

B & DAS newsletter

January 2015

Dear Members,

At our October meeting Susan Clelland of Wessex Archaeology talked about their study of a huge development site west of Yeovil. Their investigations have been going on for some years and are still not complete. It has been agricultural for most of its history and so while there were finds from all periods, there were no important settlements.

A rather different talk was given to us by Dr. John Ogle, who worked in the Cannington Medical Centre until recently. Just after he left school he had the opportunity to go to Africa to work with Louis Leakey. This was an exciting time soon after the discovery of the oldest humanids. In fact Leakey was involved with setting up a museum in Nairobi and John was given the task of preparing a classification of the local birds. The talk gave a fascinating insight into Leakey's world as an archaeologist, publicist and fund-raiser.

Our Christmas meeting at the Wembdon Community Centre was well attended with the usual fine spread of food. Sadly Bob Croft who was to speak to us failed to appear, and so people had to listen to my ramblings. I will make sure that Bob does come next December! Thank you to everyone for bringing food for the event.

Hannah West has kindly offered to revise our website. She has done a splendid job with the Civic Society's site and so we can look forward to something fresh later in the year.

I hope to see you at the January meeting when Jerry Sampson, Chairman of SANHS, will be presenting an unusual topic.

With all good wishes for 2015.

Please note that the date of the AGM has been changed to **February 12th** as our Chairman will be on the high seas on the 19th. We do need some new blood on the Committee, so please consider joining us. It is not too arduous - we only meet four times a year - and it would be nice to have some fresh faces and ideas.

The annual subscriptions are due. A payment slip is attached to the AGM agenda. You can pay at the AGM, or if you are unable to attend, please send your cheque to Jill Polak by post.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, January 15th. 7.30 p.m. in the Blake Museum.

Jerry Sampson will talk about 'Anchorites in Somerset Churches'.

The Anchorites were mediaeval holy men who were based in churches. They usually lived in an anchorhold - a cell in the churchyard often attached to the church. They were swept away at the Reformation, but traces of their cells remain in many Somerset churchyards. Jerry has been studying these, and feels that these sites present a new field of archaeological research.

Thursday, February 12th. 7.30 p.m. in the Blake Museum.

A.G.M. and Hannah West will talk about her recent researches on Bridgwater Friary. Hannah talked about her study of the Friary and St. John's Hospital two years ago. She will now bring us up to date on where her research is leading her. I can't promise a musical interlude this time!

Alan Hudson will be sending out the AGM notice and annual accounts to those on his e-mail list. For other members, these are enclosed.

Thursday, March 19th. 7.30 p.m. in the Blake Museum.

Laura Burnett, Finds Officer, Somerset Heritage

'The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Somerset & Finds from around Bridgwater'.

Laura has been in post for several years now, and has gathered a wealth of experience around the County. She will talk about some recent finds. While this is not a formal finds evening, I am sure she would be pleased to see anything of interest that you care to bring along.

OTHER MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 27th, 7.30 p.m. in Stolford Church (G.R. ST227449)

Jane Hill (Southwest Heritage Trust) will talk about the recent discoveries on the route of the Cannington bypass. All are welcome. A small donation is requested. Parking is restricted at the church and you may have to park in the lanes nearby. Bring a torch as it is very dark!

Saturday, February 21st. 9.30 a.m. Strode Theatre, Street

'The Archaeology of the Severn Estuary & Beyond'

A meeting organised by the Severn Estuary L.R.C. and the S.W. Heritage Trust. The 'Beyond' includes Glastonbury and Cheddar, and goes as far as the Roman site at Blomberg Place, London.

Tickets £18/ £16 concessions.