

B & DAS newsletter

April 2014

Dear Members,

I must apologise for being late in getting details of our forthcoming programme to you before now. I enclose the new programme card.

We have had three meetings since the last Newsletter. In January Barry Lane told us of his studies on the archaeology and buildings of his home village, Westbury-sub-Mendip. This was a fascinating story of the development of a community on the edge of the Mendip escarpment.

The February meeting was the AGM followed by my talk on the work at Fairfield House, Stogursey. The AGM produced no surprises: the existing officers all agreed to continue in their posts, and I will continue as Meetings Secretary. The Fairfield Project was set up in 2005 by Rachel Shaw with the collaboration of Bob Croft & Lady Gass. The primary purpose was to give hands-on experience of archaeology to students from Kilve Court, but as time went on, local schools and interested adults became involved as well. A combination of field work and document studies at the Somerset Heritage Centre resulted in a better understanding of the development of the present house. The original intention was that the project should run for 5 years, but it was decided to continue it, with a wider remit, as the Fairfield Area Studies Team (FAST).

In March Andy Crockett of Wessex Archaeology talked about their study of the area of Steart Point that is to be flooded under the Environment Agency's Steart Peninsula Project. This is a large area which has been rough grazing for many years. The team's first action was to plough strips of this pasture to allow field-walking. This gave them some idea of the sites of interest which they could study in depth with geophysics and excavation. Material from all periods was found: Neolithic, Romano-British, Mediaeval and post-Mediaeval. The area between Steart Drove and the River Parrett had been built-up and drained over many years with cycles of flooding and abandonment, but there has been more human activity in this area than anyone imagined.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2014 are due. The rates remain as last year:

Single membership £12, Family membership £16,
Student membership £4

Cheques should be payable to 'BDAS' & sent to the Membership Secretary,
Jill Polak, Wainbridge, Otterhampton, Bridgwater TA5 2PT.

B. D. A. S Website:

WWW.BRIDGWATERARCHAEOLOGY.ORG.UK