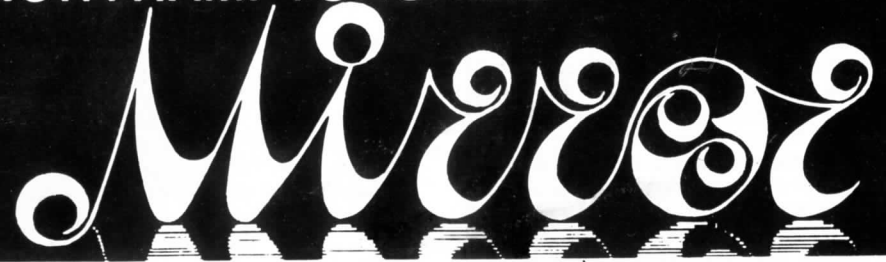


**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**



**Newsletter and Calendar of the Northamptonshire  
Archaeological Society**  
No.2 Autumn, 1981

## **New Light on Dark Age Northampton**

Research on Northampton has continued over the winter both on excavation and post-excavation and interesting light has been thrown on its Saxon development.

Early (AD 400-650) to Middle (AD 650-850) Saxon occupation had previously been identified at the west end of Northampton from pottery scatters and it had been established that a minster church was erected on the site of St. Peters church c. AD 700. Radio-carbon dates have now been received for two Grubenhäuser (or sunken-featured buildings) on the Chalk Lane site excavated between 1975 and 1978. These suggest that at least one of these buildings was erected in the early 6th century and provide the earliest evidence of Saxon structures in Northampton.

Further work close to St. Peters church has uncovered two more Saxon mortar mixers (bringing the total to five) as well as the robbed out foundations of a stone building apparently on line with the early stone church. Can this be another church within a family of churches in a minster complex such as is found at St. Augustine's, Canterbury? Work will continue on this site in the autumn in the hope of defining more clearly the extent of this second stone structure.

Re-evaluation of the coin evidence for 9th and 10th century Northampton suggests that there may have been an urban

community here under the Danes prior to the arrival of Edward the Elder in 917 and that Danish Northampton was not merely a military and administrative centre. A number of St. Edmund Memorial pennies, minted within the Danelaw, some of which were almost certainly deposited before Northampton's capture by Edward in 917 have been excavated and the associated deposits seem to be fairly characteristic of an urban environment.

In May and June Northampton's first real waterlogged archaeological deposits were excavated on the low ground to the south of Woolmonger Street. Here there was a deep build-up of Late Saxon deposits and the dampness of the site – a pump was in constant use – seems to suggest that there could have been extensive marshes to the south of Northampton in Saxon times.

The full report on the Saxon excavations in Chalk Lane will appear in Northamptonshire Archaeology 16 in autumn 1981.

*J. Williams  
Northampton Development Corporation*

## Letter from the Secretary

Sue Phillips

The Society's 1980-81 lecture programme drew to a close with the Annual General Meeting and reports on archaeological work in the county, on a Saturday afternoon in April. It has become increasingly apparent over the last two to three years that these afternoon meetings are inconvenient for many members and also some speakers. The next council meeting will, therefore, be discussing the possibility of transferring the A.G.M. and reports meeting to an evening and perhaps making it more of an occasion. Any objections to or favourable responses to this idea will be welcomed from members, as a full attendance is desirable on these occasions.

Our fund raising event for 1982, the 'Animal, Vegetable and Mineral' quiz, held

at the Northampton Museum was enjoyed by all who attended. Just under a hundred people supported this event and approximately £170 was raised to "swell the coffers". We hope to arrange a similar evening for 1982, details of which will appear in the next edition of the Mirror.

The Society as such is dormant during the summer months, excavations taking precedence for those most active members.

The lecture programme opens on 2nd October when Professor Branigan will be travelling from Sheffield to talk to us at the Lecture Theatre in Tresham College, Kettering. Professor Branigan is an expert on the Roman period and we hope for a good attendance at this meeting.

