



Newsletter and Calendar of the Northamptonshire  
Archaeological Society

## Editorial

With this issue, the Calendar and Newsletter takes on a new identity as the 'Northamptonshire Mirror'. The new format is intended to be more attractive with more scope for illustration. The "Mirror" is intended to keep members of the NAS up to date with archaeological happenings in the County. If you have any news of current work, please send it to the editor, don't wait to be asked!

To turn to serious matters, archaeology in Britain is currently going through difficult times and needs public support. Development and mineral extraction etc. seem to be continuing unabated, yet the resources made available by Central and Local Government are totally inadequate for the needs of Rescue Archaeology. If we value our heritage which is surely a considerable national asset, we must continue to press for increased funding and also speedy implementation of the New Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

There is also the problem of metal detecting. The STOP (Stop Taking Our Past) campaign was launched in March by the Association of County Archaeological Officers, the Council for British Archaeology, the Museums Association, Rescue, the Standing Conference of Unit Managers, the Society of Museum Archaeologists, the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation and Young Rescue.

A leaflet discussing the problem was issued by STOP and it is worth drawing attention to some of the points it raises. The difference between archaeological and metal detecting techniques are emphasized. Whereas the archaeologist in excavation records accurately all finds in relation to walls, floors, ditches etc., so as to arrive at a total picture of the site's economy and history, the average metal detector user seems primarily concerned with removing the metal objects; the relationship of the objects with the site's soil deposits cannot be properly recorded in the holes dug to remove the objects and a great deal of damage can be done to sites. Scheduled ancient monuments have not avoided the depredations of treasure hunters and rescue excavations have had to be mounted on the outstandingly important sites of Uley, Gloucestershire, Wigber Low, Derbyshire and in the New Forest as a result of the severe damage by treasure hunters. It

is a serious matter and a valid analogy is the removal of illuminated letters from a medieval manuscript. There is an increasing awareness of the need for conservation in natural history whether birds eggs or wild flowers. It is up to us to convince both the general public and government of the need to make adequate provision for the conservation of our rich past. To obtain the

STOP leaflet, send a SAE to CBA, 112 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE.

Please send contributions for the next issue of the "Mirror" (April - September, 1981) to the Editor by the end of February - short articles, letters, details of future exhibitions, lectures, courses etc. to - Mrs. F. Williams, Plot 306 Froxhill Crescent, Wolfage Manor, Brixworth, Northants.

## A Medieval Undercroft

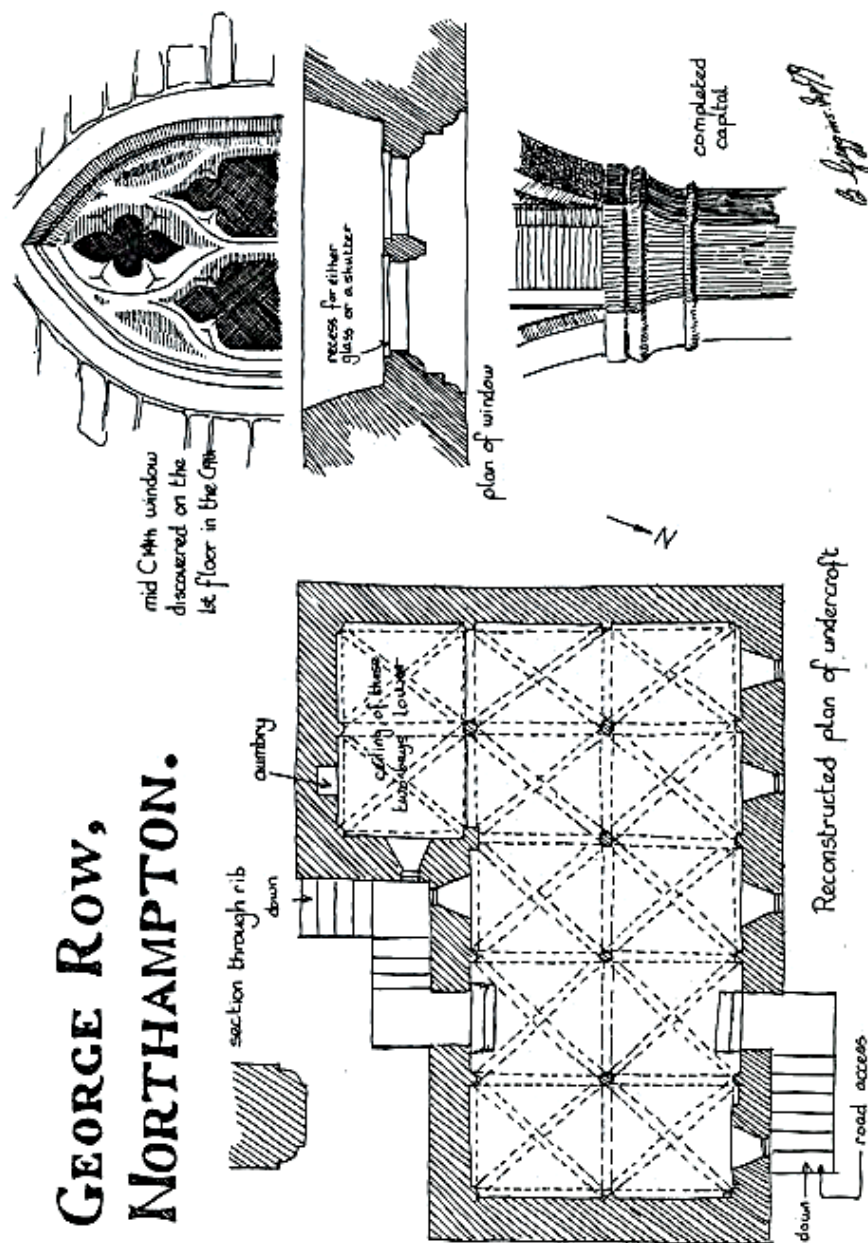
Mr. B. Giggins, Northants Building Group.

