

# NASNEWS



## Newsheet of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

SECOND SERIES NO 5

SEPTEMBER 1988

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### RECENT EVENTS

At the time of writing, two of the summer programme of Field Trips have taken place; the third, a visit to the excavations at Piddington Roman villa and to Horton is due on September 17th.

The visit to Kirby Hall in July was attended by some 25-30 members. Dr Nicola Smith of English Heritage provided an illuminating introduction followed by a tour of the Hall. Brian Dix then guided members around the current series of excavations and explained how these are helping unravel the origins and later evolution of the formal gardens. The more energetic members of the party were then taken 'cross country' to see the earthwork remains of the deserted medieval village of Kirby before returning via the site of the Hall's wilderness garden.

In August Alan Hannan led a dozen or so members around ancient Brixworth church, outlining the Monastic origins, the building and rebuilding which have taken place, and identifying the visible evidence.

The Society is very fortunate to benefit from the time and trouble taken by Nicola, Brian and Alan on these occasions and our thanks are due to each of them.

### AUTUMN PROGRAMME 1988-89

Three lectures are planned for the autumn. Details of the December and New Year programme will appear in the next issue of NASNEWS.

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

KIRBY HALL EXCAVATIONS lecture.....8pm Friday September 23rd.  
ROMAN BARBOTINE POTTERY lecture.....7.30pm Thursday October 6th.  
ROMAN LONDON lecture.....7.45pm Friday November 25th.

**EXCAVATIONS AT KIRBY HALL:** Joint meeting with MidNAG. Brian Dix will describe how his current excavations are unravelling with some surprises, the fascinating development of the Great Garden at Kirby Hall. 8pm, The Palmer Block (Oundle School), Glapthorn Rd. Oundle.

**THE FIGURES AND SCENES ON BARBOTINE POTTERY OF THE ROMAN PERIOD:** Lecture by Dr Graham Webster. 7.30pm, University Centre, Barrack Rd. Northampton.

**NEW THOUGHTS ON ROMAN LONDON:** Lecture by Andrew Selkirk (editor of 'Current Archaeology'). Joint meeting with the Upper Nene Archaeological Society. 7.45pm, University Centre, Barrack Rd. Northampton.

### SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

The subscription year of the Society runs from 1st September each year. Please note that this means **subscriptions are now due**. Journal 21 will be published in the near future and will be sent to members whose subscriptions are up to date. If you do not pay by bankers order please forward your subscription renewal (individual £7; family £8; student £5; Local Assoc. £8; Institution £10) to the NAS Treasurer, 28 Port Road, New Duston, Northampton NN5 6NL.



## JOURNAL NEWS

Delivery of Journal 21 (1986-7) is expected from the printers during November. Individual copies should be available for collection by members at that month's lecture-meeting (see programme), but otherwise will be distributed as soon as possible afterwards.

## SOUTH MIDLANDS ARCHAEOLOGY

The latest Newsletter of CBA Group 9 - issue no.18 for 1988 - is now available. In addition to reporting work by the County Archaeology Unit in Northamptonshire during 1987, its 154 pages contain reports of other finds and fieldwork in the region which includes the adjacent counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Copies can be obtained, price £3.50 each, from Carol Anderson, Dept. of Museum Services, Oxfordshire County Museum, Fletcher's House, Woodstock, Oxon. OX7 1SN.

## NORTHAMPTON MUSEUM

Northampton Central Museum's new archaeology gallery has recently been commended in the 1988 National Heritage Museum of the Year Awards.

## COUNTY UNIT

The County Council Archaeology Unit has recently established two new posts aimed at enhancing its service to the County's archaeology. Graham Cadman has been appointed Field Officer at a time of heightened housing, quarrying and road construction pressures whilst the Countryside Commission are supporting the appointment of a Heritage Interpretation Officer in a move to promote awareness, enjoyment and access to Northamptonshire's rich past.

## ARCHAEOLOGY CLASSES

Last September the Society organised a Day School with Liz MacRobert and Terry Pearson intended as an introduction to Roman and post-Roman pottery. Now the University of Leicester has arranged for Terry to give two Saturday classes on Saxon and Medieval pottery in Northamptonshire on the 3rd and 10th of December. The cost will be £8.50. These classes are only two of many being organised by the University Centre during the coming season. On Mondays there are classes in the afternoon, with Steven Young, on Practical Archaeology. Then in the early evening, Tony Brown on Roman Britain. Later at 8pm, in October Ancient Technology, Ann Woods and David Parsons; in January, Archaeological Materials, with Graham Morgan; and in March, Public Archaeology with Alan Hannan. On Wednesdays David Parsons returns accompanied by John Anstey, to deal with English Medieval Monasteries. Thursday sees Nicholas James with The New World Before Columbus. Other Saturday Schools will be covering Dowsing and Church Archaeology, The Countryside in Roman Britain, and Health and Medicine in Roman Britain.

There are classes in Brigstock, Brixworth, Long Buckby and Rothwell: several at Knuston Hall: and a whole seven days in Cambridge if you can afford £189. Details of all these can be obtained from the University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton.

## NEW MEMBERS

The details of new members will be held over until the next issue of NASNEWS.

## VOLUNTEERS STILL REQUIRED

Assistance is still needed some weekdays at the County Council Archaeology Unit to help with the processing and reconstruction of washed and marked finds. No previous experience is required only enthusiasm and a desire to learn about archaeological finds processing. Please contact Terry Pearson or Liz Ward on Northampton 700493.

## POST-MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology serves all those who have an interest in this most significant period of British and Colonial history, ranging from the close of the Middle Ages up to the advent of industrialization. The Society promotes the study of this period by means of its annual journal 'Post-Medieval Archaeology', and by holding two weekend conferences each year where the most recent discoveries and developments are presented to its members. For further details contact the Secretary, Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN.

## FENLAND PROJECT CONFERENCE (Sat.Oct.22nd)

Day conference to be held at the British Museum and intended to appeal not only to archaeologists, but also to members of the general public who are interested in the origins and developments of the Fens. Cost £2.50. Details from B Silvester Norfolk Arch. Unit, Union Hse, Gressenhall, East Dereham, Norfolk (tel:Dereham 860528).

## NASNEWS

The copy deadline for the next issue of NASNEWS is 19th November 1988.