## Celtic Bronze found near Towcester

B. C. Hastings

The story began on an October evening when a Mr. Haynes telephoned me from Towcester. He was at that time driving a bulldozer and preparing the ground for new milking sheds on a farm not too far away. He told me that he had inadvertently demolished what he thought was an old kiln, but had collected a lot of pottery from it.

Accordingly I went to see him, and together we examined his finds. There were obvious pieces of kiln bar of the usual square section, cigar shape with which we are familiar. (They are placed radially in a circular kiln, supported above the furnace by a central pillar). The large collection of sherds – enough to fill a fertilizer bag – were clearly early Romano-British and some were vaguely familiar. Subsequently, Peter Woods, whom I consulted, identified these as like the very light grey, fine bodied, widemouthed bowls we had dug up at Deanshanger – several years before, whose origin was then unknown – so we had found the source of the unusual pottery at last.

More was to follow. I was not very mobile at the time so Peter Woods, Roy Turland and Brian Rawlinson followed it up, found several more kilns and a ditch containing Gallo-Belgic pottery. The kilns were of unique design, having heavy perforated arches covering the furnace, which was clay lined, with a properly constructed and lined stoke hole – but I shall leave the description of these to Roy, who did the work on them.

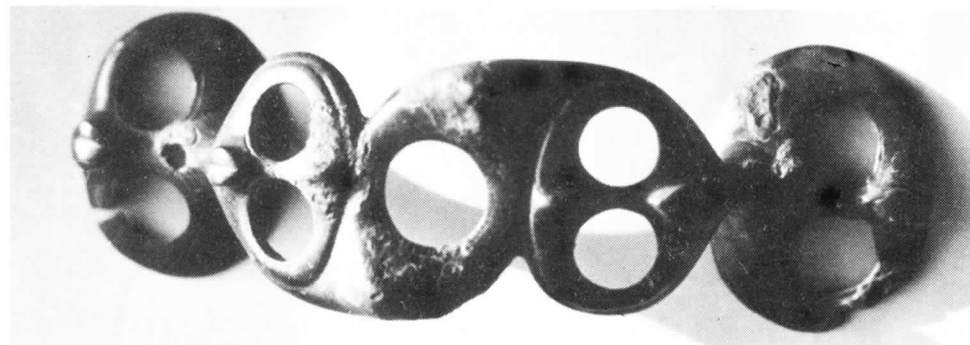
Then, one lunchtime, the farmer's wife telephoned me to say that yet another kiln had turned up, but it had to be demolished within a couple of hours. She asked me to photograph it for the record. Accordingly I dashed over, and we set about cleaning up the visible circular fired lining, to make as good a photograph as possible. While we were doing this, Mr. Haynes, who was working in the region of the Gallo-Belgic ditch, stopped suddenly and yelled 'I've got some bronze'. He had. In the previously unexcavated part of the ditch he had uncovered a bronze object, which we carefully cleared

of soil and photographed in situ. It turned out to be Celtic in origin, and consisted of three bronze bands, which had evidently been the binding of a wooden vessel.

Two were about 5 cm wide, polished on the outside, and, fallen between them was a 1½ cm band. The wide bands had the upper edges turned over to eliminate sharpness. They were squashed nearly flat, and still attached to them by bronze rivets was a handle of cast bronze in a strange (to me) design consisting of a series of irregularly joined circles. The rivets showed that the wood, which had completely dis-

appeared, had been about 1 cm thick. The whole was evidently the metal furnishing of a tub-like staved vessel, just over 20 cm in diameter.

With the owners permission I took it the next day to the Ashmolean Museum, as it was clearly in need of immediate conservation. David Brown and Andrew Sherratt were very interested and kindly agreed to arrange for its conservation. They identified it as Celtic in origin, and found an extremely close parallel in Sir Cyril Fox's book "Pattern and Purpose". This handle was part of the Seven Sister's Hoard, in S. Wales.



