

# NORTH DEVON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



**ISSUE 8 AUTUMN 2004**

## NDAS Committee 2004-5

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Rosemary Akers, Derry Bryant, Terry Green, Jane Green, David Grenfell, Colin Humphreys, Jonathan Lomas, Ann Mandry, Alistair Miller, Chris Preece, Maureen Wood.

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National Sites and Monuments Record (Swindon): 01793 414600

## Contents

**Editorial** - Advancing the good work!

**Summer 2004** - Excavations at Holworthy Farm

**The Site Supervisor's Tale**

**The NDAS Local history Day**

**Investigations at Hatherleigh** - an Update

**Field-walk and Test-pitting at High Bray**

**Excavations at Harris's Shaft**, Combe Martin

**ACE at Teigncombe**

**Digging at Blacklake Wood**

**A Short Bleep! on Metal Detecting**

**Tiverton Archaeological Group** - Autumn Report

**The NDAS Resistivity Meter**

**Winkleigh House Scouts**

**News from the North Devon record office**

**The North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

**Books**

**Dates for Your Diary**

## Advancing the good work!

### Editorial

First an apology for the late appearance of this newsletter. One reason is legitimate; the other is just excuses! You don't want to hear excuses, so here's the perfectly good reason. It seemed sensible to wait until we could report on the Local History Day that NDAS organised at South Molton on 23rd October, which is what we did, but then other things intervened and ... Anyway, here it is at last.

The History Day was a great success and achieved its objective, namely a gathering together of people in northern Devon who have local history on their minds. It was about sharing and networking, and, as somebody said around lunch-time on the day, it's actually happening! Now of course, the thing is not just to leave it there. The central register of groups and their interests which was proposed at the end of the day should be a starting point encouraging people to share information and get together productively. An initial product of this might be a public exhibition, which might be followed, - who knows? - by further exercises in making knowledge widely available; publications even?

Networking certainly worked for the Holworthy dig. It was very well supported not only by NDAS members, but by our neighbours from TAG (Tiverton) and by people who are not in any group, but had heard about it through the media. Holworthy takes up a large part of this issue of the newsletter for the very good reason that it is important in regional terms and a significant NDAS achievement. Hillslope enclosures have been high on the agenda of archaeology in the South-West for a very long time, yet apart from an example at Rudge near Morchard Bishop (excavated by Malcolm Todd in 1986-9), none in Devon has hitherto been looked at in any detail. The Holworthy hillslope enclosure becomes only the second in the

county to reveal its nature and it's been a bit of a surprise. These things are usually supposed to be late prehistoric (Iron Age) in origin, but Holworthy appears to be much earlier and (barring any surprises when we get a Carbon 14 date) is stretching the chronology and is currently the only proven Bronze Age settlement on Exmoor.

Mention of C14 dates prompts me to point out that excavation costs money. While we have been fortunate in raising grants to help out, in the end we have to rely on our own resources, ie. the membership subscriptions. Hence we are currently having a membership drive with a new publicity leaflet being placed in libraries, museums, tourist information centres and even in estate agents' offices. You will have received an example with this newsletter which we should like you to place under the nose of someone who might be persuaded to join. If your local library or museum does not appear to have any, please let us know and we shall resupply them (or you can collect some yourself from the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon).

From all this it should be clear that NDAS is making progress in raising its profile, reaching out and achieving its aims. None of this happens without people making an effort. It was terrific having so many volunteers helping on the Holworthy dig, but we still have a limited number of individuals tackling the organisational tasks. Let's be quite frank about it here. The Society needs more members to come forward and help - we need fresh blood. If you feel that you could help in any way, from organising an open day to just making the tea - or perhaps helping to produce this newsletter (?), please make yourself known to any committee member. Your society needs you!

## Summer 2004 Excavations at Holworthy Farm

Terry Green



*A happy line of trowellers*

On 19th July 2004, 20 volunteers including members of NDAS and of TAG as well as four students from Exeter University gathered together at Holworthy Farm, Parracombe to begin the season's excavation on the Holworthy hillslope enclosure. The weather was benign, tented accommodation had been provided by RMB Chivenor, portaloos had arrived, the proposed trenches had been mechanically deturfed and sheep and cattle were kept at bay by a very effective electric fence. This year we were employing a site supervisor in the person of Dr Martin Gillard of English Heritage and Exeter University who freelances as an excavator. Martin brought with him four student volunteers from Exeter, Sam, James, Nick and Flick (Felicity!) who were comfortably accommodated in a barn at Walner Farm. In addition, Martin's partner Genna had baked a cake which was ceremonially doled out with a (clean) trowel at the first morning tea-break. Things were off to a good start and in general were to stay that way.

Since the 2003 evaluation trenches had turned up evidence of Bronze Age occupation, the plan for 2004 was to open up a larger area so that the pottery and gully feature previously exposed could be seen within a broader context. In addition we wanted to explore the nature of key features of the site highlighted by Ross Dean's magnetometry

survey. This meant open-area excavation as well as trenches, and consequently the Society was into its first full-scale excavation on a potentially very important site. Fortunately we were also blessed with a goodly quantity of enthusiastic volunteers (some 30 in all) from NDAS and from TAG and from the general public. They all deserve our heartfelt thanks for their hard work. In this regard, our thanks go again to Phil and Julie Rawle of Holworthy Farm for permission to dig and to Fred, Sue and Robbie Rawle for permission to access the site across their land; We also wish to thank Phil and Jean Griffiths for providing accommodation for the students and for allowing us to hold our barbecue at Walner Farm at the end of the Open Day. Thanks also go to RMB Chivenor for the loan of tents and of men to put them up.

### **The Excavation:**

Ross Dean had previously been over the site with resistivity and gradiometer surveys and worked up the data into very readable colour-coded plots which enabled us to place our open areas and trenches where we might acquire the most information.

Trench 1 was laid out 12.0m x 1.5m E-W across the E enclosure bank. At this point the slight earthwork seemed relatively well preserved so we



*Holding aloft the (mini)saddle quern*

hoped to get a good idea of its construction. We also wanted to explore a linear feature which the geophysical survey showed curving around the edge of the enclosure at this point.

Trench 2 was an open area laid out 10.0m x 10.0m in the NE quadrant of the enclosure. The purpose of this was to pursue the implications of the Middle Bronze Age pottery vessel and of the length of gully filled with charcoal and charcoal stained soil found in 2003. This area lay across a slight platform which had been previously identified by earthwork survey and which included possible areas of burning activity identified by the geophysics.

Trench 3 was laid out 12.0m x 1.5m to the NE of Trench 2. Like Trench 1, the purpose here was to explore the linear feature identified by geophysical survey and to ascertain its relationship to the enclosure.

