



Update for Members, May 2008

Dear All,

As you were informed in the annual report, there has been some serious thinking about the way in which NDAS members are kept informed of developments, plans, dates, etc. In the current absence of the newsletter (see below), this is the first of two news-sheets that you will receive this year.

1. The 2008-9 NDAS Committee:

At the AGM in March, the following officers of the Society were elected.

Chairman – Terry Green

Vice-Chairman – Alistair Miller

Meetings and Correspondence Secretary – Margaret Reed

Treasurer and Membership Secretary – James Coulter

Publicity Officer – Judy Parker

2. Annual Subscription – Reminder

May we remind you that membership subscription (£16 single membership, £24 joint/couples, £5 students) became due on 1st April. Subscriptions should be sent to **James Coulter, Farthings, Newland, Landkey, Barnstaple EX32 0ND** (Phone: 01271 830130). If you wish to pay your subscription by standing order, James has the mandate forms – please ask. Cheques should be made payable to NDAS/NDRA.

3. Summer programme

After a successful winter programme, we head into summer. Dates for your diary are:-

1. **Sunday 8th June:** Boat-trip on the Taw-Torridge estuary with Chris Preece to view archaeology from the water. Meet 8.30 am Appledore Quay. Cost - £12 per head. Maximum number of people 10. Information about this went out by email a few weeks ago. **There are now only 3 places left.** NB. Please make a firm booking – the cost of any ‘no-shows’ will have to be spread among the rest. If you wish to book a place please phone Terry Green on 01271 374429 or Margaret Reed on 01271 325276.
2. **Sunday 20th July:** Archaeological/Historical walk from Hartland Quay with Stephen Hobbs. About 3 hours. Meet at the middle car park above Hartland Quay (SS225248) 2.00pm. There is a charge for parking. Good footwear and clothing appropriate to the (coastal) weather required. To register your interest phone Stephen Hobbs on 01237 441450.

3. **Saturday 20th 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.

There is also the possibility of a day out with members of the Taw & Torridge Metal Detectors' Club. Further information will be provided if and when it is confirmed.

4. Email Addresses

If you have received this through the post, it is because we do not have an email address for you. PLEASE, if you have an email address, could you let us know – and if you have changed your email address, please inform the Membership Secretary. Being able to send out information by email makes the job so much easier and saves the Society money. Email addresses should be sent to James Coulter, the Membership Secretary: somers3328@aol.com.

5. The NDAS Newsletter

In the annual report you will have read of a plan to convert the NDAS newsletter to a digital form accessible through the NDAS website with a hard copy summary sent out to members who do not have access to the Internet. At the AGM it was pointed out that for many members the paper newsletter is the principal point of contact with the Society and that it has acquired benchmark status; it would be wrong to lose it. A newsletter sub-committee has been formed and has given further thought to the question with the following result:

The twice-yearly newsletter will be converted into an annual publication appearing in February, the first to appear in February 2009. As a yearly rather than six-monthly publication it will be more substantial than before. For contributions it will draw not only on NDAS activities but will invite contributions from groups and individuals who share an interest in the archaeology and history of northern Devon and adjacent areas. The content will aim to be soundly informative, newsy, occasionally humorous and above all to encourage interest in and understanding of the landscape that we inhabit. This will not be a scholarly publication, nevertheless contributions will be carefully edited for quality and reliability of content. The newsletter editorial committee will canvas for contributions, but any member who has a contribution to make or who knows of someone who might contribute is asked to inform the editors through Mary Houldsworth by email mhouldsworth@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01271 321911.

This is a step beyond the 'newsletter' format. Perhaps it needs a new name. Any suggestions?

6. NDAS Website

The website (www.ndas.org.uk) has now been up and running for some time. It is being visited by people from far afield as we know from the specific enquiries that have been addressed to the Society. The success of a website depends on keeping it fresh and updated which Stephen Hobbs does regularly. The site is open to contributions – if you have anything (relevant!) that you would like to put on the website, please contact Stephen on 01237 441450.