

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, G.C.V.O.

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. R. HOLLOWELL

Dr. G. WEBSTER, O.B.E., Ph.D., M.A., F.S.A., A.M.A.

Mr. B. C. HASTINGS

Mr A. E. BROWN, M.A.

THE MIRROR NEWSLETTER NO 2

We start this second archaeological society newsletter with a plea to all those people who are paying their subscriptions by banker's order, those people who have lapsed in their payments and those people who seem to have been students for the past ten years!

Please check your bankers orders and update them if necessary, and for those people who seemed to have stopped paying around 1983 we would be happy to see you back on the straight and narrow.

The current membership subscriptions stands at:- Family membership £6, Individual membership £5, Student membership £3, Institutional membership and local associations £7.

We are initiating a new type of membership card from this year onwards, instead of receiving one only at the beginning of the lecture programme with all the society events printed, we will be sending you a simple membership card that simply has the name of the society on and a space for a members signature.

All the years programme will then be printed in every newsletter, these membership cards will be sent out to all members who have paid their subscriptions, which as I am sure you are aware are now due! Those of you who do not receive the December/January newsletter and membership card will soon realise you have not paid and we are sure that will be remedied.

We have decided to get rid of the old format of membership card because most people seem to lose it (myself included), which is a bit of a nuisance when the programme is on there, now I know that most people will lose the new even 'smaller' card (myself included) but at least you will know what the years programme will be. I hope to get the newsletter out at least three times a year, beginning with one in October to coincide with the start of the lecture programme, one in January to remind you of the events you will have forgotten about and or lost! and finally one in April to bring in the AGM and the summer programme, normally the society is very quiet in the summer months, but we have decided to carry our succesful trips into the summer, more details about those later in the year.

Please contact me if you need any more information or wish to submit something for the newsletter

Wendy Parry
59 Gordon Street
Northampton 34407

Summer 1986

A PROFILE OF MIKE RUMBOLD.

Vice-Chairman since May 1986.

The editor has prevailed upon me to write what she calls 'a Profile' of myself, following that of our Chairman, Paul Woodfield, which appeared in the last issue.

Obviously she means that I should tell you what is my experience of Archaeology. My answer is - Very Little, but I am learning.

Thinking back to my youth, spent incidentally in the village of Knowle, only about four miles from where Paul originated, I cannot remember being carried away by History, or even having heard of Archaeology. Later, when at school in Worcestershire, my recollection of History is of being required to write reams of notes, and try to memorise dates. There was never any sense of wonder or magic. 'History' to me in those days, began in a Rotten Borough, consisted of some Corn Laws and Factory Acts, and ended before what I knew must have been important from what little my father revealed of his experiences, the 'Great War'

.... but there was another 'Great War' going on at this time, wasn't there?

..... Was that not History?

..... If it was, it did not feature in the curriculum for School Certificate, so we were left to follow it for ourselves from the Newspapers.

Now, I have had some differences of opinion with one professional as to whether History is part of a wider subject called Archaeology, or vice-versa. I hold the view that History is all embracing, and covers the period from For-Ever to Now, and that Archaeology is one discipline aiding that study. Objectors, please write to the editor!

I think it must have been my Father-in-Law who introduced me to a sense of Living History which could be seen, if one looked in the proper places, when he took me to Ministry of Works Monuments: Castles and Abbeys, or perhaps to the site of a battle; and to National Trust Manor Houses and Great Estates. Reading the booklets which were sold at these places made me aware of what had happened there, and something of the importance of the events. I was fascinated by the way in which the remains of a Monastery, possibly only traced out in the grass by a few stones, could tell the knowing observer which Religious Order had built these miniature towns and what style of life had been lived there. Castle Acre Priory, in Norfolk, had possibly the greatest effect upon my imagination.

After moving to Weedon Bec and living in the village for a few years, I wished to find out more about my new surroundings and joined the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society, and later the Record Society, in the hope that this would advance my knowledge. I learnt much more, however, by attending evening classes, and weekends at Knuston Hall. Some of these were provided by Leicester University A. E. Department, and there were others at the University Centre in Northampton, and Vaughan College, Leicester. One of the brains behind these was Tony Brown, who was Treasurer of the Society, and Editor of the Journal, for many years, and is now one of the Vice-Presidents.

It must have been the frequency with which I ran into Tony during these events which prompted him to ask me if I would stand for the council. I was a little uncertain at first, not being very knowledgeable about Archaeology, but then came to the conclusion that there were probably many other members who were in a similar situation, and that I could represent their point of view.

