October 1751 he died and was buried in the Protestant cemetery where his tomb can still be seen.

#### The Minister

Immediately after his ordination his congregation began to increase rapidly and his sermons became famous. He was specially interested in giving religious instruction to the young, no doubt remembering his own upbringing, and in the many "extra-mural" church activities. Influences in his spiritual life and contacts with friends encouraged his belief and his commendation that the Gospel should be preached throughout the world. Such men as William Carey, "father of modern missions", were alerted, and he in 1783 was baptised from Doddridge's vestry. Doddridge's preaching gave support to the wider spread of Bible distribution thus anticipating the present Bible Society.

#### The Hymn Writer

Hymn singing was only just beginning to be acceptable by Dissenting churches and Doddridge's technique was to summarise his sermons in hymn form so as to drive home their message. In all he wrote at least 375 and several of these are sung in most Christian churches today.

#### The Author

He was a prolific writer of theological works such as "The Family Expositor" and "The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul" (re-published as a paperback 1977) which had a wide circulation and were translated into many languages. He maintained a far-flung correspondence which is now about to be re-published. (Editor: Dr. Geoffrey Nuttall, M.A.)

#### The Teacher

Doddridge moved his Dissenting Academy from Kibworth in 1730, first to Marefair and then to the Earl of Halifax's town house in Sheep Street where the building (or part of it) still stands and is marked by a Plaque. In the days when Oxford and Cambridge had a restricted entry and Theology and the Classics predominated with Latin as the language of instruction, this and other similar academies became the most important centres of learning in the country. Doddridge used English and included Science in his curriculum. Some of his 200 pupils themselves became teachers and scientists or both, and undoubtedly played an enormous part in the exciting flowering of science and its application in the 18th century.

#### The Citizen

Like many other provincial towns Northampton in the 18th century had an intelligentsia interested in the arts, in the comparatively new branches of science such as electricity and in the general welfare of the citizens. Doddridge was a leading member of this intelligentsia and made notable contributions. With Dr. John Stonhouse he was the co-founder of the Infirmary, later to become the General Hospital; he started a Charity School (of which little is known); he led a recruiting campaign against the possible invasion of Prince Charles Edward, the young Pretender, who reached Derby before turning back, and he was a very active member of the Northampton Philosophical Society founded in 1743.

This Society included among its members such other notable persons as William Shipley who later founded the Society of Arts in London, Thomas Yeoman, manager of the Northampton Cotton Mill and later a Fellow of the Royal Society in London, and Edward Cave, Dr. Johnson's publisher, founder of "The Gentleman's Magazine" and proprietor of the Cotton Mill. All these contacts with the new and exciting world of science and technology must have had a profound effect on the curriculum at Doddridge's Academy and on Northampton cultural life.

#### The Commemoration

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of Doddridge's ordination a two-month festival is being arranged from 23rd March to 18th May 1980. This will include special services at the Doddridge and Commercial Street United Reformed Church, exhibitions at the

church itself and at the Northampton museums, a series of lectures at the University Centre, concerts, a flower festival and other events to illustrate the many facets of Doddridge's contribution not only to "the rise and progress of religion in the soul" but to education, welfare and cultural activities as a whole in 18th century Northampton.

A new biography in modern popular form: "Philip Doddridge of Northampton", is also to be published.

#### SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

B C HASTINGS

##### Romano-British            SP685483

Observation by J. Shirley showed an extensive scatter of Romano-British material, and house footings exposed an R.B. ditch. After an abortive exploration of a platform, trenching revealed the continuation of the ditch which contained large quantities of late R.B. pottery, including a shard of an Oxfordshire mortarium (Churchill Hospital Kiln site - C. Young) which was identical with one found on the St. Lawrence Road site on the opposite slope of the Silverstone Brook, excavated by A.E. Brown, with the South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society, in 1974, 1975 and 1976.