At a meeting of the Buildings Research Group held in Northampton the group were kindly allowed to visit the medieval undercroft situated under The Northampton and County Club in George Row. Medieval undercrofts, are stone-vaulted basements constructed mainly below ground level but with sufficient height to enable them to be lit by small windows just above ground level. In the past they have generally been thought to be destroyed churches or just cellars. Nevertheless, current theories suggest that they were usually used commercially i.e. were shops, warehouses or alehouses. We hoped to establish whether this undercroft fitted in with these ideas and also check the plans of the undercroft produced by Sir Henry Dryden in 1887 which showed a possible entrance leading directly onto George Row.

Sir Henry Dryden was correct about the doorway but surprisingly had missed two blocked windows and an aumbry (wall cupboard) situated in the north wall. It was apparent that the present entrance doorway was also original and would have given access to a yard at the rear and not the floor above. There was no evidence at all for there being access to any part of the building on the ground floor. A reconstruction of the original plan of the undercroft accompanies this article.

The only other aspect we noted was that the undercroft had never been completed. Of the twenty one capitals incorporated in the undercroft only two had been properly moulded. The others were roughed out and built into the fabric ready to be carved in situ by a specialist mason but never completed.

The present building above the undercroft was the Old Infirmary. This contains a very fine late 17th century staircase but nothing else to suggest an earlier date. However, a note in The Northamptonshire Reporter dated April 14 1897 states: "In George Row, similar old buildings are being demolished. The work has revealed the top of a small pointed window in the wall of the club premises, close to the roof. The window has been built in. The suggestion that it indicates a priests house is of course utterly wrong. It is evident that it was built in its present position soon after the great fire of 1675 when All Saints Church and the surrounding buildings were destroyed. The window was no doubt removed from the ruins of the church and built in its present position. The arch, which has a quatrefoil in the head is well worth preserving, and I hope the club will take steps to that end." They do not appear to have done so. Nevertheless, that great antiquarian, Sir Henry Dryden, returned to the building and produced a measured drawing of the feature



which shows, contrary to the newspaper article, that it may have been in-situ. Date-wise it is probably contemporary with the undercroft. If this is the case then Northampton still has a secular building with at least one wall of full height surviving from the 14th century.

Although the undercroft is large, (the main rectangle internally is 45' by 21') it does not extend the length of the building. There is a section on the east side about 25' long which does not have the undercroft under it. Could this represent a gateway to a yard at the rear? Henry Lee in his famous history of the town written in 1715 refers to such a yard in close proximity to the building:

"In ye year of our Lord 1606 Mr. Roger Higham was Mayor of ye town Mr. Lawrence Ball and Mr. Mathew Silsby Bayliffes, he kept the Bell Inn, upon ye entrance was a large pare of gates into a large yard and upon ye entrance into ye Inn on ye left hand a very large and stately hall open to ye top after ye manner of Noblemens Halls and painted on ye walls But after his time turned into tenements for ordinary sort of people And old Peter Duncly the wheelwright made use of ye great hall to work in and pile up the timber he had wrought to use upon occasions; and being all burnt down by ye great fire 1675 Sir William Haslerwood built a good and strong house and sold it to ye Gentlemen of this County who made it a very large and good goale for ye use of ye County."