It is in this light that I see my task as Vice-Chairman. Most of the other Officers, and many of the members of Council are, to a greater or lesser degree, engaged full-time in Archaeology or History, and all have many years experience. I am a businessman, working in the Building Trade, often seen as the enemy of things historic. I look to this subject to give myself a sense of proportion. To remind myself that this year's Balance Sheet is not everything. By the same token I feel that the full-time Archaeologist needs to be reminded, now and then, that not everyone listening understands the latest jargon, or that there is life outside the confines of his pet 'dig'.

In addition, with my own experience in mind, I hope to see more events which will help those like myself, with limited knowledge, to learn more. This is why I am so pleased to see the support members have been giving to the recent Field Days, and I look forward to helping to promote other events which will assist others seeking to advance their understanding, especially young people to whom History might otherwise seem as dead and uninteresting as it did to me when I was young.

A Day Outing to Geddington, Lyveden New Bield and the Triangular Lodge Rushton T Sharman

As a newcomer to the area, I had only seen pictures of the aforementioned buildings and the beautiful Queen Eleanor Cross at Geddington near Kettering. Consequently I looked forward to visiting them in the hope that they would be as spectacular and interesting on the ground as they were on the photographs. In the event, I was not to be disappointed.

The day trip began in the best possible way in the 'Star' Geddington. Here members from the society tucked into a superb choice of dishes and downed a few drinks before walking out of the front door and immediately confronting the Queen Eleanor Cross.

This particular example, although quite similar in size and shape to the one in Northampton is well worth a visit. It dominates the centre of this pretty little village.

From Geddington, we all travelled by car to Lyveden New Bield. Here we were met by Mr Brian Dix who then proceeded to give us an interesting biography of Sir Thomas Tresham and then took us to the remains of the gardens of the building which lie between the 16th century New Bield and the Old Bield constructed a century or so earlier. Lyveden New Bield was constructed as a summer residence by Tresham, however there remains a certain amount of controversy as to whether or not it was actually ever completed. Despite the fact that Tresham was fined and imprisoned for his Catholic beliefs, he remained totally committed to his religion, incorporating many Christian elements into those buildings, such as the New Bield and the Triangular Lodge at Rushton which to this day remain something of an enigma. The Holy Trinity features very prominently and many of the architectural elements come in multiples of 3, 5, or 7. I will not go into great detail about the ways in which this beautiful building demonstrates most clearly - Tresham's obsession with his religion.

The same could be said of Tresham's other remarkable building visited on the same day, the Triangular Lodge at Rushton, perhaps the most famous of his buildings, often appearing on the front of most guides to the county.

Like the New Bield, the Triangular Lodge at Rushton is both an exercise in pure mathematics and Catholicism, multiples of 3, 5, and 7 again appear. This neat little building, you may be interested to learn is 33 feet long on each of its sides and has $33\frac{1}{3}$ steps leading up from the ground floor to its second storey. After Brian had finished showing us around we ended the day with a visit to Rothwell Manor. All in all, an interesting and enjoyable day out which fortunately was not marred by the weather, I look forward to the next society visit.

.... an interesting aside to the trip was when members of the council failed to lock the door to the Triangular Lodge and it took three people what seemed like three hours to fix it (Wendy).

Northamptonshire Archaeology Vol 20

It is regretted that journal 20 for 1985 has not yet been issued. Whilst the society aims to publish an annual volume as close to the due time as possible, in this instance problems in obtaining reports and other issues for inclusion have caused delay. It is anticipated that these difficulties will be resolved shortly and the journal will be published as soon as possible. The outlook for subsequent volumes is brighter and future contents will include several major site-reports in addition to shorter contributions. It is hoped that regular publication will be resumed in due course.

The Data Protection Act 1984

A list of members of the society has been prepared and is stored on a BBC Microcomputer. The data held is name, address, class of membership and last date of payment of subscription.

The above Act requires Data Users holding personal information in a form in which it can be processed by equipment operating automatically to register with the Registrar. This would cost the society time and money. There is an exemption under the Act for members clubs, provided members have been asked whether they object to this form of recording membership. If they do so they are requested to notify the secretary.

