

NASNEWS



Newsheet of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

SECOND SERIES NO 6

JANUARY 1989

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SPRING PROGRAMME 1989

Happy New Year to all members!

Two lectures and a field visit have been arranged in addition to the Annual General Meeting which will be held in April. Both the lectures and the field visit concern subjects of great local interest and are to be given by acknowledged experts in their fields. Highly recommended and not to be missed!

Spring Programme Diary Dates: (details below)

HUNSBURY HILL & ITS ENVIRONS lecture.....7.30pm Thursday Feb. 2nd.

VILLAGE SURVEY lecture.....7.30pm Tuesday Feb. 28th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.....7pm Wednesday April 19th

VILLAGE SURVEY IN THE FIELD field visit.....2pm Saturday April 22nd

HUNSBURY HILL & ITS ENVIRONS: Lecture by Dennis Jackson FSA, Northamptonshire's Iron Age specialist on the nature and interpretation of Iron Age activity in and around this well known landmark. The lecture will feature important recent excavations on the hill fort's defences (see NASNEWS June 1988) and on a nearby IA defended enclosure. 7.30pm Thursday February 2nd at the University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton.

VILLAGE SURVEY: An opportunity to hear one of Northamptonshire's and the Fenland's leading fieldworkers, David Hall explain about Parish Surveys and about the different types of earthwork encountered when conducting such surveys in Northamptonshire. This lecture is linked to a field visit in April - see below. Lecture commences 7.30pm Tuesday February 28th at the Corn Market Hall (adjacent the old Cattle Mkt car park) Kettering.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: To be held on the 19th of April commencing at 7pm at the Corn Market Hall, Kettering.

VILLAGE SURVEY IN THE FIELD: Field visit. As a follow-up to his February lecture David Hall has agreed to conduct a guided field visit to Strixton and Wollaston parishes (nr Wellingborough) enabling members to see at first hand some examples of the wide variety of evidence encountered when engaged upon a village survey. Meet at Strixton church at 2pm.

STEVE HASTINGS

It is with great regret and sadness that we record the death, on 28th December, of Society Vice-President Steve Hastings, following a long illness. Steve was an active member of Northamptonshire Archaeological Society, being its first meetings secretary, setting a high standard of lectures. Steve's valuable contribution to the Society was recognised with a Vice-Presidency. Steve was a teacher at Bective Secondary School, Northampton for many years and was Head of Science when he retired in 1973. Steve and his wife Jo enjoyed a wide range of hobbies including potting. He was a founder member of the South Northants. Archaeological Society, with whom he was actively carrying out fieldwork in that part of the county. He was also a member of the Upper Nene Archaeological Society and a former Committee member. The first Duke of Edinburgh award scheme in Northampton was organised by Steve. In 1984 'Rushden, The Early Fine Wares' was published, by Peter Woods and Steve Hastings, the pottery report also being prepared by Peter Woods and Steve Hastings. The Society extends its sincere condolences to Jo.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY 21

Journal 21 was published towards the end of November and copies were available for collection at that month's meeting. Other copies are now being distributed. Although the inclusion of a small number of advertisements and grant-aid by English Heritage (HBMCE) have considerably reduced the costs of publication, the net charge upon the Society is still around £2,000. Subscriptions contribute only partly towards this amount, which is otherwise defrayed by income from the Society's investments. There are several ways in which you can help to protect the long-term arrangements for publication, ranging from covenanting and other forms of donation to the recruitment of prospective members. The journal is among the best of those issued by county societies - please help ensure its future by bringing it to wider attention.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 1987-8

Items for inclusion in the next review of discovery and fieldwork in the county (1987 & 1988), to be published in Northamptonshire Archaeology 22, should be sent to the Editor to arrive no later than 27 January 1989. Please send material to: B Dix, NCC Archaeology Unit, Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park, Mere Way, Northampton NN4 9BE.

NAS QUESTIONNAIRE

Membership of NAS currently stands at over 200 individual and institutional members. Besides the production of a newsheet and the nationally renowned journal 'Northamptonshire Archaeology', the Society organises a winter and summer lecture and field trip programme. In recent years lectures have all too often been very poorly attended. The summer field trips have generally met with a better response, though there has been insufficient interest to permit the relaunching of coach trips to sites further afield. In another sphere proposals have recently been made that the Society should offer small annual awards aimed at promoting and encouraging interest and involvement in the archaeology of Northamptonshire. In a bid to identify your views with respect to the Society and its activities it would be very helpful if you could spare the time to fill in the questionnaire accompanying this newsletter. All comments or suggestions will be seriously considered and will assist the Council in planning the direction of the Society's activities into the 1990's.

FOTHERINGHAY VICTORY

Following notes in previous issues of NASNEWS about the threat by quarrying to the historic landscape at Fotheringhay, members will be interested to know that the gravel company concerned have now withdrawn their extraction application following intense lobbying from a wide variety of local and national sources.

NORTHAMPTON MUSEUM

Geology Exhibition: A new temporary exhibition devoted to the geology of Northamptonshire opens at Easter and will run for approximately 6 months.

Northamptonshire Room: (previously the Northamptonshire Archaeology room) is currently being refurbished prior to the construction of a new gallery which will continue the Museum's excellent story of Northampton - from the great fire of 1675 to the present with the emphasis on the town's social history. Sadly there will no longer be a gallery devoted to the archaeology of the rest of the county. The opening of the new gallery later this year forms part of the celebrations marking the 800th anniversary of the granting of Northampton's charter by Richard I in 1189.

Other developments at the Central Museum during 1989 will witness the cleaning of the Guildhall Rd frontage and the insertion of new windows whilst at the Abington Park Museum (winter opening 10am - 5pm Mon-Sat) a new shop will soon be in operation.

BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE POTTERY IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

Day school at Vaughan College Leicester, Saturday 20th May 1989. Univ. of Leics. Dept. of Adult Education. The aim of the course is to familiarise participants with pottery ranging in date from the earlier Bronze Age to the 'Belgic' period and to discuss current approaches to the dating and analysis of this material with the emphasis firmly upon pottery from the E Midlands. The course will be a strongly practical one with ample opportunity for the handling of material. Tutors are Carol Allen, Sheila Elsdon and David Knight. Further details from the Secretary, Vaughan College, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 4LB.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members are welcomed to the Society: Miss L Mackness, Thrapston; Mrs & Miss Wall, Leicester; J H Warner, Kettering; Mrs A A Clow, Finedon; Mr & Mrs D & J Savage, Northampton; Mr & Mrs F Burbidge, London; Mr Peter Scott, Clopton, Kettering.

NASNEWS: The copy deadline for the next issue of NASNEWS is April 17th 1989.