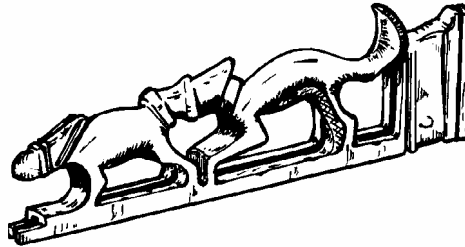


AMPTHILL & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL & LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Newsletter 8 th July 2009

*Kevan Fadden,
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Dear Member,

In the last Newsletter I gave an out line of the proposed excavation on the "Castle site" in Ampthill Park, the good news is that the excavation is going ahead as planned and will be carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology. They will be working to a geophysics survey this Society produced some years ago. I have copied below some relevant excerpts from an email from Hannah Firth of Central Bedfordshire Archaeology which I hope will fill in details of interest to you. I am sure most of you will wish to visit the site and there will be a lot of activity in the park on Saturday 25th by which time I hope we shall know some of the answers to our questions.

The excavations will begin on **Monday 13th July** and run until **Wednesday 29th July**. The erection of the security fences, turf removal and machining of the trenches is scheduled to take place on **Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th July**. Backfilling and site clean-up will take place on **Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th July**. No excavations will take place over the weekend of **18th and 19th July**

The site Open Day will take place on **Saturday 25th July** alongside the Aragon Day celebrations **11am until 3pm**. Tours of the trenches will start at 11am and run on the hour every hour until 2pm, these tours will be undertaken by staff from Northamptonshire Archaeology. The ADALHS will also be offering demonstrations of geophysical techniques and providing information on the history of the Park. Archaeologists from CBC and English Heritage will also be on hand all day to answer questions. We will ensure that our activities compliment the inauguration of the cross not detract from it.

Volunteers - We would like volunteers for the excavations from **Wednesday 15th July** and the site can accommodate up to a maximum of 10 volunteers per day. Volunteers will have the opportunity to assist with the excavations, finds processing and work with the ADALHS on the geophysical survey. For Health and Safety reasons all volunteers must be over 18 years of age, they need to bring sturdy footwear and sensible clothing (but will be issued with any special equipment they may require on site), they will need to provide details of an emergency contact, give details of any medical conditions or limits to their physical abilities and give advance notice of which days they wish to attend the excavations. We will be contacting Redborne School and offering supervised placements to their sixth form students but unfortunately we cannot take younger volunteers.

Publicity - Northamptonshire Archaeology will make sure that there are a series of signs and information boards on site that can be easily updated with the progress of the project. They will also give a "daily talk" held at 4pm each day when the main discoveries of the day will be reported. The "daily talk" is open to all members of the public. I have been in contact with the CBC Press Office and will ask them to release details of the project including the Open Day and daily talks. Any press releases will be sent to Ampthill Town Council for prior approval.

If you have any questions please contact me and I shall do my best to answer them.

Kevan Fadden