Down among the Deadmen

The opening of the new Oundle by-pass in December 1985 brought to an end to the long running programme of research and rescue excavation at Ashton Roman Town. Among the many features which had been recorded were a cemetery of almost 200 graves and a series of separate burials outside. The important collection of human remains is being studied by Ann Stirland who has previously examined material from other land sites in addition to skeletal finds from the wreck of the Mary Rose. Her analysis provides a fascinating picture of the physical character and infirmities of the ancient population and contains a number of surprises. Society members may therefore be interested in attending Ann's talk on 'Ashton Roman Town and its People' to be held in Warmington Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Friday 24th October 1986. The event is being organized by the Oundle Adult Education Centre Staff/Student Committee and tickets should be obtained in advance from

Area Adult Education Office
Prince William School
Herne Road
OUNDLE Peterborough PE8 4BS

Each ticket costs £1.50 or £1.00 for full time students and OAP's (Cheques, etc payable to 'Northamptonshire County Council'), and a SAE should be enclosed with application

The Boss (Slave driven by Mr Steve Parry). I awoke on a rather dull Sunday morning in June at the early hour of eight. Reaching speeds of eighty miles per hour we soon arrived at Woodford situated between Twywell and Ringstead in East Northamptonshire. After being handed 2 forks and 4 spades (quite a weight for a person of my age) we set off for the site from the car to the site was a distance of some $\frac{1}{4}$ mile taking us through some of the tallest weeds in the county and passing a mosquito infested River Nene.

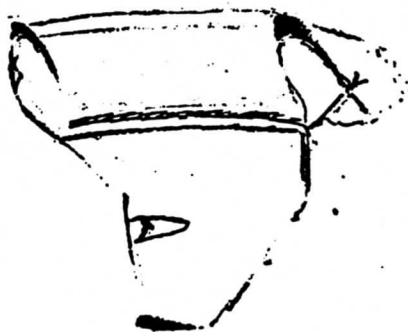
We arrived at the site and after a quick introduction, I was handed a mattock and told to start digging! (Now, I always believed that archaeologists used trowels, rather a big trowel I had been given?). By half past ten I was gasping for a drink, I was shown no sympathy! Although I had been wielding the mighty tool all morning (which incidentally was up to my shoulders). The robber trench seemed to have progressed all of one foot.

I was granted a more than welcome dinner break at 2.00. My hopes were soon dashed though by 2.10 I was back on site. Determined to finish my lunch I held sandwich in one hand and mattock in the other as back to work I went. I was oblivious as to what was happening around me as the beads of sweat rolled down my forehead, moistening my eyes. By 6.00 I had finished the robber trench and standing back to admire my work I was approached by the Boss, his finger pointing to a ranging pole which was situated on a mountainous spoilheap, I enthusiastically clambered up to the top, jubilantly turning round I found to my utmost horror that at least half of the soil had fallen on some freshly trowelled limestone, anger was displayed all across the Boss's face. I spend one hour cleaning the stones.

Woodford has proved a very interesting and productive site. A very nice bronze brooch, ten Roman coins, a well and some very nice Roman Glass (see drawing). Unfortunately the site has now been destroyed but while it survived it was very exciting. I have now transferred my loyalties to Piddington until the call of duty summons me once again!

ALL BUDDING ARCHAEOLOGISTS. Beware anyone who digs with Steve Parry, everything you find you have to wash, my first day produced about 4 sherds of pottery, I went home with four bags! Steve Parry should carry a government health warning.

Who is the dreadful monster Robert is talking about? Wendy



LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 1986/7

20th of September 1986

At the University Centre Barrack Road,
2.00 - 5.00 R Thomson will speak on
Tanning in Tudor England M Shaw
on The Excavation of a Post Medieval
Tannery, Northampton
Refreshments are available

24th of October 1986

Ann Stirland will talk on the Ashton
Dead - see previous page for details

19th of November 1986

Tony Gregory will give a lecture on
his excavation of Gallows Hill, described
in CA as 'Boudicca's palace?'
University Centre Barrack Road, 7.45pm
Northampton

4th of February 1987

David Neal will lecture on Stanwick
Roman Villa, as the Assembly Rooms
Raunds 8.00

3rd of March 1987

Professor Henry Loyn will talk on
'Domesday', at the University Centre
Barrack Road 7.45pm

24th of March 1987

Francis Pryor will lecture on
The Late Bronze Age 'Lake Village'
at Flag Fen, Fengate, Peterborough
VENUE TO BE ORGANIZED

TRIPS

The Society will be having its, now, usual trips in and around the County on a regular basis, most of these will take place after January so a complete list of these will be in the next newsletter.