

NASNEWS



Newsheet of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

SECOND SERIES No.3

FEBRUARY 1988

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society will be held on Wednesday 20th April at the Manor House (next to the library), Kettering, commencing at 7.30pm. In the event of the Manor House being unavailable (a refurbishment programme is scheduled to commence on the building sometime in the next few months), the venue will be the nearby Corn Market Hall - adjacent to the old Cattle Market car park.

Nominations for Society Officers and for ordinary members of Council are now being accepted and should be addressed to the Secretary. Members are urged to attend this important meeting and help shape the future policy and programme of their Society.

After the AGM it is hoped to serve light refreshments following which there will be the annual 'Archaeology in Northamptonshire' round-up which this year will comprise provisionally, three short lectures:

Brian Dix.....**DIGGING IN THE GARDEN**, ongoing excavation in the 17th century formal gardens at Kirby Hall.

Roy Friendship-Taylor...**PIDDINGTON ROMAN VILLA**, an update on recent excavations.

Martin Howe.....**SMALL LONG BROOCHES** and the early Anglo-Saxon settlement of the Nene valley.

THE PYRAMID AGE - Peter Clayton FLA FSA FRNS

This final lecture of the winter programme will be a joint meeting with the Upper Nene Archaeological Society on Friday March 25th at the University Centre, Barrack Road Northampton at 7.45pm.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1988

The Society programme for the spring and summer will be announced in the next issue of NASNEWS. It is hoped that the Society will organise further field trips as well as another day school, similar to the highly successful pottery day school organised last year. Programme and field trip venue suggestions are always welcome as are offers from local societies and individuals to host and guide field visits. Offers please!

MIRROR MASTERPIECE

The bronze mirror which illustrates the cover of Northamptonshire Archaeology and provides a logogram for the Society was found near Federation Avenue, Desborough, during ironstone digging in summer 1908. The original is now displayed in the British Museum, but a replica can be seen in Northampton. The mirror was made in the first half of the 1st century AD and may formerly have been deposited in a grave, although no other objects were found with it. It is of kidney-form with an overall size of c26cm wide and 35cm high. Above the multiple loop handle, the back of the mirror is decorated with a fold-over or symmetrical pattern about the vertical axis. Within the enclosing frame a series of scrolls form a lyre-palmette pattern with basketry filling in a fine example of the genius of the Celtic artist-craftsman. It would be hard to find a more elegant symbol to reflect the Society's activities.

JOURNAL 20

Journal 20 of Northamptonshire Archaeology has now been distributed to all paid-up members. If you have not received your copy please contact the Treasurer, address below.

JOURNAL BACK-NUMBERS

Members are reminded that a limited number of complete sets of Northamptonshire Archaeology are available covering the period when the journal has been issued in its present form. Excluding the current volume, back numbers of volumes 9-19 inclusive may be purchased at the special price of £39.00. Individual issues within that series may be obtained at the cost of £4.00 each, but please note that vol.14 (1979) can only be supplied as part of the complete back-run. Orders, with payment, should be sent to the Society's Treasurer, Mr P Myhill, 28 Port Road, New Duston, Northampton NN5 6NL.

INFORMATION WANTED

Information from local fieldworkers intended for inclusion in the review 'Archaeology in Northamptonshire in 1987', to be published in Journal 22, should be sent by 31 March 1988 to Mr Brian Dix, NCC Archaeology Unit, 2 Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park, Mere Way, Northampton NN4 9BE.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Society has produced a new application form and information sheet for prospective members. One is enclosed with this newsheet. If you can help in distributing copies, or know of places where copies could usefully be displayed, please contact Mike Shaw by telephone on Northampton 700493. Membership numbers are quite small in comparison to the rolls of similar organisations elsewhere in the country. Your help in recruiting new members will be appreciated.

THREAT TO FOTHERINGHAY

The Society is submitting a written objection to the forthcoming Public Inquiry to hear the appeal by the quarrying company ARC over the refusal of planning consent for gravel extraction in the environs of ancient Fotheringhay. Other objectors include the County Council and the Richard III and Stuart societies.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN EDUCATION

The County Council Archaeology Unit with the support of English Heritage is developing an education programme designed to encourage a wider understanding of the county's historic landscape and a greater awareness of how archaeology can enrich the school curriculum. The programme hopes to offer visits to excavations, finds workshops and 'archaeology in the classroom' courses for teachers. Teachers' resource packs are also being prepared, the first of which 'The Roman Town of Ashton' is now available. For further details please contact Rachel Shaw at the NCC Archaeology Unit or telephone Northampton 586112.

HISTORY NEWS REVIVED

Following the note in Nasnews No.1 readers will be pleased to learn that History News is to continue. Edited by Mrs Hornby and Mr Bishop of the Northamptonshire Rural Community Council the first issue of a new look 'Local History News' is now available free. Future issues will be available by subscription. This is to cover basic production costs and will be at the rate of a very modest £2.00 per annum for 4 issues, with a lower rate for bulk orders. Intending subscribers and contributors should contact Northants. Rural Community Council, Hunsbury Hill Centre, Harksome Hill, Northampton NN4 9QX. Cheques payable to N.R.C.C.

AROUND THE COUNTY

BARTON SEAGRAVE - reflooring at St Botolph's church recently exposed the foundations of the Medieval south aisle which was destroyed by Victorian rebuilding in 1878.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members: Flore Heritage Society; Brackley and District History Society; Mr A.W. Fookes, Great Billing; Mr & Mrs Sharman, Desborough; Mr S. Holder, Kettering; Dr A.M. Gibson, Leicester; Varian Denham, Portsmouth; Mr A. Stutt, Milton Keynes; Mr & Mrs S.C. Roberts, Raunds; Mrs J. Baile, Nassington; Mr & Mrs Loveless, Rushden; Mr A.T.C. Williams, Northampton; Mr C.J. Hicks, Rugby; Mrs S. Blaxley, Isham; Mrs A. Francis, Brixworth; Mr S. Young, Northampton; Sue Gill, Newport Pagnell.

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The copy deadline for the next issue of Nasnews is 30th April 1988.