



Newsheet of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

SECOND SERIES NO 7

JULY 1989

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SUMMER & WINTER PROGRAMME 1989-90

Programme Diary Dates: (details below)

FLAG FEN site visit.....11.30am Sunday August 13th
WEST COTTON & STANWICK EXCAVATIONS OPEN DAY.....10.30am onwards Monday Aug.28th
KIRBY HALL excavation update
& WEST COTTON lecture7pm Monday Sept. 18th
MILTON KEYNES UNIT OPEN DAY field visit.....2pm Sunday Sept. 24th
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ENVIRONMENT 2000 lecture.....7.45pm Wednesday Nov. 8th
NEW LIGHT ON THE EARLY MESOLITHIC lecture.....7.45pm Thursday Feb. 15th 1990

FLAG FEN SITE VISIT: Joint meeting with Wellingborough Archaeological Society. Meet at 11.30am at Flag Fen car park (NGR TL223991) Sunday August 13th. Follow signs from junction 7 on the Peterborough Eastern ring road. A guided tour will start at 12 noon. Bring packed lunch. Highly recommended as Flag Fen is rapidly becoming one of the most important and best preserved Bronze Age sites in Western Europe. Admission: £1.40 adults, 90p children.

WEST COTTON & STANWICK EXCAVATIONS OPEN DAY: August Bank Holiday Monday. Open day commences at 10.30am. Site tours throughout the day. An opportunity for an update on this season's Raunds Area Project major excavations on the Roman settlement at Stanwick and the prehistoric, Saxon and Medieval activity at West Cotton. NAS members along with all members of the public welcome. Main car park, off the Stanwick roundabout on the new A605, some 5 miles east of Wellingborough (NGR SP971713) will be sign posted.

KIRBY HALL UPDATE & WEST COTTON LECTURE: NAS breaks new ground on September 18th with our first ever slide lecture in Kirby Hall itself! We meet in the forecourt of the Hall (NGR SP926927) at 7pm for a tour of the excavations currently being undertaken in the Great Garden. Brian Dix will lead the tour and then at 7.30pm will show some slides of the previous year's excavation. At 7.45pm in the room above the parlour, David Windell will talk to us about the last four years of excavation at West Cotton deserted Medieval village near Raunds. This promises to be a great evening complete with light refreshments!

MILTON KEYNES ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT OPEN DAY: Saturday Sept 23rd 1-5pm & Sunday Sept 24th 11am-5pm. Tours of current RB, IA and Medieval excavations together with Romano-British kiln firing, IA round house reconstruction and displays of finds. Visitors welcome anytime, though a special tour for NAS members has been arranged to commence at 2pm on the Sunday. Meet at Wavendon Gate. Access via Groveway H9 (the A421) and Tongwell St V11. Nearest M1 junctions are 13 (follow A421 westwards) and 14 (follow A5130 and then A421 westwards).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ENVIRONMENT 2000: Lecture at 7.45pm at the Corn Market Hall, Kettering on 8th November. Alan Hannan, the County Archaeologist, will talk about Northamptonshire archaeology and the formulation of future policy within the context of the County Council's new Environment 2000 committee.

NEW LIGHT ON THE EARLY MESOLITHIC: Lecture at 7.45pm at the Corn Market Hall, Kettering on Feb. 15th 1990 by Tim Schadla-Hall of the Leicestershire Museums Service. This promises to be an interesting insight into the work that Tim is carrying out at Seamer Carr in the Vale of Pickering, Yorkshire. Not to be missed!

NAS QUESTIONNAIRE

Earlier in the year the Society circulated a questionnaire seeking members' opinions on various aspects of the way the Society is run. In view of its importance it was felt that a brief summary of the results should be included in this issue of NASNEWS. About a third (59) of individual and family members replied together with 3 affiliated Local Societies and some Institutional members. Over half said receipt of the Journal was their principal reason for membership reaffirming the Society's primary commitment to the publication of 'Northamptonshire Archaeology'. The use of micro-fiche was condemned by several. Ninety percent did not oppose the inclusion of adverts in the Journal and 10% were strongly in favour of their use though several stressed that they must not be allowed to become too intrusive or interfere with the overall quality of production. About half the replies found NASNEWS very useful, the others occasionally useful.

With regard to lectures 13.5% found the choice of speakers or subject matter inappropriate; 34% said times or dates were inconvenient and 41% found the location a problem though residence outside the County was not infrequently the reason. Those regularly commuting long distances would prefer a later start to evening meetings. Some referred to being too busy to attend meetings whilst a significant number were not interested in attending any form of lecture or other meeting. Field trips were more popular, 85% being in favour of their continuation. Many useful lecture and field trip suggestions were advanced and will all be carefully considered for inclusion in future programmes. Support was 60:40 against social or fund raising events with almost 65% in favour of more day schools or conferences.

Period interests were as follows though many respondents stressed their all round interests. Prehistoric 20.1%; Roman 19.4%; Anglo-Saxon 25.8%; Medieval 23.7%; Post Medieval 6.4% and Industrial 4.3%.

Generally the replies were complimentary but with useful criticisms, remarks and ideas also being advanced. It is hoped to respond to many of these over the coming years. As a start please note the inclusion of national grid references (NGR) in NASNEWS to assist members in locating field venues. The results of the questionnaire are proving very useful in helping Council formulate the future course of Society activities. Thank you all those who replied. Please don't forget that members' further comments and ideas on any aspect of Society business are always welcomed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Society AGM was held in Kettering on the evening of 19th April 1989. The following is a summary of Chairman Mike Rumbold's report.

The overall cost of producing volume 21 of Northamptonshire Archaeology which appeared during the last year was approximately £8,865. Despite grants from English Heritage and some advertising revenue, the cost to the Society was about £2000. The Editor anticipates that the next volume will be published in late 1989. It will include a reports on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wakerley, an Iron Age site at Wootton Hill Farm Northampton, and the history of medieval Ditchford Bridge, along with more about Raunds and the usual regular features. The Chairman pointed out that more members would help keep down the cost of publication and urged existing members to persuade others to join the Society. Membership continues to stand at a little over 200 including 12 Local and 28 National Organisations. At April 1st, there were 52 outstanding subscriptions. Reference was made to the fluctuating attendance at recent lectures and field trips, which the Chairman hoped might be better understood following consideration of the questionnaire returns. Following a tribute to Society Vice-President Steve Hastings who died late last year the report concluded by thanking Officers and Council Members for their work over the past 12 months. Officers were all re-elected to serve during 1989-90. Messrs B Bellamy, D Jackson and T Pearson were newly elected to serve on the Council.

OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTIONS: Members whose annual subscriptions are still outstanding from September 1988 are requested to forward these promptly to the Treasurer, Mr P Myhill, 28 Port Rd, New Duston, Northampton NN5 6NL. The next issue of the Journal will not be sent to those whose subscriptions are in arrears.

NEW MEMBERS: The following new members are welcomed to the Society: Mr. D Waller, Northampton; Mr E W Timmins, Rugby.

NASNEWS: Apologies for the late arrival of this issue of NASNEWS which arises from delays in finalising the programme. Copy deadline for next issue is Nov. 3rd 1989.