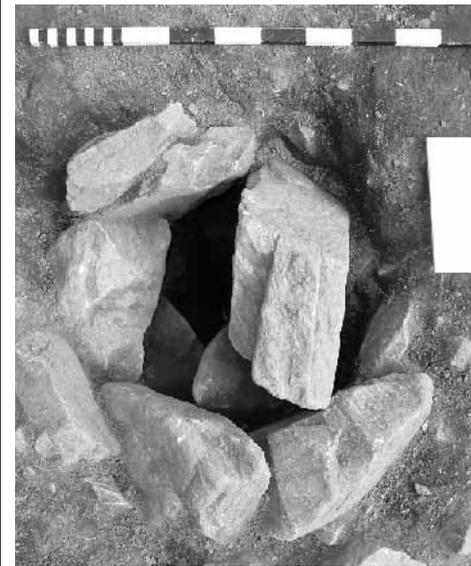
Trench 4 was laid out 4.0m x 4.0m at a distance of 30.0m NW of Trench 2 in an area where geophysical survey had indicated a number of linear features which suggested small rectilinear enclosures, possibly ditched or fenced paddocks or small arable fields. In addition the linear feature to be explored in Trenches 1 and 3

also reached this far and crossed the edge of one of the "enclosures". The purpose here, therefore, was to examine this junction of features.

### **The Results:**

#### **Trench 1:**

After removal of the turf and ploughsoil, a 1.5m – 2.0m wide band of densely packed stone was revealed lying N-S just below the highest point of the enclosure bank. When this was further explored by removal of the stone, it was found that the earthwork had been formed by cutting into the natural slope and revetting the resulting surface with stone. To the E beyond this band of stone lay a random scatter of stone of varying size lying in a restricted, but not coherent band running N-S through the trench. There was the possibility that this might represent the linear feature identified by geophysical survey, but when the area was examined by box-section, nothing identifiable was revealed. There was however an irregular area of disturbance in the SE corner of the trench, but this was thought to represent tree-root disturbance. From the ploughsoil one fragment of possible metal working slag was



*One of the plugged post-holes of the round-house*

recovered. This was sent for analysis and was found to contain high levels of copper and arsenic. This raised the tantalising possibility of copper working somewhere nearby, but as the fragment was in the ploughsoil, it could not reliably be tied to the site. However, beneath the compact stonework or revetting a quantity of burnt material was exposed. This was bulk-sampled and awaits analysis.

#### **Trench 2:**

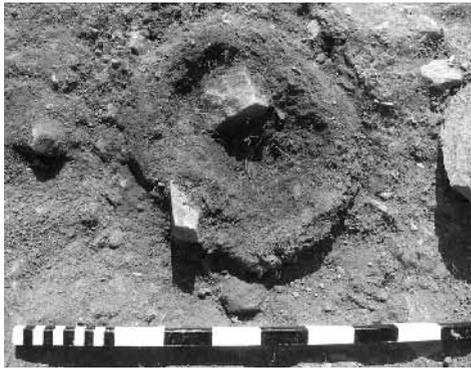
This large area was the most revealing. Removal of the turf and initial mattocking of the ploughsoil revealed a broad and quite dense spread of stone such as had been seen in previous years. This was concentrated towards the NE of the area, becoming less pronounced to the SW. A few sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered. Successive campaigns of mattocking and trowelling finally removed the overburden of ploughsoil and stone spread, revealing a predominantly orange subsoil with a great deal of embedded stone. The section of gully revealed in 2003 which had been thought perhaps to represent a drip-gully, in fact turned out to be part of a shallow trench snaking SE – NW across

the site. It was very apparent as a feature filled with dark soil standing out against the orange. Originating towards the SE of the area, it began as a shallow bowl the base of which was apparently baked. The high charcoal content of the fill began at this point and continued for roughly 3.5m. Farther to the NW the trench became more shallow and the fill less dark. Large stones sunk into the fill or lying on top of it were a feature of the trench, as were a number of flint thumbnail scrapers scattered through the fill. At one point very careful excavation revealed what appear to be the carbonised remains of a wooden bowl apparently abandoned in the ashes.

A considerable number of post-hole features were identified. Prominent among these were six, ultimately seven large postholes which were stone-lined and clearly formed two thirds of a circle. It is assumed that these represent the major supporting posts of a roundhouse, which was probably 12m-13m in diameter. The vessel found in 2003 would have been within this structure. Near to its location a quantity of pottery sherds were found mostly in association with a shallow scoop containing charcoal or carbonised wood. Within the area of the apparent roundhouse we also found a small saddle-quern, a clay loom-weight and - in a post-hole – a stone tool which may have been used for leather-working. Other post-holes identified may represent divisions within the roundhouse, but more convincingly show a relationship with the charcoal-filled gully which could pre-date the roundhouse. Other post-holes were found sealed beneath what appears to be redeposited material and may date from a period before the enclosure was made. Interestingly a number of the major post-holes were sealed off with a large stone placed in the centre, as if, on abandonment of the site, the posts had been removed and the post-holes plugged or capped.

#### **Trench 3:**

Features found in Trench 3 were very similar to those seen in Trench 1, ie. a band of densely packed stone, a band of random stone and a scoop where the hillside had been dug into



*Carbonised wooden object emerging – a bowl?*

apparently to form a scarp and a platform. As in Trench 1, a box-section was dug to explore beneath the random stone, but no feature resembling a ditch could be identified.

#### **Trench 4:**

This 16m<sup>2</sup> area was meticulously excavated by Sam Wells, one of the Exeter students. The major features identified were a single large post-hole in the W corner of the area. This was stone-lined and 'capped' just like those in Trench 2; a spread of random stone like that seen in Trenches 1 and 3; a line of stake-holes running E-W and corresponding in orientation to the edges of the 'paddocks' suggested by geophysical survey. There was, however, again no clear sign of the linear feature.

#### **Provisional Conclusions:**

This part of the earthwork was formed by cutting into the natural slope of the ground and drawing material forward to form a platform. The scarp formed by cutting into the ground was revetted with stone. There may have been a palisade or dead-hedge on top of this.

- There may have been a structure on the site before the formation of the earthwork.

- There was a period during which activity on the site involved burning within a trench.
- This activity probably pre-dates the construction of a major roundhouse.
- As the stone lining and capping of the large post-holes were already apparent in the lowest layer of overburden, they probably represent – in the form of a large round-house - the last phase of activity.
- To have survived intact and in situ, the vessel base found in 2003 must also belong to the most recent phase of activity on the site. It therefore provides broad dating for this phase, ie. Middle Bronze Age, around 1,000 – 1,200 BC.
- There may well have been small paddock-like enclosures associated with the earthwork, but firm conclusions cannot yet be drawn about this. The single post-hole found "capped" in Trench 4 suggests the possibility of another large structure to the west.

#### **Possible Future Work:**

There is a further area of geophysical interest in the SW quadrant of the enclosure. The interest centres upon a "burning event". If analysis of soil samples suggests some kind of "industrial" activity, further exploration may be necessary

- The possibility of an entrance to the enclosure on the SE probably needs to be examined.
- The system of "paddocks" invites further investigation.
- The possibility of a structure to the west also invites investigation.

