

SEDFORD HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMER 2009 PROGRAM

Day Courses

Weekday courses run from 8.20 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday courses 9.00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch is available, weekdays only, for a small fee.

An Introduction to Pottery Analysis

Neil Faulkner and Ann Smith

9.00 a.m. Saturday 18th July

Pottery fragments make up a high percentage of the finds recovered from archaeological sites and remain the key method of dating a site. This day course will introduce you to the techniques used to identify where and when a pottery sherd was manufactured, with a particular emphasis on East Anglia. 'Hands-on' experience of the SHARP collection, dating from the Iron Age to Victorian period, will allow you to identify the fabric and form of the vessels.

Cost £20

Cooking up an Anglo-Saxon Feast

Sally Faulkner

9.00 a.m. Saturday 25th July

Many of the finds from an archaeological site are in some way related to the diet of its past inhabitants – oyster shell, animal bone, charred grain and even sherds of cooking pot. This course will look at the types of food that may have been grown, processed, cooked and consumed by our predecessors, with a chance to prepare some of the types of food eaten in the First Millennium. In addition, we shall look at the health of the ancient Sedgeford population in relation to diet, through research carried out by the Project's Human Remains Team. This is a very practical based course with lots of hands-on cooking and tasting to be enjoyed.

N.B. A small charge of £6.50 will be required on the day to cover the cost of ingredients.

Cost £20

Animal Bones in Archaeology

Kris Poole

8.20 a.m. Monday 27th July

Animal bones are found in almost all archaeological excavations and the study of these can contribute enormously to our understanding of past communities. This one-day course will introduce you to the methods of animal bone analysis, including the following topics: why we study animal bones in archaeology, how we use animal bones in the interpretation of human diet and activities; an introduction to identification of the main domestic and non-domestic species and an introduction to ageing some domestic animals. There will be 'hands on' practice at sorting and recording animal bone and a look at the use of statistical analyses in interpretation of animal bone assemblages.

Time permitting there may be an opportunity to undertake an exercise on identification and/or ageing of domestic species to test student's knowledge of the day. Animal bone from the Sedgeford assemblage will be used for the practical work, if possible including material received directly from the site during the 2009 excavations.

Cost £20

Small Finds

Naomi Payne

Thursday 6th August 8.20 a.m.

This course is a one day introduction to the study of small finds, the more unusual objects that are discovered on excavations. The processes which small finds go through during excavation and post-excavation will be examined. Other themes will include technology, typology, dating, status and trade. Coins will be looked at as a particular class of small find. Real objects from the Sedgford excavations will be available for examination during the course.

Cost £20

Week-Long Courses

All week-long courses run from 8.20 a.m. Sunday to 5 p.m. Friday and meet in the Marquee, Boneyard Field, each morning.

Basic Excavation and Recording Techniques Course (BERT)

SHARP Supervisory Team

Sunday 5th to Friday 10th July

Sunday 12th to Friday 17th July

Sunday 19th to Friday 24th July

Sunday 26th to Friday 31st July

Sunday 2nd to Friday 7th August

Giving a basic grounding in the principles and techniques involved in field archaeology, this course is aimed at those who have never dug before, whether they are 'A' level students, undergraduates, or those of any age who just have a fascination with the past. The course will cover a wide range of subjects involved in the archaeological process, from the aims of archaeology and the terminology used on site to the specifics of tool use, excavation, finds and environmental processing and the creation of the drawn, written and photographic record. The course will be taught by a combination of short informal on-site seminars in which everyone is encouraged to actively participate, and on-site practical experience where students will participate fully in the day-to-day progress of our main excavation. Supervisors endeavour to ensure as much experience on site as possible.

Students are recommended to stay on for an extra week to consolidate their learning and experience.

Cost £100 plus facilities charge

Archaeology of Human Remains 1: Introductory (HR1)

SHARP Human Remains Team

Sunday 12th to Friday 17th July Sunday 26th to Friday 31st July

In the 1950s, and during SHARP's tenure, over 300 skeletons have been excavated from Boneyard. From these remains of the ancient Sedgford people we can learn a great deal about past lives and experiences. SHARP offers an exceptional opportunity to learn how to carry out the archaeological interpretation of ancient human remains. The course covers basic anatomy, determination of age and sex, dentition and palaeopathology, as well as recording methods. The class will discuss the ethical aspect of studying human remains and will take the first step towards interpreting population data. Excavation on the Boneyard site has now come to a halt and we are moving into the post-excavation phase. The course will cover the basics of producing and presenting an osteological report on the data recorded during the week.

