



THE FRIENDS of SADDLEWORTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Newsletter

No 5

Winter 2008



The first meeting of the winter was held on the 14th October when Andrew Davison of English Heritage told us of the work they do. He outlined the structure of the team he leads from the Manchester office and some of the problems they encounter in the work they do. Andrew was the Inspector when the Roman fortlet at Castleshaw was excavated in the 1980's & is currently the Inspector at Buckton Castle.

November is the month of The Stonehouse Memorial Lecture and a capacity audience heard Dr. John Peter Wild deliver his lecture entitled 'The Archaeology of Cotton' He told of his work in the Egyptian desert at Berenike and Qasr Ibrim where he identified the textile material found as cotton instead of the usual flax.



On the 18th November Dr. Richard Gregory told us of his excavations in 2006 in the vicus area of the Roman fort at Manchester. A number of sites were involved and it is hoped that a publication will appear early next year.

The final lecture of the 2008 Session was given by The Greater Manchester County Archaeologist, Norman Redhead to a capacity audience. He told of a



number of castles in Greater Manchester including Buckton Castle where the ongoing excavations are giving us a new understanding of the enigmatic earthworks that overlook Mossley. Norman is giving us a lecture in December 2009 when he will devote his entire talk to Buckton Castle

Enclosed with this Newsletter is our Programme Card for 2009. We have arranged a varied programme of lectures, hopefully to suit everyone's taste and interest. We hope to see you all at our forthcoming lectures.

Also enclosed are Notice of Annual General Meeting and our Accounts for 2008. After the A.G.M. David is giving an illustrated quiz relating to Saddleworth's archaeology and will show slides of a wide variety of sites for members of the audience to identify. A small prize will be given to the winner so please bring a pen or pencil to write your answers down.

The Treasurer has taken the opportunity to enclose a Membership renewal form and we hope members will continue to support the Trust and the work it does in trying to preserve both the archaeological and historical heritage of Saddleworth at a time when the district is coming under great pressure from the additional hazards of indiscriminate development and threats to the Green Belt. We value your membership and hope that we can look forward to your continued support.

A number of members jointed late in the year and their subscriptions carry over into 2009. No renewal form is enclosed for these members.

We welcome the following new members.

Ruth Garratt, Levenshulme; Dorothy and David Latimer, Grotton; Jane Neild, Greenfield; Mrs F. Needle, Uppermill; Margaret Payne, Diggle; Elizabeth Stott, Dobcross; Simon Travis, Shaw; Rita Vaughan, Mossley;

Drs. J.P. and F.C. Wild; Heaton Moor.

A number of members have asked if the Friends had a constitution. We have, and we have taken the opportunity to print it here.

CONSTITUTION

Name of Organisation

The name of the organisation shall be 'The Friends of Saddleworth Archaeological Trust' henceforth referred to as 'Friends'

Objects

The Friends comprise a separate organisation responsible for assisting the Trustees of the Saddleworth Archaeological Trust (founded 1995) to run the Trust in a financial and practical manner.

The objects of the Friends shall be identical to those of the Trust, as follows;

- 1) To promote the advancement of education by developing public interest in all aspects of the archaeological heritage of Saddleworth and the adjacent district.
- 2) To encourage and to publish original archaeological research.

Membership

Membership of the Friends shall be open to all on payment of an annual subscription

Officers

A minimum of three Officers will administer the Friends, a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

These officers shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

The Officers will also have the power to co-opt other persons to assist with the running of the Friends.

Finance

Whilst the Officers will, in general, be responsible for the funds of the Friends, the Officer taking the role of Treasurer will be authorised to operate a bank account.

The Treasurer shall maintain properly kept books and prepare each year accounts that will reflect the financial status of the Friends.

All cheques issued will require two signatures.

Raising of Funds

The Officers shall be empowered, after consultation with the Trustees, to raise funds using whatever legal methods to assist the Saddleworth Archaeological Trust in achievement of the Objects of the Trust. (see section 2 above)

Dissolution of the Friends of Saddleworth Archaeological Trust

The Friends of Saddleworth Archaeological Trust may be dissolved by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present with voting rights at a Special Meeting at which twenty one days notice has been given in writing. All assets remaining after all debts and liabilities have been paid shall be returned to the Saddleworth Archaeological Trust provided that the archives in the event of such dissolution shall remain open to the public.

General News

Councillor Mike Buckley has been appointed **Heritage Champion** by O.M.B.C. This is an appointment encouraged by English Heritage and whilst Mike is not in charge of any department he does speak up at meetings in support of preserving O.M.B.C.'s heritage.

Another O.M.B.C. appointment is that of Mrs Karen Heverin to the position of **Conservation Officer**.

Recently Ken Booth attended a meeting at The Manchester Museum, which had been called to explore the possibility of re-forming **The Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation**. This was last in existence in the 1980's and at that time Ken was the Treasurer of the Federation. Representatives from 12 local Archaeological Societies attended the meeting and the general consensus was that a Federation should be formed to bring together like-minded societies to enable them to share knowledge, speakers and expertise. The possibility of a newsletter, an annual Greater Manchester Archaeological Journal and an Annual Archaeology Day/Conference were also discussed. Members will be kept informed of developments.

Ken and David are members of **The Manchester Museum Consultative Group** and, recently a meeting was held to disuse proposed changes to the museum archaeology gallery on the second floor. This currently houses the Mediterranean gallery and it is thought that the time has arrived to make changes and perhaps include more local material.

Saddleworth Museum has received a grant to reorganise the **Roman Saddleworth** displays, currently contained in one case. The display area has been tripled and Ken is currently working with Peter Fox and a Digital Imaging Company to bring together the material required dealing with the Roman road, fort, fortlet. A more representative selection of finds from all the excavations has been loaned to be included in the display. At the same time that the Roman display is being up-graded David is preparing a new display for the **Prehistoric Saddleworth** case using new material and artwork. It is intended to display many of the important Saddleworth finds ie. the Ragstones flint dagger, which are currently housed in the museum store room.

Manchester Museum currently run a Young Archaeologist Club and we can use this facility. Anyone interested should contact Bryan Sitch at the Manchester Museum Tele 0161-306-1582 or e-mail Bryan.Sitch@manchester.ac.uk

The 2009 Stonehouse Lecture has been arranged and will take place on Saturday 7th November at the Royal George Hotel, Greenfield. This year, Dr. Michael Nevell, Director, The Field Archaeology Centre, Manchester University, will tell us of **Saddleworth's Industrial Heritage**.

Mike is involved with the next publication from the Trust, **The Industrial Archaeology of Saddleworth**. This publication relies on a Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and we are preparing an application at this moment.