With so much burning activity on the site, we have a lot of charcoal from which to select samples for Carbon 14 dating and possibly species identification. In addition we have numerous bulk samples taken from different contexts which need to be treated in order to extract possible

environmental evidence. Treatment means wet sieving and sorting by flotation. This is a wet and probably chilly job, but has the potential to be very rewarding. Physically separating environmental treasures from soil and clay is a job for volunteers. Any offers? Please contact Alistair (01598 740359)

#### **Higher Holworthy**

While we were digging on the hillslope enclosure, Jim Knights took a party of volunteers down to the abandoned site of Higher Holworthy in the valley below. This small settlement was shown as inhabited at the time of the Tithe Survey (1840's), but was deserted by the time of the 1851 census. In the 1840's it was a separate holding from Holworthy being occupied by Thomas Dovell. All we see now is an irregular enclosure, a ruined barn and some struggling apple-trees. Jim had previously used the Society's resistivity meter to conduct a geophysical survey on the site and had come up with what appeared to be traces of a building. As far as we could tell this was in the right position to represent a building shown on the tithe map, but only excavation would prove it. So Jim's party of volunteers dug test-pits. And lo and behold, they came down on the stump of a wall and the remnants of a slate-flagged floor! There was a certain amount of pottery of late 18th and early 19th century date and the stump of wall had been rendered in lime plaster. So this was a domestic building and very probably the house of Thomas Dovell. This site needs more work which will probably be included in any future excavation at Holworthy Farm.

*The following bodies helped NDAS to fund the Holworthy Excavation in 2004:*

*Council for British Archaeology: £500*

*Exmoor Trust: £200*

*North Devon District Council (Community Grants): £684*

*Royal Archaeological Institute: £1200*

## **Excavations at Harris's Shaft, Combe Martin 2004**

**Trevor Dunkerley**

The above excavations are now complete. The Combe Martin Silver Mines Research and Preservation Society has been using landscape archaeological techniques to further its information base of the Mine Close and Mine Tenement site. Over the last two years we have used geophysical survey (examination and plotting of sub-surface features, using fluxgate gradiometer and resistance surveys), geomorphological research (examining the geology and soils around Harris's shaft), and 'test-pits', (to test hypotheses developed through fieldwork). In 2005 we will be using topographical survey (the production of scaled plans using equipment such as distance measuring devices, plane-tables or tapes) to further the information already gained.

Two achievements of the excavations stand out. Firstly, through the identification and dating of clay pipe bowls and pottery sherds, we have determined that the mines continued to be worked during the 18th century. There is no documentary evidence for this. Secondly, as the diagram shows, it is now evident that Corner Lane, which divides the fields of Mine Close and Mine Tenement, was originally as deep at this point as at the village end of the lane providing further evidence that Corner Lane may originally have been a deep open mining trench throughout its length.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of NDAS and TAG who have assisted with these excavations over the last two years. In 2005 we will be looking at the piece of ground in front of the Blacksmith's Shop on which Jim Knights carried out a resistance survey this year, the results of which appear to show foundations of further buildings and possibly the site of the mine reservoir and water wheel.

# The Site Supervisor's Tale

Martin Gillard



*Martin preparing to cement relationships with the team by means of cake.*

It would be an exaggeration to say I was nervous at the prospect of supervising the NDAS excavations at Holworthy Farm, but I would be lying if I did not admit to a touch of apprehension. As it turned out, there was no need to be concerned – a keener or more cooperative group of diggers would be hard to find, and to top it all, this was an interesting site in a wonderful Exmoor setting!

As you doubtless know, the site at Holworthy Farm is of the sort labelled by archaeologists a 'hill-slope enclosure'. Prehistorians like to categorise sites, probably because they are short of hard information – or is that my medievalist's prejudice coming out? These sites are found in their hundreds across Cornwall, north Devon and west Somerset and have in the past been thought to be Iron Age (c500BC – 43 AD) in date. The fact that past excavations at Holworthy had turned up earlier, Bronze Age material is of importance for the region's archaeology as a whole: the dating of this entire category of monuments will have to be rethought. Therefore, NDAS' work at this one site is of significance across Exmoor and beyond.

When it came to the actual digging, the whole

team - from veterans to 'first timers' – were enthusiastic and keen and quick to develop their excavation skills. No offence was taken when I suggested refinements to trowelling techniques; the grumbling was strictly good natured when I requested straighter sections or that people might wish to go back to where they had started and trowel-back again! Or is that just an assumption? Perhaps the NDAS diggers are better actors than I give them credit for?

As for the archaeology, old hands like me are never happy until we have 'found natural' – the undisturbed bedrock and subsoil – so we have something to leave blank on our plans and to distinguish from the features. On Exmoor, the natural tends to be weathered shillet or sandstone, soft material that leaves one longing for the certainties of the hard, clean chalk of Wessex. I have been known to hug and even kiss a digger for finding natural, only to discover that it was a band of redeposited material! (When I tell you that the digger was Big Sam - one of the student volunteers - you will appreciate how important this is to me, or how I need to get out more!) Nevertheless, we were able at Holworthy

to define the bank of the enclosure as a spread of heaped stone, and identify some features within it – notably a substantial roundhouse. The fact that the bank lacked a ditch serves to distinguish it from some other hill-slope enclosures where a ditch is visible in the earthwork; evidently this category of monument is not as simple as might have been supposed. The roundhouse was a real thrill for me, as those present on the last day will have observed. Personally I am more excited by structures and buildings than finds and artefacts. Just imagine that windy hillside 3000 years ago, with an oval, stone-walled enclosure and thatched roundhouses huddled within it. Of course, the finds are important as well – the pottery and flints seem to confirm the Bronze Age date and the

tantalising hints of metal-working, if confirmed, would make this lovely site very rare indeed.

In conclusion, can I extend my thanks to all the NDAS excavators for their hard work and enthusiasm; and for the warm welcome that was extended to me and the student diggers: Flick, Nick, James and Sam, who all had a great time. There have been disputes in British archaeology over the role of 'professionals' and 'amateurs' – the Holworthy excavations confirmed what I have suspected all along: to be professional or amateur has nothing to do with being paid and everything to do with how we go about our business. By that criterion the NDAS team are as professional a group as I have ever worked with. Many thanks! Hope we can do it all again some time!



*Cap'n Gillard with his faithful Man Friday David Parker*

# The NDAS Local History Day

Terry Green

On Saturday 23rd October 2004 NDAS held an all-day "forum" for Local History groups in the Assembly Rooms at South Molton. Committee member Derry Bryant had taken on the task of setting it up and deserves hearty congratulations for the scope of her organisation and the all-round success of the day.

The idea of such a gathering was first floated in the January NDAS Committee meeting and was discussed in the Editorial to the Spring 2004 Newsletter. At that time it was not clear whether it would take the form of an exhibition or a gathering of people with common interests or both. In the end it was decided that the primary purpose at this stage was to provide people with a meeting point where they could share ideas and information, so the idea of a public exhibition was put on hold. Invitations were therefore sent out both to Local History groups all across northern

Devon and to NDAS members. The response was immediate and enthusiastic with up to 90 individuals wishing to attend.

