



NDAS News sheet, September, 2008

### **The NDAS Summer programme 2008:**

Three events were planned for this summer. The first, a boat ride on the Torridge to look at historical and archaeological features from the water, took place on 8<sup>th</sup> June, when twelve members took part. The boatman took us as far up the river as the tide would allow, and we were able to observe first hand many of the features that Chris Preece discussed in his recent booklet on the Archaeology of The Taw Torridge Estuary (discounted copies of which may be obtained through the Society). The weather was beautiful and the morning was rewarding and enjoyable.

*The state of the tide did not allow us to get as far as the sea-lock (Rolle Canal) at Weare Giffard. Chris is prepared to arrange a visit on foot for any members interested. Please give him a call on 01237 475368.*

The second event, an archaeological walk round Hartland and Stoke with Stephen Hobbs, was cancelled through lack of takers. Pity!

The third, may I remind you, is on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September**: A 'Cider Walk' around Braunton viewing orchards and cider-presses (plus sampling and a cream tea!) with Chris and Ann Mandry. Meet at Fairlynch Farm SS475375 at 10.30am. Packed lunch and appropriate footwear and weather gear required. Finish about 4.00pm after a cream tea at Upcott. If you wish to join in please phone Ann and Chris Mandry on 01271 813369.

*Note: The Taw and Torridge Metal Detectorists' Club have asked Stephen Hobbs if he will take them on the Hartland walk on 1<sup>st</sup> September. If any NDAS member would like to join in with the metal detectorists, then please contact Keith Hughes on 01237 475168.*

### **The NDAS Winter Programme 2008-9:**

The following talks have been arranged for the coming winter season:

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October: Keith Hughes on **Metal Detecting in North Devon**. Keith is chairman of the Taw & Torridge Metal Detecting Club.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November: Martin Watts on **Mills in the Devon Landscape**. Martin is the acknowledged authority on mills in Devon.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January: Terry Green on **The NDAS Excavation of a Hillslope Enclosure at Holworthy Farm, Parracombe: Final Update and Conclusions**.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February: Bill Horner on **The Work of the County Historic Environment Service**. Bill is one of the leaders of the County Council's Archaeology Team which has charge of the Historic Environment Record (formerly Sites and Monuments Register)

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April: Helena Jaeschke on **Archaeological Conservation: Preserving the Past**. Helena is a conservator on the staff of the RAM Museum in Exeter

All of the above will, as usual, take place at 7.30 pm at Pilton Community College, Chaddiford Lane, Barnstaple.

Thanks go to Derry Bryant for setting up the programme.

PLEASE NOTE:

The AGM will be at 7.00 pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple. This venue will enable us to stay longer and make more of the evening. The plan at present is to follow the business meeting with the usual social get-together as well as a number of short presentations. More to follow.

Also, in December we have our annual dinner. Date and details will follow in due course.

### **Training Day:**

The training day (on tracing the history of your house) originally planned for May was postponed to the autumn because the Local Studies Centre (Barnstaple Library) would be closed for the replacement of windows. As it turned out, the work was postponed and is in fact still not finished. The work will be completed some time this autumn, but at present no-one knows exactly when. It is not possible therefore to provide a firm date for the training day and it seems that it may have to be postponed again, this time until spring 2009.

### **The NDAS Newsletter:**

As you were informed in the previous (May) update, the twice-yearly production of a newsletter has been abandoned. This is however, not as negative a move as it might seem. To replace the high quality product that you have become used to, we (the Newsletter Committee) are currently planning the first of an annual production to be ready by February. We're not sure yet what to call it – 'Proceedings' is a bit pretentious – but the purpose is to report annually on developments in archaeological and historical research and the various community initiatives taking place in the north of the County and neighbouring areas. At present we are in the process of commissioning contributions and so far have met with a very encouraging response. You should find yourselves in possession of a nicely produced, informative and collectable item.

Meanwhile, you are being kept informed of Society plans, dates and developments through these twice-yearly news-sheets.

Any member who wishes to pass information to the Society through the news sheet or through the annual publication should contact Terry Green on 01271 374429 or email: [gw yngala@talktalk.net](mailto:gw yngala@talktalk.net).

### **The NDAS Library:**

This is just to remind you that the Society maintains a 'library' – at present a couple of shelves – in the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon.

Access to the library is through the reception desk at the museum. Show your membership card and you will be allowed in. Additions to the library are welcome, so if you have anything that you might wish to contribute – books, pamphlets, periodicals - then contact Sarah Kerr on 01271 830079.

### **The NDAS Website:**

The Society's website is kept updated by Stephen Hobbs. Don't forget to check it out at [www.ndas.org.uk](http://www.ndas.org.uk).

### **Membership:**

At present the paid-up membership of the Society stands at around 80. If you haven't yet renewed for the current year, you will be receiving a reminder with this news sheet. If you know of anyone who should be encouraged to join, please assure them that they are very welcome, that no experience is necessary and that their membership will help to further research into the archaeology and history of northern Devon. Potential new members should contact James Coulter on 01271 830130 or by email: [somers3328@aol.com](mailto:somers3328@aol.com) The current subscription is £16 per annum for individuals, £24 for couples at the same address and £5 for students.