

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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NEWSLETTER NO 3

A very much slimmer newsletter this time around, hopefully we will have more exciting news some time later in the year. This is really a reminder of the last few lectures this year and the date of the AGM, we hope you can make it so some or even all! of them.

Our next lecture will be on the 3rd of March at the University centre Barrack Road, Northampton. It will start at 7.45 pm and Professor Henry Loyn will be speaking of 'Medieval Craftsmen' originally the title was 'Domesday' but the Professor had doubled booked this lecture with the record society and so gave us some alternative titles, we hope you will enjoy the change.

On the 24th of March we have Francis Pryor talking on Flag Fen A Late Bronze Age Lake Village, some of you may have visited the site the lecture should be as enjoyable. This will be held in Kettering at the Manor House and will begin at 7.30pm

Our AGM will be held in Northampton this year, at the University Centre (as above) the business of the society will begin at 7.00 we will try and get this out of the way as soon as possible so we can move on to more interesting things. Our speakers this year will include Andy Chapman who is presently writing up Dr Alexander's excavation of Northampton Castle and he will be giving us a preview of the report. We are hoping to persuade Roy Friendship-Taylor to give us an update of Piddington, other local speakers are still in the pipeline (watch this space). We thought this year we would allocate about 15 minutes of free time for anybody who has some interesting work in hand, if you would like to give a short paper on anything please give me a ring and we will fit you into the programme. Refreshments will be available at the AGM and most importantly, the University Centre has a bar. We had about 50 people at our last AGM and we hope to see as many of you at this years. Further information will be coming your way, but I would like to take this opportunity to remind you, that if you have nominations or would like to put yourself forward for a post on the council please get back to me before April the 13th. Oh by the way the date of the AGM is the 5th of May!

TRIPS

The council feels adventurous this year and we are planning a longer trip this year, possibly in September to the site of Creswell Crags, this is a limestone Gorge situated on the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire border, within the Gorge are a number of caves inhabited by man and animals in the last Ice Age. Guided tours are available and we will be organizing one of those. We would like to know if you would be interested in this trip fairly soon as we will have to book a coach. The cost of the trip will be approx £8., this will include short stopping places there and back. We will be asking for a deposit, so please ring me or drop me a line if you are definitely interested and we will book the coach and arrange the tour.

We will be going to the excavations of the Raunds Area Project again this year, more work has been done on these sites and are well worth seeing again.

Autumn 1986

Last but not least, we are thinking about a trip to see the medieval wall paintings in some of the fine churches of Northamptonshire, again we are expecting to arrange to be guided by an expert in this field. The definite dates of these trips will be circulated at the AGM (a good incentive to go!)

Other News

On the excavation front in Northampton, Mike Shaw has been digging holes into Woolmonger street and has uncovered a series of saxon ditches, D Jackson has finished a small excavation at Wootton Hill Farm where an Iron Age Enclosure was uncovered. Peacock Way, for those who live in Northampton, has revealed a series of medieval ditches and some pieces of leather.

We hope some of you will be attending the Raunds Area Project Conference which is on this coming Saturday the 7th of March, it should whet the appetite for the up and coming trip to the excavations.

Moving indoors, Northampton Museum said farewell to Mr W N Terry, curator there for the last 27 years. He is replaced by Ms Sheila M Stone who was Keeper of Archaeology at St Albans. The Museum extension is now open to the public, after its official opening on the 25th of February. It consists of four new floors, one of sculpture, one of paintings, one of decorative arts and finally the fourth floor houses the excavations of the Development Corporation - the archaeology of Northampton. All are well worth a visit.

Now for more boring news

It appears, in the general scheme of things that it is my turn to do the 'profile' it seems a bit silly as I write the newsletter as well (I wouldn't need to if you lot would contribute more!) but here goes anyway.

I was born in Yorkshire and have been exiled here in the deep south for quite a while now I keep scanning the Museums Bulletins for jobs in Yorkshire but nobody seems to move! I work at Northampton Museum as the Assistant Keeper of Archaeology, we are just starting a new exhibition on Northampton Castle, it will open in September, so if you notice all of next years programme will consist of lectures on castles and trips to grassy mounds you know why! My main interest apart from archaeology (which seems to take up most of my life!) is Tudor portraiture so if any of you see a cheap Holbein give me a ring. I got into archaeology mainly through excavations, but I realized pretty early on that excavations tend to be pretty, nasty, dirty soggy things, so I made a smart move into Museums, however most of the work I get is from excavations which are still, nasty and dirty, and when it is raining and my store roof still leaks things still get soggy. However I am sitting in my (at the moment) nice dry and warm office, typing this looking out of the window at the rain thinking it still was a smart move.

Even more boring news

If you have a small green membership card in your envelope, congratulations, you have paid your subscription. If you are emptying your envelope, and are now looking on the floor for your little green card, dont it means you have not paid your membership. If you have paid your membership and you still don't get a green card, we have gone onto computer and all errors will now be blamed on this.

The Journal

this, as they say in the trade, is an on going situation, what it means is we will get a journal to you as soon as it arrives, Brian is working hard to get it out and we still hope to get two out to you this year.

My phone number is Northampton 34407 if you want to indicate your interest in Creswell Crags, or shout at me for not giving you a membership card, or heaven forfend a contribution to the newsletter no 4, I'm not saying when this will be coming out as I seem to be late by four months with this one!

Andy