## Raunds 1980

Graham Cadman,  
Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit

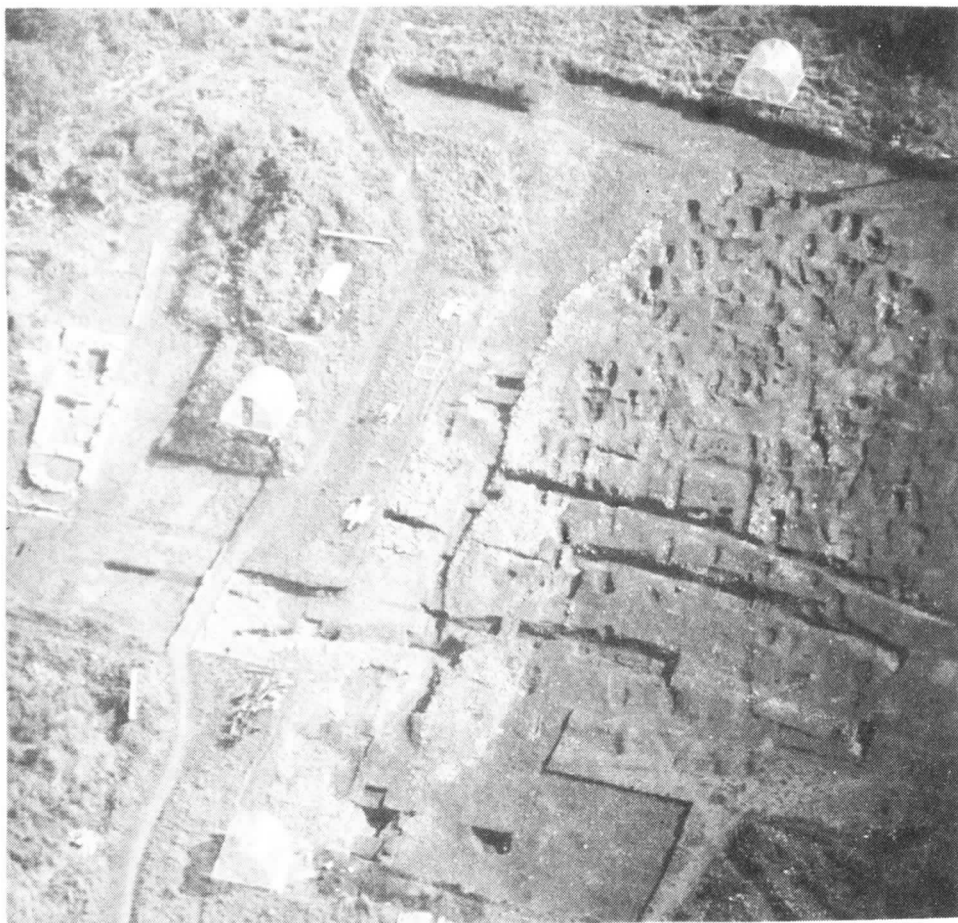
In previous seasons at Brick Kiln Road, Raunds, there has been excavation of the Medieval Manor house and outbuildings; two Late Saxon churches and most of their surrounding burial grounds. The 1980 season has completed the recording of the northern outbuilding; the recovery of most of the burials and an initial investigation of the Middle Saxon occupation.

The Manor outbuilding is situated c. 25 metres north of the main Manor house. Constructed of up to six surviving courses of oolite limestone it contained at its eastern end a malt drying oven. Five post holes associated with the oven were probably used to support racking for barley or to support a chimney. The room to the west of that containing the oven enclosed a rectangular hearth and a circular oven whilst at the eastern end of the structure was a semi-circular, stone-built room, apparently without an entrance and thus interpreted as a bread baking oven.

Evidence was also found of a timber structure extending westwards from the west end of the stone outbuilding and for a single wall running from the eastern end. The conclusion is drawn that the outbuildings form a northern boundary to the Manor house and its immediate environs, a view supported by the apparent absence of further medieval structures north of this line.

The season's major effort has been concentrated in the areas below the two Saxon churches and in the graveyard. A total of 365 burials had been excavated and recorded by the close of the season in December 1980.

In the southern part of the graveyard and in that area below the churches a number of post holes, shallow pits, a hearth and some remnants of beam slots were located. Though much cut about by later constructions and graves, enough survived to indicate a metal working activity in the Middle Saxon period.