No previous experience or knowledge of human skeletal biology, or archaeological excavation, is required, although an understanding of the principles of archaeological investigation is helpful. This

course offers the opportunity for first hand study of human skeletal remains using skeletons excavated from the Boneyard site. As with all our courses, participants of all ages and backgrounds are welcome.

Cost £100 plus facilities charge

Studying Bones – An Introduction to Osteoarchaeology (SB)

Martin Hatton and Kris Poole.

Sunday 19th to Friday 24th July

Archaeologists use the science of osteology, the study of bones, to help them understand the past. It has provided information about human evolution; the interaction of humans with animals in hunter-gatherer societies; the domestication of animals and the effect this had on humans; and animal husbandry, human demographics and health in archaeological assemblages representing more recent periods.

This course will start with the basics – an introduction to comparative skeletal anatomy of humans and different types of animals. This will involve practical, ‘hands on’, work on the identification and recording of bones, both human and animal, which have been excavated at Sedgeford. Evolution, hunter-gathering, and the introduction of farming in the Neolithic period will then be the subjects of seminar discussions. This will be followed by studies of the ‘secondary products revolution’ and animal husbandry in the Mid/Late Anglo-Saxon period. These sessions will, once again, involve practical work. We will use the Sedgeford archive, including bone artefacts, to take a close look at how human and animal assemblages and associated material finds can be interpreted.

Cost £100 plus facilities charge

N.B. This course uses similar material to other SHARP human remains and animal bone courses. Potential attendees at this course who have previously attended either must expect some repetition. This is probably not an appropriate course for those who have previously attended both.

Zeppelins, Fighters and Ack-Ack: An Introduction to Modern Conflict Archaeology (MCA)

Dr Neil Faulkner and Dr Keith Robinson

Sunday 26th to Friday 31st July

This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to the theory and techniques of modern conflict archaeology through the investigation of Sedgeford Aerodrome - a home defence and training airfield in the First World War, and a decoy airfield in the Second. Combining taught sessions, desktop research, and guided fieldwork, students will experience the full range of methods involved in the study of modern industrialised warfare. These will include: the use of archives, maps, old photos, and the internet; survey work using GPS-recording, geophysics, and metal-detecting; standing-building recording; and carefully targeted excavation. We will also cover the relationship between material remains in the landscape and memories, commemorations, family and local histories, and political and moral issues.

Cost £100 plus facilities charge

Facilities Charge

Full Facilities

£125 per week. Concessions (students/unwaged) £95 per week.

Most volunteers choose to camp on-site in the Boneyard Field, bringing their own tent and sleeping gear, with cutlery and crockery sufficient for their personal needs.

Included in the full facilities charge are: tent pitch and all food and drinks on site, showers and toilets, clothes washing facilities for those on a long stay and all on site supervision.

Part Facilities

£50 per week

This is the charge if you are not staying on site and includes lunch, drinks at break times and supervision. Should you wish to stay for a hot meal on any evening, this can be arranged by consulting the catering supervisor who will take your order and payment.

Essential Information

The application form for 2009 is available on our website, www.sharp.org.uk. Week-long courses are referred to by their code letters, which you will find after the course name in this document.

A minimum deposit of £35 or payment in full should be enclosed with your completed application form in order to secure your place. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come/first-served basis. Deposits are non-returnable once a place has been allocated.

Payment in full for the Summer Season is due by 1st June 2009. Failure to do so may result in your place being offered to another volunteer immediately after that date.

Cheques should be made payable to SHARP.

The directors reserve the right to exclude any volunteer from the Project if, in their view, the volunteer is disruptive to the smooth running of the Project or the community within which we are based. No refund will be made.

Although we endeavour to avoid changes to our courses, we reserve the right to do so where necessary. Courses will be cancelled only under extreme circumstances, where alternative arrangements cannot be made, or if numbers for the course are insufficient. In such cases a full refund will be given.

All work and records undertaken or produced as part of the Project remain the property of SHARP. All artefacts recovered by people working on the Project are the property of the landowner. Discussions will not be entered into.

For queries regarding application and volunteering for 2009 season please contact:

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For further information on the Project and our work please visit our website at

www.sharp.org.uk