

OKEHAMPTON AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

THE JEAN SHIELDS MEMORIAL DAY

SATURDAY 10th AUGUST 2019 at 2 p.m. St. Peter's Church, North Tawton

This public event will describe the important archaeological work that is going on in our area with particular reference to the Roman remains.

Local archaeologist Steve Stocker will give a talk entitled " In Search of a Roman Road " describing his researches into the route of the ancient road from Crediton to Okehampton.

The Archeological work of The University of Exeter will be represented by Chris Smart who has a wide knowledge of the Roman Forts in Devon and Joao Fonte who is experienced in modern archeological methods and has a wide knowledge of the Roman Military. They will describe geophysical work and excavations that are under way at local sites. This will also describe work going on in other parts of West Devon.

After the talks there will be an opportunity, by kind permission of Mr Nigel Dunn, to visit the site of the Roman Forts which are on private land. Instructions for driving to the site will be given at the meeting. Visiting the sites will involve a walk of about half a mile. There may be some mud so please have appropriate footwear available.

It may be possible to arrange a walking visit to parts of the Roman Road at a later date. You may wish to get an impression of what a Roman road looked like. Redrow Homes have built the Romansfield estate close to the site of the small Roman fort to the east of Okehampton. They have reconstructed a short length of the road as it would have looked when built. To see it leave the B 3215 Okehampton to North Tawton road to enter the Redrow Site by the show homes. There is a display board by the reconstructed road close to the first junction.

Okehampton and District Local History Society are grateful to Rev'd Nick Weldon for the use of St Peter's Church. This meeting commemorates the work of Dr Jean Shields BEM who did so much for the encouragement of the study of the history of our area. Jean lived at eBathe cross and knew the Roman sites well.

There will be a charge of £4 per person for non members for the talks and visit which includes temporary membership of the History Society.

Further details from Keith Badman on 01837 82701.

Parking close to the church may be possible in the Town car park which is entered through an arch to the left of the Square. There is usually roadside parking on Market street to the right the square. Please look for signs for additional parking.

The Roman occupation of Britain lasted from about AD 50 until AD 450. At several different periods during that time North Tawton was the site of important military bases probably guarding the crossing of the River Taw on the road which led through Exeter and Okehampton towards Cornwall. Some of these military camps would have had thousands of troops present with accompanying buildings for family and civilian workers.