The present site of the Bell Inn is the George Row entrance to County Hall, i.e. the building adjacent to the Northampton and County Club. Knowing the position of the Bell Inn it is possible to trace the history of the undercroft and the site to the closing years of the 13th century. In the Royal Rental of 1504 reference to the Bell Inn is found under the Swinwelstrete (Derngate) entries. This and the building adjoining, although then in separate ownerships, were formerly in the occupation of William Carvel. The building where the undercroft is appears to have formerly been the Tabard. William Carvel and the Tabard Inn are also mentioned in a deed dated 10th March 1434 which describes the building as being opposite All Saints Church.

A previous owner of the site is stated as being Richard Couham. He is mentioned in a deed circa 1294 between Isabella daughter of Jordan de Luda and Magister Augustinus de Notingham (Rector of Courteenhall 1292-1296). There is not however any mention of the Tabard at this early date. It would, therefore, appear that the Tabard existed as an inn in part of the 14th and 15th centuries. As the undercroft dates from the 14th century it seems likely that it formed part of the Tabard Inn. (Much of the documentary evidence is based on Alderman Lee's collection of notes at Delapre Record Office.)

Arguments as to what use was originally intended for the undercroft will continue for many years. I do not think it would have been storage as there is no direct access to the building above. Use as shops is possible even though they would have been situated underneath the Tabard Inn. Nevertheless considering the history of the site and the size and layout of the undercroft I would suggest that its original use was that of an alehouse for the Inn.

My thanks go to Mr. Hadland for allowing us access to the undercroft and my colleagues in the Buildings group for their help and assistance in interpreting the building.

## From the Secretary

Mrs. S. Phillips

This summer the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society had stands at both the East of England Show at Peterborough and the Northampton Show in Abington Park. The object was to bring the society and its activities to the notice of the general public. At the time of writing the Northampton Show is still in progress, so no assessment of the response can be made. I should like to take this opportunity to thank those members of the archaeological societies in the County who 'manned the stands' for the duration of the shows, thanks are also due to Mr. A. Hannan, County Archaeologist, Mr. J. Williams, Archaeologist for Northampton Development Corporation and Mr. B. Giggins, Northants Buildings Group for the loan of display material for the Northampton Show.

The summer finds most members engaged on various 'digs' around the county, which have been somewhat hampered by the poor weather this year. A coach trip has been planned to visit Wroxeter Roman City, and Acton Scot working farm museum in Shropshire at the end of August. The winter lecture programme provides subjects of interest from several periods. On October 25th there will be a joint meeting of the NAS and the Northamptonshire Record Society, when the speaker will be James Campbell of Worcester College, Oxford. His subject for this occasion will be the 'Saxons in the South Midlands.' We are grateful to the Northampton Development Corporation Archaeology Unit for acting as hosts for this meeting which will be held at the NDC headquarters, Cliftonville House, Bedford Road, Northampton. The November meeting will be in the south of the County, at the Sponne School in Towcester where the subject is the "Reconstruction of the Roman landscape at Barton-Court Romano-British villa". There is no meeting in December and the next lecture moves to the north east of the County to Peter-

borough where the meeting is at the Peterborough Museum. The Northamptonshire Natural History Society are our hosts for the February 20th meeting, when Martin Howe will speak on the 'Vikings' at the society's Humphrey rooms in Castilian Street, Northampton. The AGM and annual round up of reports on excavations around the county will take place on April 25th at the Wellingborough Technical College. The NAS Council holds its first meeting, after a summer break, in September.

With costs rising and publication grants dwindling in the general cut back, the publication of the annual journal plus our other printing commitments (off-prints, programmes etc.), needs greater financial support. Of primary importance for the 1981 programme is the planning of a 'grand fundraising event'. The Council (it is hoped) will return from a summer expended in the investigation of Northamptonshire's past inhabitants brimming with ideas to interest its present population! From those suggestions already received next year's events promise to entertain everybody with an interest in their county's past. Watch the 'Mirror' for further news.

For any further information about the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society, please contact - The Secretary, Mrs. S. Phillips, 16 Blandford Avenue, Kettering.