On the day the weather was foul and it does credit to those who attended that they were ready to carry their displays across Devon, struggle through South Molton's Farmers' Market day traffic and hump their kit up the stairs to the Assembly Rooms despite the conditions. The result was well worth it. Seventeen groups were due to put on displays (in the end two pulled out owing to illness) and by 9.30 on the morning of 23rd October, South Molton's magnificent main assembly room was lined with tables and display boards bearing photos, documents, maps and some attractive publications illustrating the hard work and enthusiasm of groups from all points of the compass (For a list of exhibitors see below). Among the displays was our own stand where we



Jenny Yendall making her proposal at the end of the day.

presented our fishweirs project, the Holworthy dig, recent work at High Bray and the participation of NDAS members in the Exmoor Iron Project.

The format of the day was a split between 30-minute talks, informal meetings and a final open forum. NDAS began the day with a brief introduction to the Society and its aims and activities. This was followed by Jonathan Edmonds of the Friends of South Molton Museum who read a paper on the history of the South Molton Assembly Rooms, Guild Hall and Courtroom. Jonathan then provided a guided tour of the building in which participants had the rare privilege of viewing the Mayor's Parlour, while at the same time those who felt so inclined watched a slide show about early 20th century South and North Molton. From this point on, talks were held in a side room, giving people the choice of listening or continuing to examine and discuss the displays in the main hall. The morning's talks concluded with a presentation by Tim Wormleighton on the work of the North Devon Records Office in which he gave a "virtual" tour of the building and introduced the range of documents that are kept there.

After lunch Shirley Bray and Derrica Hodgson of South Molton Archive talked about the loss of historic buildings in South Molton and the need to record buildings before it becomes too late. Next came Stephen Hobbs of the Hartland Archive Project who spoke about the monumental task of digitally recording the wealth of historic documents that Hartland is privileged to possess. Nicola Powell, Finds Liaison Officer for Devon followed on, speaking about the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the benefits it promises to bring in making sure that finds are properly recorded. Finally, tea and a further look at the displays led on to the Open Forum back in the main hall in which groups were invited to have

their say and questions were discussed.

Out of the Open Forum came two important proposals. The purpose of the day had been to begin a process of networking among groups who are widely dispersed, but share a common regional interest. It was felt that the purpose had been achieved and in this vein, Jenny Yendall of Tiverton Archaeological Group began the session with a proposal. This was that a central register of historical and archaeological groups in northern Devon should be formed. Initially this should be a simple list of groups with their contact details and a statement of their interests to be made widely available with the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information and ideas. The proposal was welcomed and Jenny began the process by asking representatives to register their interest on a list that was passed round. The second proposal was that an event such as this should be repeated regularly, and that in future an exhibition should be provided for the general public. This too was greeted with enthusiasm, but of course implies a need for organisation. Let us hope that a process has been set in motion that will ensure it.

### Displays were provided by:

ACE Archaeology Club Winkleigh, Charles Historical Society, Creacombe Historical Society, Filleigh History Society, House Scouts (Winkleigh), Hartland Archive, Newton Tracey and District Historical Society, North Devon Searchers, South Molton Archive and Historical Society, North Devon Archaeological Society, Parracombe Historical Society, Portable Antiquities Scheme, Tiverton Archaeological Group, Torrington and District Historical Society, Westward Ho! Historical Society, Witheridge Historical Society.

### Apologies were received from:

Bideford and District Community Archive, Tawstock History Society.

# ACE at Teigncombe: Summer 2004

Janet Daynes

The Dartmoor Archaeology and Bracken Project's excavation at Teigncombe ended this year (fifth season) on the 29th of August and at that point the sun came out! This year we got rain, in all its forms from continuous drizzle to the torrential remains of what hit Boscastle. What a contrast with the extreme heat of last year! In fact very little time was lost to the weather, though most of the diggers seem to have evolved webbed feet and gills!

Although we were excavating at deeper levels this year - over 1.5 metres in some places - we were still coming across bracken rhizomes. As the research aim of the excavation is to look into the possible damage they could cause to buried archaeology, they were plotted, then removed, measured and recorded just like everything else. We have now removed over 7 kilometres of bracken rhizomes from the roundhouse, so the potential for compromising the stratigraphy within is very worrying.

This year's excavation has revealed a well laid flagstone floor by the doorway, with a black-faced granite "door mat" in front of the threshold stone. Several postholes and lots of potential stake-holes were excavated, the soil from these being bagged up for analysis.

A record total of 549 finds, most of them pottery, but including quite a few beautiful whet stones, flint tools and some charred hazel nut shells, will probably mostly turn out to be Bronze Age with some Iron Age and a few pieces of Romano-British. Sadly there was not one bit of late 20th century yoghurt pot (mandarin flavour)! This brings the total number of finds to date to 1149, a lot for just one roundhouse. The average number of pot-sherds found in a Dartmoor roundhouse is usually about 12, so serious questions are now being asked. Our excavation technique of trowels only and a few centimetres at a time, would probably help save some finds



*The excavation team standing on the flagstone floor of the roundhouse.*

from the spoil heap but surely not that many. Perhaps the long period of occupation from the Bronze Age to the first or second century AD would also go some way towards an explanation. Only after a lot of thought, analysis, the final report and probably another (control) roundhouse excavation on the Kestor settlement will we get the answer.

All the finds up to this year have been three-dimensionally recorded, so that we know exactly where they came from. This year however, because so many finds were appearing edge on, it was decided to also record the angle of their

deposition. Examination of the plan of the rhizome mat, the tree roots and the animal burrows within the archaeology of the roundhouse and also the way the finds are distributed in three dimensions will hopefully show if the stratigraphy has been disturbed and by what.

Over the next few months the director Dr Sandy Gerrard will be sifting through all this information and very efficiently producing an interim report and our poor pottery expert Henrietta Quinnell will be wading her way through this year's finds.

