

OBITUARIES

RICHARD J IVENS BA PhD FSA MCIfA (1950–2020)



Dr Richard Ivens died after a short illness in Banbury on 1 May 2020. Richard was born in Banbury in April 1950. He was proud of Northamptonshire, the county where he had deep roots, as his family had lived in Northamptonshire/Warwickshire for many generations. His connection with Northamptonshire and its past grounded him. He grew up in Kings Sutton and was educated at Magdalen School in Brackley, where swimming lessons took place in a medieval fish pond. Although he started as a geography undergraduate at Queen's University in Belfast he quickly changed to archaeology and stayed on at Queen's as a post-graduate. Archaeology became his all-consuming passion.

In a career which spanned more than four decades he lived and worked in several counties in England, as well as two decades in Northern Ireland and Eire. During his time in Ireland he held posts at The Queen's University, Belfast – where he had been a research assistant to E M Jope – and the Institute of Irish Studies. In that time published several articles in various journals in Ireland.

Richard also worked for the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit directing excavations at Tattenhoe and Westbury and was the main author of the resulting monograph (1995), published in the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society series. After the Milton Keynes unit closed, Richard set up on his own, largely working on evaluations over 25 years, principally in the South Midlands area and including many sites within Northamp-

tonshire. He was also instrumental in publishing Martyn Jope's archive. The writing of old research excavations and editing for publication filled the later part of his career.

Richard had an enormous attention to detail and organisational capacity, allied to a sharp mind and great insight. Work always started with precise observation of individual sites or artefacts. Richard demanded that any statement be based on evidence, whether he was concerned with someone else's publication, a student's essay, or widely held beliefs. He was totally prepared to put his own works to the same rigour. He saw himself as a historian who used archaeological data in addition to historic data and spent much of his time on documentary research. Richard had no time for the compilation of lists ("postage stamp collection") or abstract schemes of development ("fairy tales").

His main interest was always in the medieval period: he will be remembered for publications including of pottery kilns from Brill, Buckinghamshire and Potterspury, Northamptonshire (the latter comprised two articles in volumes 26 and 28 of *Northamptonshire Archaeology*). Richard was also a keen member of the Castles Studies group and published articles on Deddington Castle, Oxfordshire and a ringwork at Killyliss, County Down, Ireland. In Northamptonshire, his work on Sulgrave Castle resulted in a full report.

Richard was a kind and warm-hearted person with a deeply whimsical and dry sense of humour,

who worked with, and made friends with, many people in the county. He was generous with his time, teaching and assisting others, no matter what their status; colleagues, students and volun-

teers. He was a member of many local groups as well as the Council for British Archaeology (South Midlands).

Dr Isabel Lisboa

PAUL WOODFIELD Dip Arch RIBA MCIfA (1933–2020)



Clive Trevor Paul Woodfield was born in Birmingham in November 1933 and died aged 86 in Stony Stratford on 24 April 2020 in his sleep, of a suspected heart attack. In a life well-lived, he and his late wife, Charmian (1929–2014), had a significant influence on the archaeology in the region. In Paul's case, this was recognised when he was appointed a Vice President of Northamptonshire Archaeological Society. Paul published over 30 books, articles and notes over a fifty-year period from 1963–2010, including ten articles and notes in *Northamptonshire Archaeology*.

Paul Woodfield trained as an architect, but also was fascinated by archaeology from an early age. He worked in the 1950s on excavations at Verulamium which is where he met Charmian (née Phillips). Paul was primarily an architect and worked in the Coventry City Planning and Architecture Department in the 1960s. Charmian was Coventry's first city archaeologist: they both campaigned to save some of the town's surviving historic buildings from redevelopment, and with Paul's help Charmian later went on to publish a seminal work on the Coventry Whitefriars in 2005. Both helped the compilers of the Victoria County History with the preparation of Volume 8 of the Warwickshire VCH, which included Coventry.

In 1965–6, Paul took a job as an engineer with the British Government in Sarawak, Borneo, having

previously served there in the forces. Charmian took an English teaching role at Tanjong Lobang College but found time to direct the excavation of a Ming Period burial cave. They returned to Britain with their young family in 1968 and, after a period as Deputy County Architect for Radnorshire, Paul became Head of Building Conservation at Milton Keynes Development Corporation in 1972, taking early retirement in 1985. During this time he prepared *A Guide to the Historic Buildings of Milton Keynes*, published in 1986.

The Woodfields initially lived at Towcester, in a Grade II listed house on Watling Street: their children were educated at Sponne School. While there, Paul designed a rear extension for the listed medieval Chantry House, a building bequeathed to Towcester parish church: this was converted into the Parish Office and two meeting rooms were opened in 1987.

After leaving MKDC, Paul took part in updating listed building lists for English Heritage in Wiltshire and Cornwall and later for CADW, with a period between as a senior architect and latterly head of English Heritage's Central Architectural Practice in London. In 1980 he set up his own company to undertake building recording and small-scale archaeological projects, mainly in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. In addition to his professional work, he gave freely

of his time to amateur archaeological, historical and metal detector groups and individuals around Milton Keynes, such as the Towcester Historical Society. He became involved with the discovery at Monkston by two metal detectorists of Bronze Age gold torcs, which are now on display at the British Museum. Paul was also interested in other, possibly more widely read lines of publication: for example, with Charmian he wrote the guide book to English Heritage's Lyddington Bede House, Northamptonshire.

For many years, the Woodfields' principal home was at 107 High Street, Stony Stratford, an interesting, impressive large detached High Victorian town house which was built by, and was the home of, the architect Swinfen Harris, and is itself a listed building. Anyone visiting the Woodfields at this elegant place would have to pass a large board in their front garden which declared it was 'a nuclear free zone'. Many people have a memory of the eccentricity – in that great British tradition – of the Woodfields; that was part of their charm. Paul and Charmian were always kind and receptive,

involving themselves in a host of people and organisations, mostly in their own time.

During his long and varied career, Paul had been involved in some prestigious projects, including preparing the drawings for the Lincoln Cathedral Bishop's chair. Paul's main interest was in restoring buildings. At Berwick, where he and Charmian had a second home, he is remembered for restoring a number of listed buildings, including The Merchant's House on Palace Green. The catalogue of his work produced by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), York (<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/personDetails.xhtml?personId=5183>) and a collection of seventy-eight of his drawings held by Historic England (<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/collection/PWD01>) help to give an idea of the range of his interests and the depth of his knowledge.

*Rob Atkins and Brian Giggins,
with contributions from
Julian Woodfield and Dennis Mynard*