These finds show that late Romano-British suburban occupation extended west of Lactodorum as well as south along the line of the Lactodorum - Alchester Road.

##### Medieval            SP693481

Work on flood relief on the Silverstone Brook, to the west of Towcester, resulted in the exposure of at least six skeletons. Four had been lifted and boxed by the workman, but two, comparatively undamaged, were kept for members of South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society to examine.

All the burials were orientated roughly East-West and some had traces of wood surviving in the water-logged clay and gravel (samples of this wood are now under examination). One skeleton was closely surrounded by large water-worn pebbles.

A female skeleton was lifted and awaits expert examination, and the other, which had a more damaged skull, was cleaned down, but no trace of grave goods or other dateable material was found.

A suggestion that they came from the Poor Law Institution in Brackley Road, to the north of the brook, was discounted, but research at the Northamptonshire Record Office at Delapre Abbey showed that there had been a Leper Hospital with the Chapel of St. Leonard at the North Bridge in the reign of King John, as recorded by Bridges, who mentions that in an undated deed in that reign 'Robert, son of Roger Forester, conveyed to Laurence, son of Simon Ters, an acre of land in the South Field of Tovecestr between the lands of Baldwin and the Lepers' Hospital of St. Leonard'. Baldwin appears in Luffield Abbey documents in 1225.

There is a further reference to the Hospital of St. Leonard in 1366, placing it at the Northbrughge or Spital Bridge, but there is no mention of it in Archdeacon Sponne's bequests in 1447.

The apparent contradiction between North Bridge and South Field was solved by a field name map of about 1923 which showed a small field as 'Post House Field' on the south side of the Silverstone Brook just where the skeletons were found.

This leaves us with a fairly strong presumption that Pest House Field was the burial ground for St. Leonard's Hospital.

#### THRAPSTON DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MR E C HUMPHRIES

The Society will be exhibiting, as usual, at the East of England Show at Peterborough, on July 17th, 18th and 19th. One of the exhibits being prepared by Mr. J. Woolmer will be concerned with the history of the quarrying and mining of ironstone in Woodford, Islip and the surrounding district.

Also a two day exhibition is planned for September, in Titchmarsh, called '50 Years Ago'. Mrs. G.H. Belgion has written a history of Titchmarsh, 'Titchmarsh Past and Present', which will be published shortly - further details from Mrs. Belgion, 10 Islington, Titchmarsh, Kettering, or Mr. A.J. Martin, Apple Hill, St. Andrew's Lane, Titchmarsh, or local bookshops.

The Society hopes to publish No. 6 of its magazine 'Strapetona' in June, which will contain articles of local historical interest including 'Field names of Woodford'.

#### C.B.A IMPLEMENT PETROLOGY SURVEY

W R G MOORE, Central Museum, Guildhall Road, Northampton.

Although the survey of prehistoric implements of igneous or metamorphic rock has been in progress in Britain for a number of years, since 1972 an active programme of research has been underway in the south-east Midlands, co-ordinated by Dr. W.A. Cummins of the University of Nottingham, Department of Geology.

The first report has recently been completed and is due for publication in Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society (1979). A total of 82 implements have been examined from Northamptonshire. Like much of northern and central Britain, this county falls within the area dominated by axes of Group VI from Great Langdale in the Lake District. Of the 45 implements whose origin has been determined, two thirds are of Group VI. The only other group which is reasonably well represented is Group I from Cornwall (5 examples). The remaining grouped implements come from a variety of sources in the Midlands, Wales and the North. Most of the implements are stray finds of axes; only two examples come from excavated contexts - an axe from the excavation of a Roman site by A.E. Brown at Towcester and part of another axe found by P.J. Foster in a medieval pit at Woodford.

A second report on the south-east Midlands is in preparation and it is hoped to include the excavated implements from Briar Hill causewayed enclosure and any other stray finds which may be found during this year.

If any member of N.A.S. knows of unrecorded stone implements, I shall be pleased to receive information.