## Current Archaeology back issues

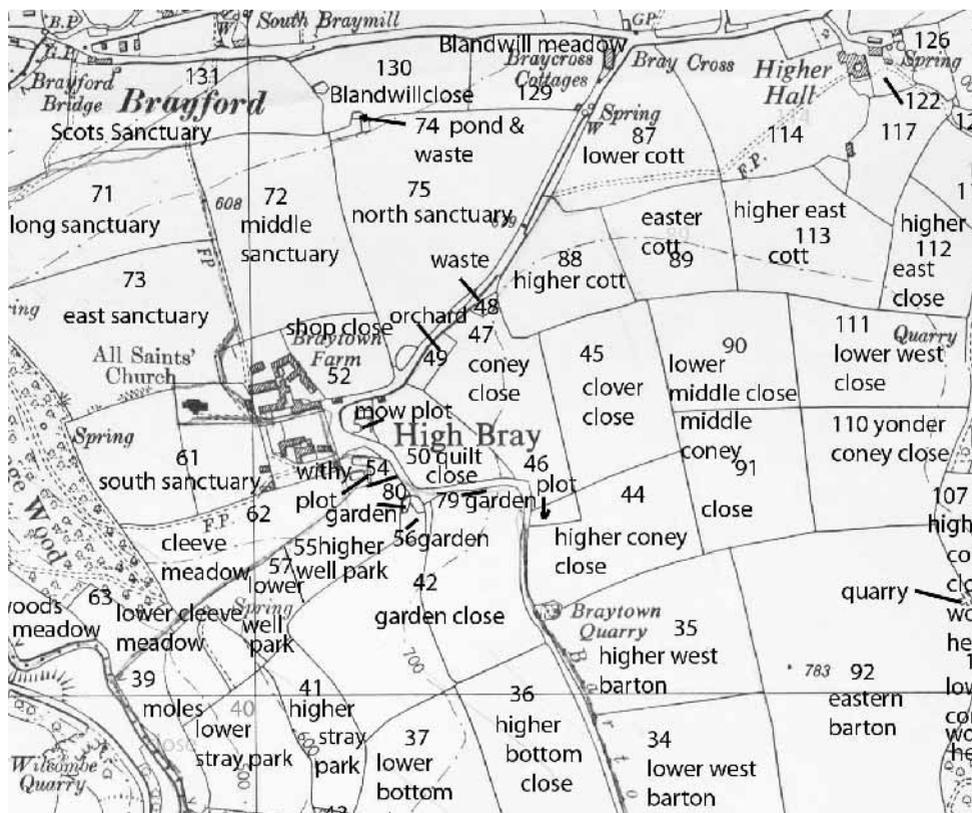
Colin Humphreys wishes to sell a stack of back issues of Current Archaeology. This excellent publication has been around since the late 1960's and is an invaluable reference source for archaeology in Britain over the last 35 years. Anyone interested in stocking up should phone Colin on 01271 882152 or 883000.

# Field-walk and test-pitting at High Bray

Jim Knights

The Tithe Apportionment of c.1840 records a number of intriguing field-names around the village of High Bray (See the accompanying map). Fields containing the elements Barton and Coney lying near and adjacent to Barton Lane which does an interesting dog-leg around Garden Close are very suggestive of earlier arrangements. When the land-owner pointed out that a lot of pottery came up when he ploughed the field called West Barton (numbers 34 and 35 on the map – a boundary has gone missing), a field-walk seemed in order.

During a September Sunday afternoon members of NDAS and inhabitants of Brayford, High Bray and the surrounding area gathered together to walk the field. Having been shown examples of what to look for, people were sent off to their starting points and began the slow, methodical business of plodding along their allotted strip of ground. There was no shortage of finds; the land-owner was right. In the end 1500 items were picked up which were briefly washed on site before being roughly sorted and bagged up.



Extract from the First Edition OS six inch map (1890) with tithe map details (1840) superimposed.

When the finds were analysed there were around 1100 pottery fragments together with flints, scraps of metal, tile and iron slag which – this being the Brayford area – might well have been Roman. The flints ranged from Mesolithic through Bronze Age to gun-flints from flint-lock guns. There were 150 medieval pottery fragments, and a similar amount from the early post-medieval period plus around 800 sherds from the 17th to early 19th centuries. This large quantity of pottery which was widely and more or less evenly spread across the field suggested midden-carting over many centuries. However, analysis of the distribution of the finds indicated a concentration of medieval pottery in the north end of the field, suggesting either a medieval settlement or a more restricted area of arable at an early date. It is proposed to examine this area with the resistivity meter.

Crossing fields to begin the walk, it was quite obvious that the fields called Coney Close and Higher Coney Close contained a significant number of earthworks. This prompted a closer examination of the area with a brief desktop study, a survey with the resistivity meter and finally test-pits. The provisional conclusion was that this area had at one time contained a rabbit warren and that the earthworks might be “pillow-mounds”.

The resistivity survey concentrated on a corner of the field called Coney Close (number 47 on the tithe map). In 1840 this small area was an enclosure (number 48 on the tithe map) described as “Waste”. The survey suggested structures, so a test-pitting exercise was organised. In all, seven 1m x 1m pits were dug, and the results both confirmed and contradicted the survey. Outside the boundary of the former enclosure, medieval (including one sherd of 11/12th century Saxo-Norman ware) and post-medieval pottery was found, but no structure. Inside the boundary a layer of 19th century material in a cindery matrix overlay

what appeared to be the natural weathered shillet into which channels had been cut. Here two test-pits were joined up and extended to make a 3.5 metre trench which revealed a line of three post-holes set into the shillet. The channels were full of soft soil and had been – partially at least – lined with stone slabs suggesting either vermin traps or the constructed burrows of a medieval warren. No firm conclusions can be based on a few test-pits and more work needs to be done here. We appear to have the beginnings of a “High Bray Project”.

## The NDAS Resistivity Meter

Jim Knights

Eight sites have now been examined and confidence in use of the resistivity meter is growing. It proved itself at Higher Holworthy where it indicated the site of a building and subsequent test-pitting confirmed it. We are currently surveying earthworks in Bratton Fleming, thought to be an early road through the village. In December we will be examining an interesting earthwork at Dean between Combe Martin and Parracombe. The mechanics of the survey are now carried out with confidence and, dare I say, competence. However the use of the software filters requires more successful experience on known features to gain greater assurance. One of the conditions of our acquiring the machine through the Tarka Millennium Award Scheme (via Trevor Dunkerley) was that we should be prepared to lend it to other groups, provided they insure it. We have been asked by a group at Branscombe if they may borrow it, and I shall shortly be taking it down to South Devon to help with the survey of a Bronze Age site.

# Digging at Blacklake Wood

June Aiken

Realising that I should miss out on the Holworthy dig, since I should be away on holiday in July, I obviously said yes when Gill Juleff sent an email asking if I would like to join in the Exeter University dig at Blacklake Wood outside Dulverton. I offered to do 2 days a week for four weeks, and when I returned from holiday I found I was "on".

Blacklake Wood is another iron-working site about 2 kilometres north-west of Dulverton. The dig was part of the Exmoor Iron Project which in 2002 and 2003 had focused on Sherracombe Ford near Brayford. This site was deep in woodland beside the River Barle.

On the first day I drove to Dulverton where I joined the team to be transported to the site in the Exeter University minibus. In fact we were driven to the site headquarters and the first thing

we had to do was carry tools up the hill and into the woods. We found that trees had been removed, but proper clearance of the undergrowth was still needed. This involved cutting long grass and removing rhododendrons. It was very wet and muddy, so one group was set the task of collecting fallen branches to make a wooden path around the site. This was hard work and felt like taking part in an "It's a Knock-out" game, as it was so slippery. Next day it was turf removal! This was not easy. When you picked up a turf on the shovel it slid off into the mud, and trying to pile them up for later replacement was impossible! After a day of slipping about, I found that people almost crossed the road to avoid this mud-spattered woman, as I made my way back to my car!