# Hunsbury Villa 1980

*John Williams, Chief Archaeologist,  
Northampton Development Corporation.*

During July excavations were conducted for 4 weeks on the site of the Romano-British villa at Hunsbury. The site was discovered by D. Hall in 1972 during field-walking and had subsequently been trial trenched. Since the villa was badly damaged through soil erosion no major set-piece excavation was planned but during September 1979 construction of the Hunsbury spine road cut through a very fine small bath suite attached to the villa. A week's hectic salvage work completely excavated the bath suite and considerable quantities of building tile and decorated wall plaster were recovered as well as a small piece of mosaic floor. The wall plaster has been consolidated and attempts (so far not too successfully) have been made to piece the designs together. Many colours are represented and plain striped borders and semi-abstract designs predominate but one small fragment depicts part of a human face.

After last year's interesting work, it seemed desirable to try to uncover the complete plan of the villa. We also had in mind organising a training excavation and the two ideas happily married. During the first two weeks of July, 15 sixth formers, studying history A level attended and in the following fortnight 16 students of Leicester University Extra-Mural Department's Certificate in Archaeology course received instruction. The courses were a combination of practical work and lectures and an attempt was made to give all students the widest possible experience. I personally enjoyed the 4 weeks very much.

Although most of the floor levels of the villa had been completely removed, nonetheless, a most interesting sequence was noted. An original simple rectangular block c. 13m by 8m was extended 5m at one end. This type of structure can be noted in the early structures at Park Street and Lockleys in Hertfordshire. A normal development would have been to add a corridor to the

front and perhaps wings on the sides but at Hunsbury one of the narrow ends was demolished, the building changed its axis through 90° and a corridor built across the new front of the building possibly to connect the original block with the bath suite perhaps built at this time. A lot more work remains to be done on the villa and the above must be regarded as preliminary thoughts. In particular more excavation is needed to establish the chronology of the site. Of interest in this respect is a sherd of Saxon pottery from one of the villa's robber trenches.

We have, therefore, covered the site with polythene and earth and bedded it down for the winter with the intention of undertaking further training excavations on the same site next July. Anyone interested should write to me after Christmas.

The intention with this site is to recover the villa plan and its chronological framework. Total excavation is not justified on a site already so badly eroded. What villa studies nationally need, however, is the excavation of a well preserved villa, its outbuildings and also its field systems so that we can begin to understand the total villa economy and social structure.



*View of Hunsbury Villa bath suite.*

# The Piddington Villa

*Excavated by The Upper Nene Archaeological Society.*

*R. M. and D. E. Friendship-Taylor and P. and C. Woodfield.*

The site was first discovered in 1781, during limestone quarrying. Several sources claim that a large mosaic pavement was discovered. In his 'History of Northamptonshire', Whellan (1874) states of the villa, 'in 1781 at Stone Pits at the south-west end of Piddington, closely adjoining Preston Wood, a beautiful pavement 50ft sq. was found (VCH Northamptonshire, Vol. 1, p.198 states that the mosaic was black and white), which was found in perfect condition when it was cleared. Also found was a skeleton with a spear and nearby a gold ring. All this material was unfortunately destroyed or lost, at or shortly after discovery, during quarrying operations. (It seems no drawings were made of the pavement at the time of discovery.)

In 1978, the field in which the villa is situated was partly bulldozed to level out the 18th century quarries and was ploughed for the first time for many years. Surface finds, indicative of a large Roman building were apparent, extending over 3-4 acres, together with evidence of walling exposed at the quarry edge.

The local vicar, with the aid of a metal detector dug random holes over the site and followed one or two walls. Other local and not so local, treasure hunters soon discovered the location and began to pillage the site. Also, a large pipeline trench threatened to cross the site. Continuous ploughing would have eventually eroded the villa, assisted by natural erosion, accelerated by the natural slope of the field and by the fact that four centuries of building and rebuilding on the site had created a 'tell'-like profile, making the villa extremely vulnerable to erosion.

The limestone uplands of Northamptonshire are an area which, for reasons yet imperfectly understood, gave rise to the development of very large and wealthy country estates during the Roman period.

Excavation by 'The Upper Nene Archaeological Society' commenced in April 1979. Two large areas 12 metres sq. have been opened up, revealing eleven rooms, one of which is a corridor (rooms 6, 8 and 11) traced so far for 36 metres and floored in herringbone tiles: **opus spiculatum**. Several post-holes had been cut through the floor, which seems to relate to a post Roman date, several **minimi** were associated with these holes.

To the east of room 11 a skeleton was found. The grave had been inserted into the east wall of the corridor, probably into the sill of a doorway. The burial was of a young woman in her early 20's. She had received a severe blow in the centre of her back and had been buried rather hastily face down – no grave goods or finds of any sort were found associated with her, although a large bronze stain was found on several of the vertebrae, indicating removal at some time, either by the plough or metal detector. It would seem to be a post-Roman type of burial of a type common to the east midlands.

