

Dear Members,

I must apologise for the late dispatch of this Newsletter - I have only just managed to fix up our speaker for next week.

Andrew Butcher gave us an update on his work on the Bridgwater town records at our October meeting. He is preparing a new transcription for the Somerset Record Society. The records had been dealt with in an earlier volume, but Andrew showed us how a more intensive study can reveal more interesting information.

We had another reprise for the November meeting. Jane Hill of the South-West Heritage Service told us about the last phase of the Hinkley Point archaeological investigations.



Reconstructed Bronze Age enclosure at Hinkley C site

These were on the southern boundary of the site and revealed a large circular Bronze Age ditch-and-bank structure. The contractors were persuaded to reconstruct this with their diggers which made it come alive. The function of the structure is uncertain. Fires had been lit within it, and a funerary urn was found, but there was no further evidence of occupation. Some members attended the open day at the site last June. A study was also carried out on the site of

Corners Farm, which was abandoned in the late 19th century. Below the floors of the 18th century building were the remains of a mediaeval farmhouse. The study of the Hinkley C Station site has proved that there has been activity from prehistory to modern times.

The Christmas meeting was held at Wembdon Community Centre and was well-attended. Sadly Steve Minnit was unable to speak to us, and so Chris Sidaway took over at the last minute to give us a lively 'virtual tour' of the Coleridge Way.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

I regret that for various reasons I have had problems with the programme for the next few months. Below I give details of a tentative programme. Nearer the time, please check on our website or on the notice board in the Museum.

January 19th. 7.30 p.m. at the Blake Museum

Rob Wilson-North (Exmoor National Park)

'A Knight to remember'

John Knight was an entrepreneur who bought a sizeable piece of Exmoor in 1818. He built a grand house at Simonsbath and he brought about many changes to agricultural practices and so on, but sadly finished up penniless.

February 16th. 7.30 p.m. at the Blake Museum

A.G.M. and Charlotte Westwood (Sedgemoor District Council)

'The work of the Conservation Officer'

March 16th. 7.30 p.m. at the Blake Museum

Speaker to be announced

Richard Brunning 'Excavation of the Beckery Chapel, Meare'. Richard will now speak to us at the June meeting.

Jane Brayne 'The work of the Archaeological Illustrator' I hope that Jayne will come over in April.

Miles Kerr-Peterson 'The Bridgwater ceiling in the Burrell Museum, Glasgow.' Miles will talk to us on Thursday, May 11th. *Not our usual third Thursday!*

Steve Minnit. Steve was unable to come to the Christmas meeting, but has promised to come later in the year.