

The Story of East Anglia III

Archaeologists, Antiquaries and Artists

Following two previous groups of lectures for the group, this lecture series presents a series of stand-alone sessions focussing on different aspects of East Anglia's rich heritage, as seen through the eyes of generations of archaeologists, antiquaries and artists.

16th January

Written in the Genes

How ancient DNA is transforming OUR understanding of the past

The last two decades have witnessed a revolution in the ability to extract ancient DNA from archaeological remains. Using a series of case studies, this lecture examines how studies of ancient DNA are transforming our understanding of subjects as diverse as early human origins, the Anglo-Saxon and Viking migrations, the Black Death, and Richard III.

23rd January

What Lies Beneath?

Archaeological discoveries in times of drought

While long, hot summers are enjoyed by some and endured by others, exceptionally dry conditions result in a wide range of archaeological discoveries. This lecture looks at new sites which have appeared as cropmarks, and features revealed by falling water levels in reservoirs and rivers, and melting glaciers.

30th January

Hoard of the Things

Roman Treasure in East Anglia

This lecture compares and contrasts the discovery, contents and interpretation of three of the richest and most important of the treasure hoards so far recovered from late Roman Britain, all of which have been discovered within East Anglia: the Mildenhall Treasure, the Thetford Treasure and the Hoxne Hoard.

6th February

Thoughts and Crosses

The Archaeology of the East Anglian Conversion

This lecture uses documentary sources and artefacts, cemeteries, settlements and early churches from the region's rich archaeological record to present an overview of the adoption of Christianity in seventh-century East Anglia.

13th February

Put to Good Use

The Religious Re-use of the Saxon Shore Forts

During the late Roman period a network of forts spanned the coast of south-east England from north Norfolk to Hampshire, referred to collectively as the forts of the 'Saxon Shore'. This lecture examines the evidence for the religious reoccupation of the Saxon Shore forts, our understanding of which has been greatly increased by archaeological research undertaken during the last forty years.

20th February No Session – Half Term

27th February Viking Age East Anglia

From the middle decades of the 9th century until the Norman Conquest, East Anglia was an integral part of the Viking world which spanned the North Sea basin. Drawing on historical sources, archaeological sites, artefacts and place-names, this lecture explores the evidence for the Viking presence in East Anglia, from the initial campaign of the Great Heathen Army and the martyrdom of King Edmund, to the subsequent settlement and integration under the Danelaw, and the second wave of raids on the region's towns which took place in the 11th century.

6th March New Buckenham Castle in its Historic Landscape

Following the accession of King Stephen in 1135 and the political uncertainty of the Anarchy period which followed, the Norman lord William d'Albini II constructed a castle on his Buckenham estate. This castle was complemented by a planned town enclosed by a defensive ditch and an extensive deer-park. This lecture examines the historic development of New Buckenham and the landscape of lordship within which it was situated.

13th March Site Visit: New Buckenham

Following on from the previous lecture, this session comprises a guided walk around the south Norfolk village of New Buckenham, exploring the earthworks of the Norman castle, the streets of the medieval planned town, the town's defensive ditch and the medieval parish church.

20th March M.R. James
East Anglian Antiquarian

Best known as a writer of ghost stories, M.R. James also had a strong academic and personal interest in East Anglia's landscape and history. This lecture examines James' East Anglian connections, from his childhood in Suffolk to his involvement with excavations at St Edmund's abbey in Bury, and looks at the influence which the region had on his ghost stories.

27th March A Portrait of the Artist
J.M.W. Turner in East Anglia

This lecture examines a series of watercolours Joseph Mallord William Turner made of sites along the East Anglian coast in the 1820s, including views of Orford, Aldeburgh, Dunwich, Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and Happisburgh. As well as being beautiful paintings in their own right, these images tell us a great deal about the dynamic coastal landscape and illustrate the changing artistic fashions of the early 19th century.

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