Several fragments of limestone columns have been found which probably indicate the existence of a colonnade, fronting the building. Wall plaster too has been found in abundance, mainly in a plum colour, some with extremely smooth surfaces, while others had a coarse combed effect. Some have white strokes added, but other colours are present, such as pale blue, green and yellow with brown strokes and lines. Some very important groups of mid 2nd to late 4th century pottery have also been found.

Occupation commenced on the site during the mid 1st century AD (much the same as the nearby site at Quinton (Friendship-Taylor 1974;1979). (A fragment of a late iron-age enamelled bronze terret (Jeffrey and Spratling 1976) was found in the vicinity of the villa and has recently

been handed to us by a treasure hunter.)

The villa was destroyed by fire sometime during the Antonine period, was rebuilt and continued in use until the early 5th century, when fire seems to have finally destroyed the villa.

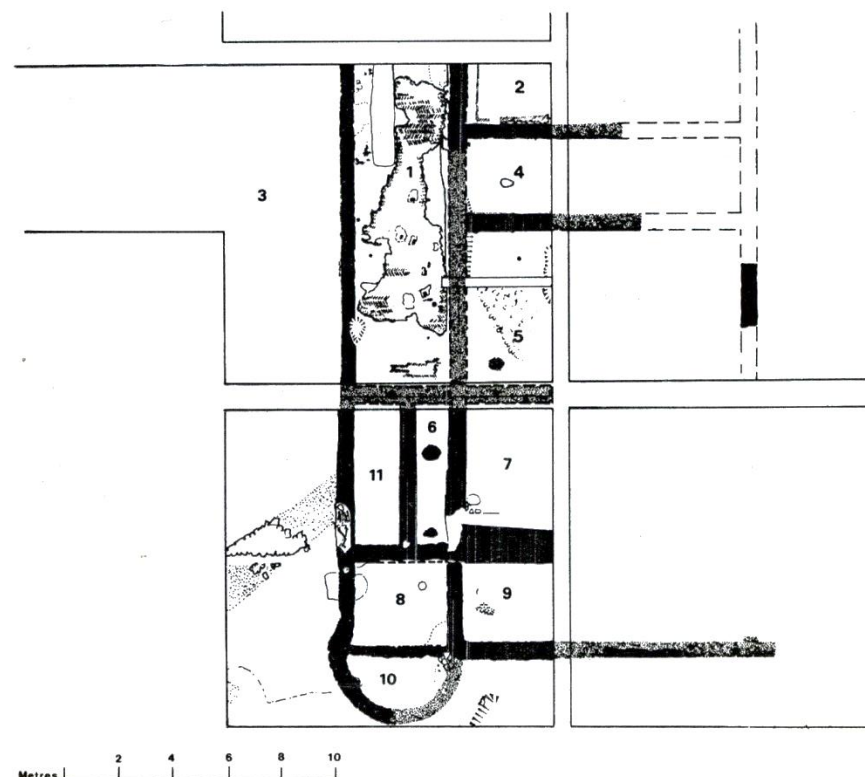
Already, a further four large areas have been cleared of top soil in readiness for the 1980 season. Work continues most Sundays throughout the year. Anyone who wishes to participate at weekends should write to or telephone:

Mrs. D. E. Friendship-Taylor, 'Toad Hall', 86 Main Road, Hackleton, Nr. Northampton. NN7 2AD. Tel: Northampton 870312.

## References:-

- Friendship-Taylor, R. M. 1974 and 1979. Journal of the Northampton Museums and Art Gallery, no's 11 and 13.  
Jeffrey, L. and Spratling, Mansell, Welsh Antiquity. Cardiff, 1976.  
Whellan, F. History and Topography and Directory of Northamptonshire, 1874.

## The Piddington Villa — 1979





Earls Barton. Grave, presumed Late Saxon in date, south of tower and cut by aisle wall.

## Earls Barton Church

*M. Audouy*

All Saints Church, Earls Barton is famous for its Late Saxon tower so when it became clear that building repair work would be necessary to underpin the south-west corner of the church, the NCC Archaeology Unit was keen to excavate in advance.

Between April 1979 and January 1980, the archaeologists made a number of interesting discoveries. The foundations of the Saxon tower at the south-east corner proved to be surprisingly shallow – 0.20-0.25m deep below the plinth and set only in loose sandy earth derived from the ironstone. A series of burials which continued into the 19th century, included seven burials oriented west-east and cut into the bedrock in a north-south line. All were probably Late Saxon, and while most were contemporary or later than the tower, one was probably earlier.