Although the weather was unkind with bursts of heavy rain, the site was eventually cleared and



Working at Blacklake Wood



A very rare find: possible "Dark Age" pottery from among the slag and charcoal.

the real dig began. From previous investigations in the 1990's, it was thought that this site might represent an early medieval iron-smelting site. Preliminary Carbon-14 dating suggested very early medieval. There were slag and charcoal in abundance, but the site was totally different from the Sherracombe Ford site where I had previously volunteered. The sections through some of the trenches were text-book illustrations of stratification with successive layers of charcoal, orange coloured soil and more charcoal. Although we found plenty of iron slag and furnace lining, it was some time before a furnace site was discovered. The quantity of charcoal was amazing. In some places it seemed as if it had been made on site; in others it seemed to have been stored leaving deep layers of charcoal dust. Some of it was in whole rounds which will make species identification possible; much of it was in large

lumps which will aid Carbon 14 dating.

As well as digging, I spent a day recording finds. I found this very interesting and was amazed at the variety of material collected. There was a very large core of furnace lining which was incredibly heavy. There was a whet-stone which was easily identifiable. There was, of course, masses of slag and there was what appeared to be the result of a failed smelt. There was not much pottery. In fact there was none until Jim Knights found a piece which caused great excitement. It has been examined and may be 6th/7th century so-called "E-ware" from southern Gaul. As the Carbon-14 date previously obtained fell into the 6th century AD, that would make this a "Dark Age" site. BUT, identification has still to be confirmed.

Even after spending eight days in the mud, I still enjoyed myself. My husband thinks I'm mad!

## Investigations at Hatherleigh: an Update

Deborah Laing-Trengove

Since May, work on the Roman tiliary site at Hatherleigh has been progressing well. Some ACE members spent a day dowsing the site in early May and a few weeks later we held the planned fieldwalk, focusing on the initial find spot and an adjacent stream. As the site was not ploughed, the area that could be searched was quite small and thanks to a very good turn out, the work was concluded in a much shorter time than anticipated. A grid had previously been laid out and parties of volunteers were set to searching the grid squares on either side of the stream. They found tile fragments, lumps of baked clay, kiln wasters - at one point in very large numbers –and one piece of tile that appeared to have a tally scratched on it. This was a very enjoyable as well as productive day with hundreds of pieces of tile collected. It was heartening to see so many local people there and a big thank you to all those ACE and NDAS members who did so much on the day (you know who you are!)

In order to pre-empt any unwanted intrusive activity on the site, an informal metal detector survey was carried out in June. This yielded only three horseshoes, but was worth doing as it showed that the grass growth was such as to make any activity of this sort impossible. After an impassioned plea to the CBA, prompted by some unexpected fencing work on the site, Challenge Funding was acquired for a geophysical survey. Subsequently a fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken by Ross Dean in July and the interpreted results indicate a number of areas of interest.

To quote Ross's report summary notes: Possible archaeological remains in the form of a stone or masonry linear structure and ditches or similar structures were identified in the northwest corner of the survey area. Evidence for possible kilns or related debris deposits was found at three separate locations within the survey area. The

remains of a kiln with a characteristic magnetic anomaly were found. . . . Shards of pottery found on the ground surface during the survey and by a fieldwalking survey support a Roman date for pottery production at the site. The north-eastern corner of the survey area contained evidence that could be interpreted as a settlement or other similar human activity although this is by no means certain. Evidence for a possible track and various phases of ploughing were also recorded.

In line with the report recommendations, we plan to carry out some further geophysical survey work in the next few months to extend the area surveyed and hope to carry out further archaeological investigations in the future.

The Hatherleigh Landscape Group has also been involved with other projects during the summer including recording gravestones in the local churchyard, an ongoing project, and concluding work on the tithe map. In June, group members with the help and tutoring of Colin Humphreys carried out a building survey at the Bridge Inn, Hatherleigh. Although this proved rather less straight forward than expected, the event generated enough interest to merit an ongoing project. There is enough local interest from residents to make the project viable and interesting, with offers of several properties to investigate in the coming year.

## News from the North Devon Record Office

Tim Wormleighton

With the closure of our headquarters office, the Devon Record Office in Exeter, throughout the second half of 2004 (pending their move to new premises scheduled to open in January 2005 at Great Moor House, Sowton, Exeter) and the screening of a major, ten-part BBC TV series on family history, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, things at the North Devon Record Office have been somewhat busier than usual this year, with a noticeable increase in the numbers of both document requests and enquiries.

Nevertheless, we have endeavoured to play our part in a number of current national and regional initiatives aimed at increasing access to, and awareness of, archival resources. The second national Archive Awareness Campaign kicked off at the start of October and runs for the remainder of the year, with the overall theme of Routes to Roots, linking with both the BBC family history programmes and the current fascination for things horticultural. To launch our involvement with the campaign, the North Devon Record Office hosted a lively workshop on Discovering Devon's Black History on 9 October, led by local authors Lucy Mackeith and Mike Sampson. The story of Devon's black communities is only just beginning to be unearthed and references have been found in local archives dating back to the sixteenth century. Some examples of original documents were on display and some fascinating personal stories were shared. Much more work remains to be done into this neglected aspect of our history and any discoveries, archaeological as well as written, can be reported to the Friends of Devon's Archives database via the Record Office.

Copies of a large proportion of our catalogues of archive collections have been sent to the latest phase of the South West regional Access To Archives project, Access All Areas, for inclusion on a searchable website database at [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk). The site includes catalogues

from over 300 archive repositories throughout England and can be searched by keyword, date, and so on. In order to publicise this resource more widely, the Record Office will be holding awareness sessions in libraries throughout north Devon in the coming months.

For further information on developments and the latest information on the opening of the new Devon Record Office in Exeter, see our website at [www.devon.gov.uk/record\\_office.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/record_office.htm).

## Advance Notice: Volunteers

It is probable that we shall wish to return to Holworthy Farm in 2005 for a further season of excavation. This is very likely to be in the first two weeks of July. Alistair Miller will be compiling a provisional volunteer list, so would anyone who wishes to help please contact Alistair Miller on 01598 740359.

We should also like to put together a short-notice survey team to help with geophysical survey, field-boundary recording, field-walking, building survey, etc. Please let Alistair know if you are willing or able to sign up.

## A Short Bleep! on Metal Detecting

David Grenfell

My fascination with the hobby of metal detecting began 36 years ago, a couple years before metal detectors first appeared on sale in the UK. At that time you had to obtain a pipe finder's licence before you could legally use a detector. My first machines were home made, first a BFO (beat frequency oscillator) model which was crude but it worked; then a much more sophisticated model using the IB (induction balance) principle. This was so successful that I received commissions from friends and constructed another five. The profit from these enabled me to import an American,, factory-built, state of the art machine, a Garret Groundhog. It incorporated such luxuries as all metal or non-ferrous discrimination and a target identification meter. Buy one today and it will be light to handle and bristling with digital enhancements, such as an LCD screen that purports to tell you what your find is, where it is, and how deep it is! Of course, it comes at a price!.

