

## Toton Unearthed Results Evening October 29<sup>th</sup> 2014

Over 60 people filled the Greenwood centre Toton, to hear more about the findings from the archaeological phases, which had taken place this year. Dr Gareth Davies showed some of the projected layout of the Manor House/farm which crowned the top of the rise near the Sports Pavilion. He then explained the various periods of building, showing the location of the Victorian annexe, the Georgian brick walls, the 17<sup>th</sup> century floors and the location of medieval material. As is to be expected there was less of this medieval material and much may still remain under the turf as only two Evaluation trenches were explored. He discussed the possible reason for the square stone feature found in the tennis court trench. It looks like a column base but as there was only one column base found, then it was only possible to guess the purpose of this stone. It was suggested as the base for a wooden post in a barn which is likely to be medieval, as the stone was similar to the stone wall in the western trench where medieval pottery was found.

Dr Davies had brought various artefacts which had been found during phase 2 exploration of this site. There was a lot of pottery found including many pieces of black earthenware. Much of the material discovered was domestic material, including a small key. Also on show was a rather nice medieval roof tile with yellow glaze, which probably dates to the 1200s or 1300s.



There was an opportunity during the interval for refreshments, viewing of the display boards, signing up for phase 4 and chat. A vibrant buzzing atmosphere prevailed. There was an exhibition of some of the photos taken during the watermill excavation. There was also some documentary research undertaken by volunteers during the year, including a translation of the Medieval court roll dated 1296.



Tom Linington (also from Trent & Peak archaeology) then talked about the changes to the waterways over the centuries. He showed from analysis of the mapping, the changes to the position of the River Erewash. He explained how the surveys had shown the position of the leats and water channels which provided water to the mill. Phase 3 – the watermill excavation took 5 weeks and discovered mainly 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> artefacts, walls and floors. Many of the artefacts were metal and there was less pottery than the Manor site. Tom showed us detailed drawings of the site showing the position of

different phases, green for Victorian (the curved end wall near the path) the Georgian (most of it) and a few blobs of blue, thought to be medieval.

The mill pond trench (pit of doom) dug by the volunteers revealed a Georgian box drain and some very interesting wooden posts. It is hoped that this posts will take the history back several centuries but as yet there is no date as the archaeologists are waiting for dendrochronology result for the post that was lifted out of the black mud on the last day.



There was some explanation by Gill Morral about the next stage – Phase 4 Interpretation and party and about the commitment in the Lottery application bid which included the plan to have 2 boards explaining the information which has been discovered. In conjunction with Trent & Peak a group will study the results, select the text and images that best express a) the Manor House and b) the water mill. It was suggested that a discussion group be set up to exchange ideas for type of board, position of board and well as content and that this group need not be technical. There will be need to work with Trent & Peak and Broxtowe. The boards could be unveiled by a dignitary possible at the end of September 2015.

Following the unveiling ceremony there could be an event to celebrate the success of the project. It could involve historical re-enactment such as a sword fight display fitting in with the Toton man who went to Agincourt, archery displays, costume, musical entertainments dancing, cookery, willow working etc etc. The proposed date for this event would be 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Towards the end of the evening Norman Lewis presented our guest of Honour Geoffrey Nicolds a representative from the Lottery board with two CDs of photographs taken from April to September 2014 by various volunteers. There were 340 photos on the CDs including the aerial photos taken by Dave's ingenious skycam. Geoffrey Nicolds expressed his thoughts on the achievements of lottery funding of the historical understanding gained by projects such as Toton Unearthed and by the strengthening of the community that comes with working together and the forging of new friendships that follows.



The evening finished with the second of two songs from Dave who had composed two songs whilst "Digging in a Hole" and just being part of the "Toton Diggers". It was great to end the wonderful evening with an audience participation song

***"Du du oo du dup doo We're the Toton Diggers".***