Later than the Late Saxon tower, but earlier than the Early English aisle, was a rectangular foundation 1.30m wide and 1.50m deep built of courses of large pitched slabs of limestone. This may have been a buttress foundation reinforcing the south-west corner of the Norman nave. Of later date still, the foundations of the south aisle and of the west wall of 19th century porch were uncovered.

## Having one's cake and eating it?

*A. E. Brown (NAS Treasurer and Editor)*

Inflation is something which affects everybody and archaeological societies with a very considerable commitment to publication are as badly hit as everybody else. The cost of a printed page of *Northamptonshire Archaeology* for instance has increased three times over the last five years. Yet the publication of archaeological work to a generally acceptable standard must go on if the Society is to do its job properly. Certain remedies suggest themselves as obvious – increasing the membership of the Society is one. So is increasing the subscription to something like a reasonable level. A rough calculation would suggest that the true cost of what

the Society provides for its members in terms of printing the journal and newsletter, postage, speakers' expenses and so on lies somewhere in the region of £10 per annum. This makes the recent increase in the basic subscription rate a very modest one indeed; only time will tell whether it will have to go up again.

Another factor which comes into this is the practical problem of publishing the volume of information generated by a modern archaeological excavation (or certain types of field survey for that matter). Since excavation inevitably results in the destruction of whatever was excavated, the record made of the work must be sufficiently full and accurate, according to the best current practice, to enable a total

reconstruction of the site to be made at any subsequent time; and since archaeology depends for its progress as a discipline on the critical appraisal by other archaeologists of current and past work, then the published accounts of excavations should consist not only of the excavator's own interpretation of what he found but also a version of the detailed feature by feature record made by him which alone will enable somebody else to work over the results and reach his own possibly rather different conclusion. This means that "full" publication produces very long reports, costing proportionally large sums of money, a real problem for a Society such as ours, even taking into account the various grants which we have been able to get over the last few years. It also means very dull reports because the inevitable lists of layers and features, with their contents, and consisting of standardized entries bearing a considerable resemblance to the stock records of the spares department of a large garage, are quite impossible to read and are indeed not intended to be read in the ordinary sense, and only then by a relatively small number of people. It is fair to ask whether the average county society member will continue to be willing to fork out for this kind of thing, especially at a time of rising prices when people always take a critical look at the subscriptions they pay out.

These are well known and much discussed problems. The now famous Frere Report issued by the Department of the Environment in 1975, concerned with the economies of publication, recommended that normal printed publication should be reserved for a summary of the author's conclusions about the site, together with the reasons for them and a discussion of selected finds (Level 4). Detailed supporting information (Level 3) was to be made available to those requiring it in the form of duplicated sheets, computer print outs or microfiche sheets. On the whole most people have accepted the general lines of the Frere Report it seems; the task remains to sort out just how this kind of approach is to be put into effect – bearing in mind also that the Report appeared five years ago.

There are two problems – to decide just

what method to use to produce detailed information and to decide where to draw the line between material suitable for conventional printing and material to be reproduced in some other way. To some extent the answer to one question will influence the answer to the other.

To deal with the technicalities of reproduction first. Computer print-outs or duplicated sheets obtainable on request at a fee from the institution originating the report are quite acceptable methods, presupposing however that the "Level 4" printed report should contain some kind of index to the material to be made available in this way. But not all excavation units possess the resources to operate a service of this kind, and perhaps are unlikely to obtain them in the present economic situation; and who can say what the long term future holds for some of them anyway? Microfiche publication gets round this difficulty in that a copy of the fiche containing the information always accompanies each copy of the printed report, in a pocket or some such device; and to some it might seem as a matter of principle worth making the effort to ensure that both parts of the report are issued together as an entity and not physically separated. Its disadvantage from the publishing society's point of view is that unlike the duplicated sheets paid for by the originating unit and/or customer, it does cost money. But the sums are relatively small – the cost of each of the fiche issued with the last copy of *Northamptonshire Archaeology* worked out at just over 10p.