Today detecting is a hobby enjoyed by an estimated 35,000 enthusiasts throughout the UK. Most are members of the many county metal detecting clubs. There are two dedicated magazines and two large national organisations offering their members help, advice and £5m pounds' worth of public liability insurance (provided they adhere to the organisations' code of conduct).

The new Treasure Act of 1996 means that detectorists, and any other member of the public now have to report a treasure find or risk imprisonment for up to three months, a fine of up to £5,000, or both. The widespread awareness of this new law has resulted in many more finds, including important and rare artefacts, being acquired by national and local museums. Detectorists now also know that they will receive a fairer reward for any properly

reported treasure item than they would probably obtain from a dealer.

However, determining what finds qualify as treasure is not as straightforward as it used to be. The guidance offered by the new Treasure Act Code of Practice has 5 separate and somewhat complicated, categories. But basically treasure is any metallic object, other than a coin, containing more than 10% by weight of gold or silver and at least 300 years old.

Another new Government initiative that affects anyone finding something of historical interest is the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). Since 1997 a national network of Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) has been established throughout England and Wales. To date more than 63,000 finds, the great majority from detectors, have been submitted and deemed important enough to be displayed and detailed on the PAS web site.

The FLOs are the main point of contact for reporting a treasure or any other metal or non-metal find including lithics, that might be historically or archaeologically interesting. The web-site is now a substantial, categorised, database, providing information for students, researchers, archaeologists and anyone interested in the nation's history. Most of the FLOs are based at County museums. Nicola Powell the FLO for Devon can be contacted at Exeter Museum and also holds regular Finds Days, on the 1st Tuesday of each month, at Barnstaple Museum, where, in her absence, I as a museum volunteer, act as her North Devon Area assistant. Nicola is actively seeking and obtaining the confidence and support of local detectorists via these Tuesday and occasional Saturday Finds Days.

The last decade or two has seen increasing co-operation between detector users and archaeological groups. For many years the

benefits of metal detector pre-dig site surveys, open trench ground scanning and spoil heap searches have been appreciated and utilised by archaeologists. Countless independent and club based detectorists, including myself, have been delighted to assist archaeologists in this hands-on way. Just like you, the readers of this magazine, most detectorists have a thirst for knowledge of the past and covet the opportunity to be involved, via any or all of the above legal methods with our country's history.

PAS web site – [www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk)  
Barnstaple Museum – 01271 346747  
Nicola Powell - 01392 665983  
email: [nicola.powell@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.powell@exeter.gov.uk)

## Winkleigh House Scouts

Janet Daynes

Since the launch of the project in February we have had the IT part of the community Kiosk up and running in the Winkleigh Community Centre on most Tuesday evenings and at the Mini-market on Wednesday mornings. This has worked well. The Tuesday evening sessions find us adding data and images to House Scouts, doing some IT and other training, generally catching up with what the volunteers are doing and exchanging ideas etc. At the Mini-market we get a great deal of interest from the folks attending. People have brought in photographs and documents for scanning and our collection is rapidly growing. Thanks to Pat Tong, we now have a wonderful collection of postcards and photographs of Winkleigh, some of which were taken by Lawrence Molland just after the turn of the last century with the same shots re-taken in the 1980's by his niece, Sheila Molland.

The Community Kiosk display case was used during Winkleigh Fair week. House Scouts were invited to hold an exhibition of past Winkleigh Fairs, and also to display their old cups and programmes. This we duly did and it was great fun. We are really grateful to the folks that let us have their photographs to use. Without them it would have been a poor exhibition indeed! These photographs will be made into a Winkleigh Fair display on our computer. We plan to start this in the autumn and then to add to it at any time.

This autumn we are planning to really get going on some survey work. We have 9 properties that we are investigating at the moment with more to start on. David Purnell is still beavering away in the Records Office coming to grips with old Winkleigh street names and where people lived, which will help anyone grappling with the census.

It is most satisfying watching this project come together. As per usual it is the same few people doing all the work, so it may take just a little bit longer to complete, but hopefully it will be well worth it.

# The North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A call for volunteers

Linda Blanchard



*Clovelly Dykes a unique North Devon coastal site.tif*

As a long term (but recently pretty much sleeping) member of the Society some of you may know me as formerly being an archaeologist. Following a career change in 1991 to accommodate my young family I've been out of archaeology for some years. However with my new job I hope to have a chance to do my bit for the heritage of the coastline

The North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers the superb stretch of coastal landscape extending from Combe Martin (at the edge of Exmoor National Park) to the Cornish border. It is designated as a landscape of national importance of equal status, in landscape terms to a National Park, but not as well funded! The designation reflects the importance of the landscape character which, to a large extent, is the record of its human history. Sites are rich and

varied with barrows at Burdon Moor, and Berry Down, near Berrynarbor, promontory forts at Hillsborough near Ilfracombe, Embury Beacon and Clovelly Dykes in the Hartland area and villages dating back to the Domesday Book. Combe Martin is a fine example of a mining village and the work of NDAS members is contributing much to the pool of knowledge about this village. The area is steeped in maritime history and tradition. Combe Martin and Hartland Quay had small ports, serving the local community; limekilns are found along the whole stretch whilst Clovelly and Bucks Mills are good examples of traditional fishing villages. The region's shoreline reveals a wealth of shipwrecks and tales of smuggling and wrecking. Two large lighthouses dominate the coastal headlands of Hartland and Bull Point and warn unsuspecting

mariners of this treacherous coastline. More recently Braunton Burrows, were used as practice grounds for American Forces and the well preserved practise landing craft are poignant reminders of the horror faced by soldiers who had to use the real thing for the D-Day landings in Normandy in 1944

The AONB team consists of myself and Dave Edgcombe supported by Janine our administrator. Our prime role is to encourage activities which will protect and enhance the landscape and monitor change. So historic heritage is high on our agenda. I am keen to get a better archaeological record of the area and will be working with agencies to secure funding to do a thorough survey. Some smaller projects will happen more quickly and, for example, we will be working with the Combe Martin Alliance to improve local heritage trails.

Our immediate priority is to get funding for a community volunteer project which will provide a unique opportunity to work alongside experts in a variety of fields gaining training and in-depth understanding of the Coastal area. Volunteers will be able to join events such as "record as you go" themed walks, field recording sessions as well as coming along to training sessions to learn more about their preferred topic. We are keen to work with NDAS members on the project and hope that you will support our funding bid and join some of the events.

I look forward to working with you in the near future.

