

# NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP



It will be February by the time you read this report, and Christmas will seem a long time ago. However, we had a very enjoyable social evening on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December: everyone brought something for the table, which we shared whilst Christopher Lee read an extract from Farmer's Glory 1932 by A. G. Street, a well known farmer and broadcaster.

It was the story of Samuel Goodridge, a 'drowner' – in other words a labourer whose job was to keep the channels and sluices of a water system working, so that in the spring the water meadows could be flooded and a controlled flush of new grass produced for the cattle. It was a good story and Christopher read it to great effect. It was particularly relevant as the fields on each side of Station Road were water meadows, and the leats are marked on old maps of the village. These were served by the Shuttern and the sluices were part of the system which Christopher Southcott has been excavating.

The second half of our evening was an introduction to metal detection from Alan Hancock, who brought a selection of his local finds and told us about how it is regulated and organised both through the law and also through the local society. This makes it possible to gain a landlord's permission to go on his land to search, plus gives help in identifying the finds when they are dug up. We all hope that Alan finds a Newton St Cyres Hoard! He also explained how the Portable Antiquities Scheme registers significant finds.

At our April meeting, Alan's colleague, Colin Hart, will speak to us and his 25 year's experience of using a metal detector.

We all had a pleasant and interesting evening and our thanks go to all those who helped and spoke.

## Next Meetings

### **February 9<sup>th</sup>**

Shelley Tobin from Killerton House will tell us how to date old family photographs. Bring any with you for help. Roger Cashmore has offered to pre-scan photos requiring advice and put them on a memory stick so we can all share both photo and advice with Shelley Tobin. To have your photos scanned contact Roger directly, or, take your photos in a suitable envelope marked with your name address and phone no to Roger at the next minimarket or again suitably labelled to Lynda Pearce, 8 Godolphin Close. We will give out some forms to help you at the next meeting. If you haven't been able to get them scanned still bring and hope!

### **March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting with Sandford Heritage Group when Tom Coleman will talk about farm houses. Tom comes with a recommendation. The meeting is at 7.30pm in St Swithuns Church Sandford. Parking is in their village hall car park nearby. Lifts will be available.

### **April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Colin Hart will come and tell us about his experiences with a metal detector.

### **May 10<sup>th</sup>**

## **NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP**

Phillipe Planel will help us identify and log the sites of buildings now lost.

All meetings except in March and June are on Thursday evenings in the village hall club room and start at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome. There is a small charge of £1.50 which includes tea and biscuits.