## "PORTRAYING PETERBOROUGH PAST"

MARTIN HOWE

Peterborough and its surrounding area has a rich and fascinating past which is not immediately obvious to the passer by, being hidden under agricultural land, industrial development, or deposited in archives. It was in order to bring some of this rich heritage to the public that extensive gallery redevelopments were undertaken in the Museum during 1978. The archaeology collections and the Norman Cross Prisoner-of-War work were redisplayed and new displays of two Victorian rooms and a General Store were built.

Museum objects are mute survivors from the past. It is the job of the Museum staff to bring these exhibits alive by explaining their function, their historical contexts and the way of life of the people who made and used them. In the case of the Archaeological Gallery, it was also necessary to explain how objects come to be discarded and buried under the earth, as well as the skilled process of recovery through excavation. At an early stage it was decided that the new galleries would be built with different shapes of walls and cases in order to attract the visitor to the objects and make him more receptive to the information contained in the texts and graphics which accompany the displays. This policy was most appropriate for the archaeological collections where each section of the display deals with a different period of Peterborough's past starting with the Stone Age (or Neolithic) about 5,000 years ago, and continuing to the turn of the twentieth century. Celebrated local sites such as the prehistoric and Romano-British settlements at Fengate and the Roman fortress at Longthorpe (now buried under Thorpe Wood golf course) are explained and illustrated by finds from the respective sites. A case devoted to Roman coinage illustrates the extent and variety of coin types showing the effect of Roman rule on the inhabitants of the Nene Valley.

The local Roman industries of stone working, salt extraction and, most important of all, the production of a distinctive range of pottery are represented and have cases dealing with the techniques of manufacture and the finished products. This idea of thematic displays continues the story of Peterborough through the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Woodston and onwards through the Middle Ages, when Peterborough with its large monastery was particularly prosperous, the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to the turn of the twentieth century. It is intended that the gallery will be periodically rearranged to provide a variety of displays and topics so that there will always be something different to see. It is hoped that the visitor will come away from the gallery with the feeling that he has glimpsed at the life-style of past Peterborians and appreciates that the current upheavals of redevelopments are one more step in a continuous process which started some 6,000 years ago.

## MICROFICHE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

A E BROWN

Readers of Northamptonshire Archaeology are no doubt becoming increasingly aware of the vast amount of technical detail which a modern archaeological excavation produces: dimensions of post-holes and pits, long series of fabric descriptions of pottery both illustrated and unillustrated, analyses of pottery assemblages phase by phase, technical descriptions of excavated skeletal material and so on. Most of this information is presented now in tabular form and is extremely unlikely to be of interest to the average member of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society, or indeed to most other archaeologists working outside the particular field covered by one of the reports in question. The publication of this kind of



information is moreover an extremely expensive business at a time of already very high and increasing printing costs. Yet the making available of this fundamental descriptive and analytical information to specialist workers fairly rapidly is important for the advancement of the subject. The Committee of the Society is very conscious of the problems presented by the publication of specialist technical data and as one solution to the problem is exploring the possibilities of using microfiche.

A microfiche is a sheet of plastic film some 4" x 6". This can contain over 90 greatly reduced photographs of typewritten or printed pages, line drawings or photographs. These sheets are relatively cheap to produce. In order to read the microfiche, a reader is required; this is a relatively expensive piece of equipment which however is becoming increasingly common in public libraries, university libraries and so on - places which are likely to be accessible to the specialist archaeological researcher.

It is the intention of the Society, as far as finances permit, to continue to print archaeological reports in the normal way. But, as an experiment, certain detailed supporting information may in some future issues be published on microfiche. It is envisaged that the microfiche will be held in a wallet at the back of Northamptonshire Archaeology, and its contents will of course be cross referenced with the main text of the report. Just what will be published in fiche form has yet to be decided; much will depend upon the reports submitted for publication and their particular problems.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF THE JOURNAL

Copies of Northamptonshire Archaeology Vol. 13 were sent out to all members who were up to date with their subscriptions during November and December 1978. If however members for some reason have not yet received their copy, would they please contact the editor, A.E. Brown, Department of Adult Education, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester. (Telephone Leicester 50000 ext. 28).

#### DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

Northampton Museum. Help required in finds processing and cataloguing. Contact Mr. W.R.G. Moore, Keeper of Archaeology, Guildhall Road.

Westfield Museum, Kettering. Help required in finds processing and cataloguing. Contact Mr. F. Lyall, The Curator, West Street, Kettering.

Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit. Volunteers needed on Saxon-Medieval excavation at Brick Kiln Road, Raunds. See the director, Andrew Boddington, on site, or contact the unit at County Hall, Northampton.

Northampton Development Corporation Archaeology Unit. Volunteers needed on Saxon-Medieval site in town centre, until end of June, Monday - Friday. Help always welcome for finds processing at Archaeological Centre. Contact Mr. J.H. Williams, Chief Archaeologist, NDC, Cliftonville House, Bedford Road, Northampton. Telephone: Northampton 46444.

Milton Keynes Development Corporation Archaeology Unit. Volunteers needed for the following excavations: April - Oct, Caldecotte multi-period (Iron Age, Roman, Saxon) gravel site; April - May, Wymbush, a Roman farmstead; June - July, Great Linford Manor House; Sept, Little Woolstone Church. Every Tuesday, Bradwell Abbey Field Centre throws open its doors to all those interested in taking part in projects

related to the archaeology of the area. The current project is the processing, sorting and drawing of pottery from a medieval kiln site, resulting finally in the preparation of a report for publication. Come along for the whole day, or just a morning or afternoon. Training given in all the skills and techniques you will need. Contact Mr. M.R. Petchey, Bradwell Abbey Field Centre, Bradwell, Milton Keynes, MK13 9AP. Telephone Milton Keynes 312475.

#### CALENDAR

Wednesday 4 April. Wolverton and District Archaeological Society. 'The making of the Buckinghamshire Landscape', Dr. M.A. Read. St. Mary's Parish Room (adjacent to the Community Centre), London Road, Stony Stratford, 7.30 pm.

Thursday 5 April. Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society. 'The Archaeology of the Astrolab', Mr. A. Chapman. Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley, 8.00 pm.

Friday 6 April. Thrapston District Historical Society. 'Queen Eleanor Crosses.' Mr. F. Dymont. Middle School, Market Road, Thrapston. 7.30 pm.

Thursday 26 April. South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society. 'Gates'. Mr. J. Thornton. The Sponne School, Towcester. 7.30 pm.

Friday 27 April. Upper Nene Archaeological Society. 'Excavations at Skendleby, Lincs.' Derek Simpson, University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 pm.

Monday 30 April. Wellingborough and District Archaeological Society. 'Recent Fieldwork and the Role of Part Timers and Professionals'. Mr. D. Hall. 'Gaywood', 27 Park Road, Wellingborough. 7.30 pm.

Wednesday 2 May. Northampton Museum, Guildhall Road, Lunchtime Lecture. 'Early Prehistoric Northampton.' Helen Bamford (Northampton Development Corporation Archaeology Unit). 12.45 pm.

Friday 4 May. Thrapston District Historical Society. 'Old Toys'. Mr. J. Osborne. Middle School, Market Road, Thrapston. 7.30 pm.

Friday 11 May. Northampton Museum, Guildhall Road, Lunchtime Lecture. 'Iron Age and Roman Northampton.' John Williams (Northampton Development Corporation Archaeology Unit). 12.45 pm.

Saturday 12 May. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AGM followed by members' reports - 'Archaeology in Northamptonshire 1978-9.' Willow Room, Festival Hall, Corby. 2.00 pm.

