

Exhibition 6000

by *Adrian Challands*

A major archaeological exhibition entitled 'Exhibition 6000' was mounted in the Reception Area of the Peterborough Development Corporation's Touthill Close office block in April 1977. The aim was primarily educational: to introduce the public and local schools to the work of the Nene Valley Research Committee and to archaeological aims and methods in general.

There were four distinct components to the exhibition: a slide show, a series of illustrated panels, cases containing artifacts and a model. The slide show in the Lecture Theatre involved a synchronised recorded commentary describing archaeological methods and the history and archaeology of the Peterborough Area from the Neolithic to the present day. The panels provided an historical introduction to archaeological research in the Peterborough area and covered pre-history and aspects of the Romano-British settlement and economy. A series of large-size back-lit colour transparencies of the Water Newton Treasure in its restored condition illustrated the Romano-British Christian church. The Saxon and Mediaeval periods were covered by text and illustration and brought right up to the present time. Finally, an automatically repeating series of colour slides of exhibits in Peterborough Museum was shown in a light box with captions encouraging people to visit the City Museum.

Specific themes were selected for the cases such as 'Roman Wells', 'Post-Roman and Mediaeval Peterborough'. An antique display case housed books and articles by 'Early Archaeologists of the Peterborough Area'. A superb Iron-Age village model (fig 4) was produced by the Corporation's model makers based on part of the actual Fengate site plan. A great deal of research was done to make it as accurate as possible.

The exhibition ran for four weeks, and the end result of the exercise was that over 6000 visitors (which included 70 school parties) passed through the exhibition. Sales of NVRC publications were brisk.



Figs 22, 23 Above Exhibition 6000, bottom a display case showing Roman Well finds

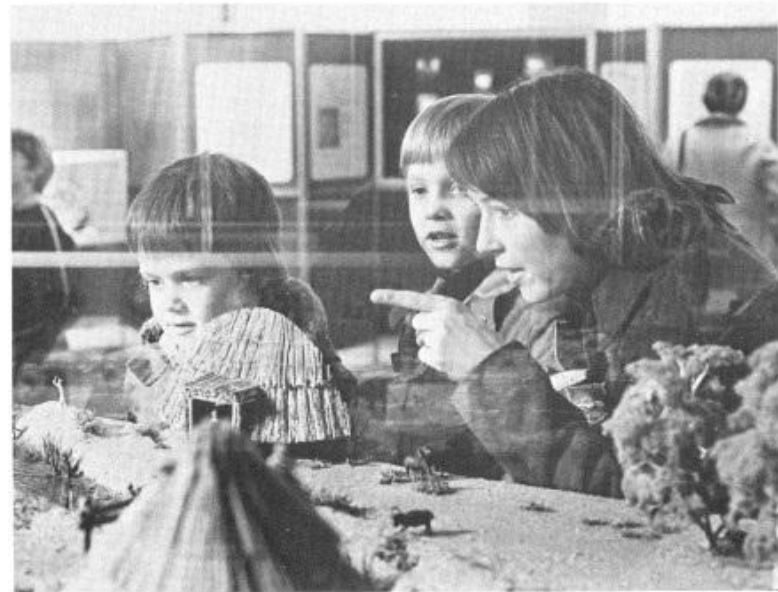


Fig 21 Visitors to Exhibition 6000