The next question to answer is just what material should be published in fiche form and what in conventional print. Obviously no two people will have the same ideas about this, and just what is done will to some extent vary from site to site. But some reasonable guidelines can be offered. On the structural side, detailed lists of contexts with their technical descriptions and measurements, and detailed lists of their contents, are obvious candidates; this does not mean that any particularly significant aspects, or points of particular difficulty, need not be fully dealt with in the main text. Finds reports, which bulk very large in most

reports these days can form up to three quarters of their length, can be treated in much the same way. Their importance for the understanding of a site and its chronology is obvious; we would certainly not advocate the situation in which Level 4 is interpreted so narrowly that the printed account amounts only to an extended version of one of the famous Verulamium interim reports issued by Professor Frere in the 1950's and used as a model by many people subsequently. Yet much of the information commonly printed in the finds section although the conclusions derived from it are essential, is of necessity of interest to a very small number of people – reports on Samian ware for example are of fundamental importance in the dating of Romano-British sites and anybody interested in a site will want to know what the expert has to say about this; but how many people really read the detailed sherd by sherd description? Much the same kind of thing could probably be said about the tedious and repetitive descriptions given of other finds e.g. flints, pottery of all periods. The answer would seem to be to print the reports on finds, together with the other technical reports, in summary form, stating the main conclusions, but also as far as possible printing the full range of illustrations, with only the briefest of descriptions. All this on the principle that a good illustration is worth many lines of description, but also to avoid as much as possible the tedious necessity of having to use two readers simultaneously when matching illustration with text. The detailed reports could follow in fiche form, suitably cross indexed with the printed text. This will require the close co-operation and understanding of those who produce the specialist work; producing the summaries to be printed is not a task to be left to an editor and reports should be written with the use of microfiche in mind right from the outset. The specialists must also be made to feel that their work is being published; certainly in this way they should not get the feeling that their reports are being consigned to the dusty shelves of some archive or other, with the possible prospect of complete oblivion.

An objection sometimes heard to the use of microfiche is the shortage of readers available in public places. There is a difficulty here, one must admit, but readers are commoner than they used to be and no doubt will become more so. But the objection does lose much of its force when it is realised that print-outs of individual frames can be obtained quite cheaply and easily at a cost of c 8p per frame. What this does mean however is that better ways will have to be found of making the printed text an effective index to the microfiche, so that only those frames are ordered which are actually needed by someone without ready access to a reader.

Our use of microfiche is an experiment, and has been approved as such by the Department of the Environment. Of course there are going to be difficulties.

As a system it suits large reports best, with one or more fiches per report. Theoretically it could be used for technical material from shorter reports, with the possibility of information from several sites on the same fiche (properly headed up of course); no one wants a very large clutch of these things at the back of every issue of the journal. But in the short term any way this might present considerable problems of organisation, and a mixed economy is likely to prevail for some time yet.

Another line of argument occasionally heard in relation to the use of microfiche (or duplicated sheets on request, or any other dual system of publication for that matter) is the restatement of the fundamentalist position – everything must be printed in full because morally this is the right thing to do. But given a very limited readership for highly specialised material, and the fact that money saved using microfiche can be applied to other publication projects, the morality is surely the other way round – the right thing to do is to make the best use of the resources we have.

## Calendar

Sat., Sept. 6th	Bedford Arch. Soc. Tour of St. Paul's, Bedford.
Wed., Sept. 24th	Bedford Arch. Soc. AGM in Central Library Lecture Theatre.
Fri., Sept. 26th	Upper Nene Arch. Soc. AGM and members evening. Venue to be announced 7.30 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 28th	Wolverton and District Arch. Soc. Coach trip to Tewkesbury and Deerhurst Church. Contact Bob Croft on Milton Keynes 312475.
Mon., Sept. 29th	Wellingborough and District Arch. Soc. AGM "Gaywood", 27 Park Road, Wellingborough. 7.30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 3rd	Upper Nene Arch. Soc. Members Evening. Visitors welcome. University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 25th	Joint meeting of Northamptonshire Archaeological Society and Northamptonshire Record Society. James Campbell, 'The South Midlands in the Early Saxon Period,' Northampton Development Corporation Offices, Cliftonville House, Bedford Road, Northampton. 3.00 p.m.
Mon., Oct. 27th	Wellingborough and District Arch. Soc. Mrs. J. Young, 'Archaeological Travels.' "Gaywood", 27 Park Road, Wellingborough. 7.30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 31st	Upper Nene Arch. Soc. Mike Farley, 'Recent fieldwork in Buckinghamshire'. University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 21st	Joint meeting Northamptonshire Archaeological Society and South Northamptonshire Archaeological Society. David Miles, 'Reconstructing a Roman Landscape - the Archaeology of Barton Court Farm, Abingdon.' Sponne School, Brackley Road, Towcester. 8.00 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 24th	Wellingborough and District Arch. Soc. Social evening. "Gaywood", 27 Park Road, Wellingborough. 7.30 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 28th	Upper Nene Arch. Soc. Steve Upex, 'Aerial Photography in Northamptonshire and the Nene Valley'. University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 6th	Upper Nene Arch. Soc. Christmas Dinner. At the Two Brewers, High Street, Olney. Guest speaker - Andrew Selkirk.
Fri., Jan. 23rd	Joint meeting Northamptonshire Archaeological Society and Peterborough Museum Society. Christopher Saunders, 'Verulamium and its Region.' Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. 8.00 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 2nd	Upper Nene Arch. Soc. Steven Taylor, 'Excavation at Bannaventa.' University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 20th	Joint meeting Northamptonshire Archaeological Society and Northamptonshire Natural History Society and Field Club (Archaeology Section). Martin Howe, 'The Vikings.' Humfrey Rooms, Castilian Terrace, Northampton. 8.00 p.m.
Fri., Apr. 24th	Upper Nene Arch. Soc. Brian Hobley, 'Recent Excavations in Roman London.' University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 p.m.
Sat., Apr. 25th	Northamptonshire Archaeological Society AGM and Members Reports - 'Archaeology in Northamptonshire 1980-81'. Tithe Barn, Wellingborough. AGM 2.00 p.m.; Reports Meeting 2.30 p.m.