Wednesday 16 May. Northampton Museum, Guildhall Road, Lunchtime Lecture. 'Saxon Northampton.' John Williams (Northampton Development Corporation Archaeology Unit). 12.45 pm.

Thursday 17 May. Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society. AGM. Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road, Bletchley. 8.00 pm.

Friday 18 May. Upper Nene Archaeological Society. (Date to be confirmed.) Prehistoric Pottery Seminar. Dennis Jackson. 8 Pinetrees Close, Hackleton, Northampton. 8.00 pm.

Saturday 19 May. Upper Nene Archaeological Society. Car visit to Borough Hill, Oakham, Great Casterton, Stamford etc. Contact Mr. and Mrs. Friendship-Taylor, 8 Pinetrees Close, Hackleton, Northampton.

Monday 21 May. Wellingborough and District Archaeological Society. 'History of Costume.' Miss J. Hodgkinson, 'Gaywood', 27 Park Road, Wellingborough. 7.30 pm.

Friday 25 May. Upper Nene Archaeological Society. 'Aspects of Archaeology in Oxfordshire.' John Steane. University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 pm.

Wednesday 30 May. Northampton Museum, Guildhall Road, Lunchtime Lecture. 'Medieval Northampton.' John Williams (Northampton Development Corporation Archaeology Unit). 12.45 pm.

Friday 1 June. Thrapston District Historical Society. 'Titchmarsh.' Mrs. G.H. Belgion and Mr. D. Hall. Middle School, Market Road, Thrapston. 7.30 pm.

Saturday 9 June. Upper Nene Archaeological Society. Annual Field Visit by coach to Chester. £3.50 per head. Bookings now being taken. Contact Mr. and Mrs. R. Friendship-Taylor, 8 Pinetrees Close, Hackleton, Northampton.

Monday 25 June. Wellingborough and District Archaeological Society. 'Raunds Excavation.' Andrew Boddington (Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit). 'Gaywood', 27 Park Road, Wellingborough. 7.30 pm.

Friday 29 June. Upper Nene Archaeological Society. 'Roman Military Equipment: the Problem of Recognition.' Mr. Michael Macdona. University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 pm.

Saturday 1 September. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Coach visit to Shrewsbury. £4 per head. Contact Mr. and Mrs. R. Friendship-Taylor, 8 Pinetrees Close, Hackleton, Northampton.

Friday 7 September. Thrapston District Historical Society. Members' meeting. Middle School, Market Road, Thrapston. 7.30 pm.

Monday 24 September. Wellingborough and District Archaeological Society. Annual General Meeting. 'Gaywood', 27 Park Road, Wellingborough. 7.30 pm.

Friday 5 October. Thrapston District Historical Society. 'History of Leather for Manufacture.' Middle School, Market Road, Thrapston. 7.30 pm.

Monday 29 October. Wellingborough and District Archaeological Society. 'The Ironstone Railway Trust.' 'Gaywood,' 27 Park Road, Wellingborough. 7.30 pm.

Friday 2 November. Thrapston District Historical Society. 'Peeps into Old Rushden', Mr. E. Fowell. Middle School, Market Road, Thrapston. 7.30 pm.

Monday 26 November. Wellingborough and District Archaeological Society. Open Night. 'Gaywood', 27 Park Road, Wellingborough. 7.30 pm.

Friday 7 December. Thrapston District Historical Society. 'Islip Furnaces.' Mr. N. Warren. Middle School, Market Road, Thrapston. 7.30 pm.

PUBLICATIONS

Titchmarsh Past and Present. Mrs. Belgion. See above, Thrapston District Historical Society.

Archaeology in Milton Keynes, 1978. (Annual Report of MKDC Archaeology Unit). Available in April 1979, price £. 50p.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the next issue (October 1979 - May 1980) should be sent to Frances Williams, Plot 306, Froxhill Crescent, Wolfage Manor, Brixworth, Northampton.