## Linda Blanchard

North Devon AONB Manager  
Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service  
Bideford Station, Railway Terrace, East-the-Water,  
Bideford EX39 4BB  
Tel: 01237 423655  
[www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk](http://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk)

## Books

### **The Old Custom House, Barnstaple.**

Philip Milton and Margaret Reed

This book traces the history of the little building on the Barnstaple Strand which was at one time the Jenny Wren Tea Rooms and before that the West View Stores, but was for a long time known as the Old Custom House and is the oldest surviving building on the Strand. It is now the Old Custom House Restaurant. Documentary research by Margaret Reed and a building survey by Colin Humphreys have begun to elucidate the evolution of this building and to place it in the context of Barnstaple's history. The book is a thorough exploration of the history of a single vernacular building during which multiple aspects of Barnstaple's development are explored without ever losing sight of the central theme. The production of the book was funded by the Tarka Millennium Award Scheme.

In promoting his new restaurant Philip Milton has made much of its history, so that eating there is an experience for the historically minded gourmet! On the 18th November 2004 and the 12th January 2005 at 7.00 pm he invites you to a tour of the building and a buffet supper (price £10) where you will be able to buy copies of the book at a special price. For further information phone 01271 37123.

### **Parracombe and the Heddon Valley: An unfinished history.**

Parracombe History and Archaeology Society  
(Trailed in the NDAS Newsletter Spring 2004)

NDAS has a special interest in Parracombe so that this thorough-going history of the parish is naturally allied to our own research project and is very welcome. For a start the book is unusual among local histories in that the opening chapter 'Early Days' is well founded in recent

archaeological research and the contemporary 'take' on prehistory, avoiding the usual depressing repetition of long out-dated Victorian notions. It continues equally well, tracing the history of the village through documents and the memories of Parracombe villagers with a well-balanced mix of solid history and personal anecdote. In the process it explores farming life, transport, education, the church, wartime experiences and the vagaries of the weather and reminds us that, like Combe Martin, Parracombe has a vein of silver in its history which briefly inspired a dream, but sadly came to nothing. This is a very readable and well illustrated history priced at only £5.00 and available from Barnstaple bookshops (Ottakar's, W.H.Smith's and the Tarka Bookshop) or by post from June Aiken, Evenlode, Church Lane, Parracombe, Barnstaple EX31 4QI Tele: 01598 763316 (postage £1.14).

### **A History of Tiverton**

Mike Sampson  
(published by Tiverton war Memorial Trust)

Based on extensive research, this new book charts Tiverton's history from prehistoric times to the present day. It is printed in hardback with over 400 pages and 50 black and white illustrations, many of which have not been published before. The book retails at £25 and is available from early November.

### **Note:**

Alison Grant's new book on North Devon pottery is still in the pipeline. If you ordered a copy at the special pre-publication price be assured that your money is safe and that you will receive your copy when the time comes. If you are at all concerned, please phone Jane Green on 01271 866662.

## **Dates for Your Diary**

### **NDAS Winter Programme 2004-2005**

Unless otherwise stated, NDAS winter meetings are at 7.30 pm at Pilton Community College, Chaddiford Lane, Barnstaple. Admission free to members; visitors £2.00

#### **Monday 18th October 2004:**

John Newberry and Nan Pearce  
The Old Stone Age in North Devon: The Evidence from the Taw-Torridge Pipeline Project and Elsewhere:  
John Newberry and Nan Pearce are both experts on lithic (flint and chert) finds from the South-West. The proposed talk is clearly of local interest, especially as it will present brand-new evidence for the Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic) in North Devon.

#### **Monday 15th November 2004:**

Dr Oliver Creighton  
Medieval Castles and the Making of the English Landscape.  
Dr Oliver Creighton is a Lecturer in Archaeology at Exeter University. His research interests include landscape archaeology, medieval archaeology and castle studies. He has recently published two books: Castles and Landscapes and (with R.A. Higham) Medieval Castles.

#### **Monday 17th January 2005:**

Richard Jaeschke:  
"After the Dig is Over": The conservation and reconstruction of archaeological finds from Devon to Points East.  
Richard Jaeschke is a professional freelance conservator living locally who, together with his wife Helena, has conserved objects from Ancient Egyptian mummies to the Holworthy Bronze Age pot (excavated by NDAS 2003).

#### **Monday 21st February 2005:**

Dr Bruce Bradley  
Top of the World: the Mesolithic site of Zhokhov Island.  
Dr Bruce Bradley describes himself on his website as Professional Archaeologist, Educator, Flintknapper, Excursion Leader. Currently lecturing at Exeter University, Bruce Bradley also holds several associate posts at research institutions in his native USA. In 2003 Bruce took part in the excavation of what is probably the most northerly (76° North) Mesolithic site in the world on Zhokhov Island, Eastern Siberia. This must be about as difficult as land-based archaeology gets. He has spoken about the experience on numerous occasions now, and gives an absorbing talk.

#### **Monday 21st March 2005:**

NDAS Annual General Meeting  
7.00 pm in the Library at Pilton Community College.

#### **Monday 18th April 2005:**

Terry Green  
The Holworthy Farm Hillslope Enclosure: The NDAS excavations at Parracombe, Update and Prospects  
Terry Green (Current NDAS Chairman) is a freelance archaeologist. He has conducted the NDAS excavations at Holworthy Farm, Parracombe, during the summers of 2002 (together with Colin Humphreys), 2003, 2004. This talk will be an opportunity to catch up with progress on the site, and to review the prospects for further work.

#### **More Dates for Your Diary**

The Devon Archaeological Society Winter Meetings Programme

Please note: all except the October meeting will be held at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen Street, Exeter at 8.00 pm. Admission free to DAS members.

#### **Thursday 14th October 2004:**

Dr John Coles  
Landscapes with War Canoes: Rock carvings of Northern Europe.  
Peter Chalk Centre, University of Exeter, 7.15 pm.

#### **Thursday 11th November 2004:**

Lindsay Allason-Jones  
Women in the Roman North.

#### **Thursday 9th December 2004:**

Dr Bruce Bradley  
Top of the World: Mesolithic archaeology of Polar Siberia.

#### **Wednesday 19th January 2005**

The Prehistoric Society and the British Museum  
The Holcombe Mirror: Iron Age Mirrors – the state of the art.

#### **Tuesday 15th February 2005:**

Profesor Denys Pringle  
The Crusader, Ayyubid and Mamluk Castles of Ayla (al-'Aqaba), Jordan.

#### **Tuesday 8th March 2005:**

Dr Barry Burnham  
Dolaucothi-Pumsaint: a review of recent work at a Roman gold-mining complex.

#### **Plus:**

#### **Saturday 27th November 2004**

Archaeology in Devon  
A day-school at St Lukes School of Education, Heavitree Road, Exeter  
Cost £16. For information phone 01392 262828

#### **Sunday 5th December 2004**

The 5th Exmoor Archaeology Forum – The future of Exmoor's Past  
An all-day (10.00 am – 5.00 pm) conference at Exmoor House, Dulverton.  
Cost £12. For information phone Sue Parkman 01398 323665