

# NASNEWS



## Newsheet of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

SECOND SERIES No.2

SEPTEMBER 1987

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### RECENT EVENTS

The Society's summer programme advertised in the previous NASNEWS has met with varying degrees of success. The July field trip to Canons Ashby and three nearby ringwork castles was only modestly attended on account of the miserable weather whilst that to the impressive Flag Fen Bronze Age village excavation and visitor centre in August suffered from no such climatic vicissitudes attracting a large number of members. The day school in September introducing the study of Roman and post-Roman pottery is fully booked though unfortunately this success has not attended the planned coach excursion to Cresswell Craggs which has been cancelled due to lack of support.

Please note that your suggestions for future excursions and for lecture subjects/speakers are always welcome and should be directed to the Meetings Secretary, 59 Gordon Street, Northampton.

### WINTER PROGRAMME 1987-88

A varied programme of lectures and one field trip are planned for the winter programme. Family and friends are of course always welcome at all events.

#### Winter Programme Diary Dates: (details below)

NORTHAMPTON CASTLE lecture.....8pm Thursday October 8th.  
RAUNDS DAY field trip.....2.50pm Saturday October 17th.  
BRIGSTOCK SURVEY lecture.....7.45pm Thursday November 12th.  
BEDFORD EXCAVATION lecture.....7.45pm Monday January 25th.  
PYRAMID AGE lecture.....7.45pm Friday March 25th.

**NORTHAMPTON CASTLE:** lecture by Andrew Chapman at the Central Museum Northampton 8pm Oct. 8th. Northampton Castle was one of the most important castles in England. Nothing remains of that building except the postern gate. The lecture, together with an opportunity to view the exhibition prior to 8pm, provides the most comprehensive and up to date coverage of one of Northamptonshire's lost monuments.

**RAUNDS DAY:** field trip Oct. 17th. Assemble at 2.50pm in the car park of Raunds Football Club (immediately east of the Parish Church; access via Manor St., Park Rd. & Berrister Place). A joint visit with CBA Group IX to the Raunds Area Project excavations at Burystead, Raunds, West Cotton and Stanwick villa.

**THE BRIGSTOCK SURVEY:** lecture by Patrick Foster to be held at the Manor House, Kettering at 7.45pm November 12th. A very intensive and interesting fieldwalking survey designed to elucidate the evolution of the landscape of a large upland parish. The area chosen formed a number of Medieval deer parks which served to preserve earlier sites from the ravages of ridge and furrow cultivation.

**THE TESCO STORES SITE, BEDFORD:** lecture by a representative of Beds. Arch. Unit on January 25th 1988 at the Heritage Centre, Croyland Abbey, Wellingborough 7.45pm. A joint meeting with Wellingborough Arch. Soc. The discovery and excavation of an



early Prehistoric landscape. Excavations concentrated upon a single ditched henge and a triple ditched mound preserved beneath a Medieval headland which allowed a detailed appraisal of the stratigraphic sequence within the mound.

**THE PYRAMID AGE:** lecture by Peter Clayton FLA FSA FRNS at the University Centre, Barrack Rd. Northampton at 7.45pm March 25th 1988. Joint meeting with the Upper Nene Arch. Soc. An acknowledged authority on Egyptology and coins Mr Clayton will review recent advances in the archaeology of ancient Egypt. Mr Clayton has travelled widely and is an experienced lecturer. This should prove to be an enjoyable evening.

#### JOURNAL 20

Publication of Northamptonshire Archaeology is scheduled for the end of September. Copies will be available at the Northampton Castle lecture on 8th October, but otherwise will be distributed to members soon after.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS 1987-88

Subscriptions became due for renewal on 1st September 1987 at the following rates: Individual £7; Family £8; Student £5; Local Association £8; Institutions £10.

If you have not already paid, payment details are enclosed with this newsheet.

#### NAS CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

The Central Museum has kindly agreed to the Society using its address for correspondence. Consequently correspondence can now be sent to - Northamptonshire Archaeological Society, c/o The Central Museum, Guildhall Rd. Northampton NN1 1DP.

#### PLACES TO VISIT

Northampton Castle exhibition at the Central Museum Northampton until 7th Nov. Free. Flag Fen Bronze age village excavation and visitor centre. Daily (inclu. site tours) until 31st October. Adults £1, OAP's & children 50p. Access via 4th Drove, off Fengate, Peterborough. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

Second Congress of Independent Archaeologists, Selwyn College, Cambridge. 19-20th September. The congress will focus on the running of local societies.

#### ANOTHER UNIT MOVES

From 3rd September the Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit has moved to: 16 Erica Rd. Stacey Bushes, Milton Keynes MK12 6PA. Tel: 0908 312475.

#### THRAPSTON PEWTER HOARD

In 1985 a unique pewter hoard was found by Mr Edwin Osborne whilst operating a dragline excavator at Thrapston. The hoard is a large and important find probably dating from the 4th century AD. The variety of vessels present suggests that it may have come from a single Roman household.

Following the discovery the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society nominated Mr Osborne for the British Petroleum award for the best archaeological find by a person in the course of his or her own work. Although Mr Osborne did not win the award (this went to the person who discovered the Wet-Wang Slack chariot burial), he was short listed and went to the British Museum to receive a certificate of merit. In recognition of Mr Osborne's prompt action in rescuing and handing over the pewter, your Society awarded him £50 from its funds.

The pewter has now been given to the Central Museum by Drayton Estates, the owners of the land on which it was found. Some is to be loaned back to Drayton Estates for display. It is hoped that the rest of the pewter will be incorporated in the County archaeological display at the Central Museum.

#### ABOUT THE COUNTY

**KETTERING**-Councilors in Kettering have recently agreed plans to relocate the town's Westfield Museum in a more central position at the Manor House between the Library and Parish Church. Timing is yet to be finalised.

**NORTHAMPTON**-The Central Museum is currently sprucing up its image. A new shop and reception area are now installed. It is planned to sell general archaeology and history books as well as Museum publications.

#### NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members adopted at the Council meeting held on 15th July: Mr & Mrs M.F.A. Audouy, Norton, Daventry; Miss E.H. Ward, Northampton; Miss M.A. Whewell, Northampton.

#### NASNEWS

The copy deadline for the next issue of NASNEWS is 31st January 1988.