

LECTURE SEASON 2010 – 2011

15th October 2010

AGM

The Shenstone Survey

A talk presenting an overview of the Shenstone Project and expanding on particular aspects and topics within the project.

Speakers will include John Hunt , Richard Totty and others from the Society.

29th October 2010

David Bills

The Rock Houses of Kinver

David lives in Kinver and his talk will bring to life the intriguing houses cut into the rock and lived in until quite recently.

12th November 2010

Rachael Hall

National Trust Archaeology

Rachael will initially provide us with an insight/overview of the role of Archaeology within the National Trust covering some of the more recent works in the East Midlands. Rachael has also been requested to concentrate on the work at Calke Abbey (deer shelters, lime yards the Priory etc)

26th November 2010 Mike Brown

The Three Wise Men

The talk tonight is the story of The Three Wise Men from the East, found only in St Matthew's Gospel and intrigued scholars for many centuries. Churchman and theologians have debated whether the passage might be a later addition intended to demonstrate that the Nativity was relevant to the whole world. The talk identifies the Three Wise Men and provides an explanation that fits very closely the spirit of the Biblical account.

Mike Brown or more correctly Air Vice Marshal M J D Brown joined the Royal Air Force in 1953. Qualified as a pilot in 1959 and has extensive experience of communications, radar, navigation, guided weapons and space systems. His last appointments in the RAF were as Director of Air Guided Weapons and Director General of Strategic Electronic Systems before finally retiring in 1991. Mike is interested in Roman Roads in Britain ever since observing their alignment from the air. Since retiring Mike has not let the grass grow working as he has with several charities amongst other things.

10th December 2010 Christmas Meeting

Roland Watson

The talk tonight presented by Roland a Society Member takes us well into Wales and to Llandeilo to be more precise. Three castles, one abbey, two major gardens, four large houses are all situated in the Llandeilo area but the emphasis will be on the two gardens Aberglasney and the Botanic Garden of Wales together with Dinefwr Castle.

18th February 2011

Ian Bapty

Recent Neolithic and Bronze Age Discoveries in the Welsh Borders: Rediscovering the Ancient Origins of the West Midlands.

This is a return visit for Ian Bapty who will need no introduction and his talk tonight will plunge into prehistory and include such discoveries as *The Rotherwas Ribbon* amongst others.

4th March 2011

Chris Upton

Workhouses in The West Midlands

Chris Upton's main interests lie in the Social and Cultural History of the West Midlands. Workhouses fall within this interest area. Chris has produced a number of publications not least "A History of Lichfield".

The talk tonight will introduce the Society to the Poor Law in the West Midlands, the indoor and the outdoor poor, the change from parish to union workhouses, where the workhouses were, what paupers ate etc.

18th March 2011

Matthew Fitzjohn

Iron Age Sicily

Matthew Fitzjohn is Lecturer in the Archaeology of the Iron Age. His main interests lie in the Mediterranean, particular emphasis with Greece and Italy focussing in on Sicily.

Sicily is the subject of the talk tonight and will present Landscape and Identity in Iron Age Sicily

1st April 2011

Jan Wills

Iron Age Beckford

Jan Wills is County Archaeologist in Gloucestershire managing the County Archaeological Service. Jan directed the excavation at Beckford in Worcestershire. The Beckford excavation the subject of the talk tonight was carried out in advance of gravel extraction (a rescue dig!) revealing an extensive Iron Age settlement together with some later Roman activity.

15th April 2011

Ian Wykes

The Staffordshire Hoard

The talk tonight does not need any introduction. The Hoard has probably been foremost in our minds for the past year.

Ian (Staffordshire County Council) Leader of the County Historic Environment Team was involved along with Steve Dean (Staffordshire County Council) amongst others in the recovery of the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold ever found and will present the talk to us.

29th April 2011

Beverley Rogers

The Reverend William MacGregor – Egypt Exploration Society – Collector

MacGregor was a local man (Bolehall Tamworth) and he amassed one of the finest collections of Egyptian Antiquities known. The talk tonight will touch on how MacGregor acquired the collection and examines the museum's legacy in furthering the understanding of ancient Egypt. It will also look at MacGregor's life and his involvement with Tamworth Hospital and the restoration of Tamworth Castle.

Beverley herself is a graduate of Swansea in Egyptology currently working on a PhD on Victorian Collectors MacGregor being one her targets.