*Note: The opinions in this publication are those of the respective authors and not necessarily those of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society.*

## Courses

All courses organised by Leicester University Extramural Dept. Classes held at the University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton.

Monday evening. An Introduction to Human Evolution. Ann Stirland. 24 meetings. £13.20. From September 22. 7.30-9.00 p.m.

Tuesday morning. The Archaeology of Late Roman and Early Anglo-Saxon England. Stephen Taylor. 20 meetings. £11.20. From September 23rd. 10.00-11.30 a.m.

Tuesday evening. Medieval Local Records Study Group. Jacqueline Minchinton. 12 meetings. £7.20. From September 23rd. 7.00-9.00 p.m.

Tuesday evening. An Introduction to Greek Art. Dr. Gordon Sutton. 5 meetings. £3.00. From October 15th. 7.30-9.00 p.m.

Tuesday evening. Roman Britain. Tony Brown. 30 meetings. £16.20. From September 23rd. 6.00-7.30 p.m.

Wednesday evening. Some Parish Churches of the East Midlands. David Parsons. 12 meetings. £7.20. From September 24th. 7.30-9.00 p.m.

Wednesday evening. Prehistoric Fortifications. Roger Martlew. 6 meetings. £3.60. From September 24th. 7.30-9.00 p.m.

Wednesday evening. Britain and her Prehistoric Neighbours. Alex Gibson. 6 meetings. From November 5th. 7.30-9.00 p.m. £3.60

Thursday morning. Looking at Churches. David Parsons. 11 meetings. From September 25th. £6.60

Thursday evening. Recording Old Buildings in Northamptonshire. Paul and Charmian Woodfield. 12 meetings. £7.20. From September 25th. 7.30-9.30 p.m.

Saturday, November 8th. Fieldwork in Palaeolithic Archaeology. Namib Desert Projects 1979-1980. Dr. Myra Shackley. 9.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m. £3.50 (including coffee and afternoon tea). Lunch available if booked in advance - £1.80.

# Help, Help, Help!

## *Northampton Development Corporation Archaeology Unit.*

Excavation: on several sites in Northampton, Saxon-Medieval, September onwards; full-time workers required for week-days, financial assistance, 3 month contracts available; also volunteer help required at week-ends. Finds processing: volunteer help needed in cleaning and marking of finds, at NDC Archaeology Unit, Thorplands Farm, Billing Brook Road, Northampton, every Wednesday evening, 7.00-10.00 p.m. beginning September 3rd.

For further information contact NDC Archaeology Unit, Mr. J. H. Williams, Cliftonville House, Bedford Road, Northampton. Tel: Northampton 46444.

## *Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit.*

Excavation: will be continuing until Christmas at Raunds, on the site of a Saxon church and medieval manor; volunteer help required Monday - Friday, and Sunday, preferably for complete days; contact Mr. G. Cadman on site (access from Brick Kiln Road and Rotten Row, Raunds) or Tel: Northampton 34833 Ext. 5235.

## *Northampton Museum*

Help needed in finds processing, cataloguing etc. Contact, Mr. W. R. G. Moore, Keeper of Archaeology, Guildhall Road, Northampton. Tel: Northampton 34881.

## *Upper Nene Archaeology Society.*

Excavation: Piddington Roman Villa; excavation continues most Sundays; if you would like to help contact, Mrs. D. E. Friendship-Taylor, 'Toad Hall', 86 Main Road, Hackleton, Nr. Northampton. Tel: Northampton 870312.