*Aerial view of the Raunds excavations in 1980 showing medieval kitchen range to the left, late Saxon graveyard top-right with earlier ditches centre-right.*

These features would appear to be contemporary with two parallel ditches, orientated north-south, in the western part of the excavation. They are believed to form the eastern side of an enclosure to the west. The interior has not been excavated nor has the full extent of the enclosed ditches been determined. However, there are signs of a high density of features within the enclosure as opposed to the relatively low density in the areas to the east, outside the enclosure.

It is possible that the enclosure represents a concentration of earlier settlement to the west of that which formed along Rotton Row in the Saxon/Medieval periods. Though some of the Late Saxon and Medi-

eval boundary ditches do seem to respect the Mid Saxon alignments that are appearing, it is too early to determine whether the later settlement represents continued use of the earlier layout or whether in the late Saxon period a new planned settlement pattern was imposed.

Further large scale excavation would be necessary in order to solve these problems concerning the origins and development of Raunds. Traces of pre-enclosure occupation are represented by the recently discovered evidence of a timber building to be fully excavated during 1981. At the same time more of the multi-period boundary ditch network will be investigated.

# Little Oakley

*B. Bellamy*

Now within the civil parish of Newton, Little Oakley, at 723 acres was the smallest parish in the later Rockingham Forest area. The parish lies across the valley of the eastward flowing Harpers Brook, mostly on boulder clay. The village, however, is sited on an outcrop of Lincolnshire limestone. Village settlement along this part of the Harpers Brook valley, appears to be confined to the Lincolnshire and Oolite limestones. Fieldwalking in the neighbouring parishes of Newton, Stanion, Geddington and Brigstock has produced Saxon pottery at six locations along this valley (Northamptonshire Archaeology Vols. 8, 10, 11, 13), all on limestone outcrops, one a mere thirty metres in diameter. Apparently the Saxon settlers were seeking out these 'dry islands' in an area predominantly of boulder clay.

In a small side valley on the hillside above the village, a Romano-British site is discernable by three distinct scatters of stone and pottery, together with a considerable quantity of Swithland Slate roofing tiles from the Charnwood Forest area of Leicestershire. These arrived here no doubt along the Gartree Roman road (Margery route 57A, Leicester - Godmanchester) part of which forms the northern limit of the parish. This site is probably a villa related to the 2nd century aisled barn sited at the head of the same valley half a mile to the north, in Great Oakley parish (Journal of Roman Studies 1966, 207; 1967, 186). Two, minor Romano British sites have been found on the higher slopes south of the Harpers Brook, close to Newton parish boundary.

Little Oakley is included with Great Oakley in the Domesday survey, and is first mentioned separately in the 12th century Northamptonshire survey, which mentions that William Fitz Alvred held three virgates of land here.

A common feature of the former medieval forest areas are the iron slag patches, these may date to any time between the Iron Age and the Middle Ages. Moreton, (1712) in his Natural History of Northamptonshire, mentions these features: "In the district between the Ise and the Willow Brook there is scarce a lordship but

has these slags, in greater or lesser plenty scattered up and down the fields." A small amount of slag is to be found on most of the Saxon sites in the area, but the dense, black patches referred to here are most likely to belong to the medieval period, as furnaces are recorded for a number of adjacent parishes in the Pipe Rolls of the 12th century and slag patches associated with 13th - 14th century pottery have also been found in a number of nearby parishes (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1976, 195; 1978, 189).

Two slag patches were found in an area of recently cleared woodland in the north of Little Oakley parish and a further area, associated with 13th - 14th century pottery and covering approximately 4 acres may be the Synderhilles referred to in a 14th century manor court roll, (N.R.O. Mont 16.97).

As mentioned above, Little Oakley was within the Royal Forest of Rockingham, this, for administration purposes was divided into separate districts or bailiwicks. Little Oakley was within the Rockingham Bailiwick, and in the perambulation of 1299 (B. Bellamy, forthcoming) part of the parish boundary was also the forest boundary.

At the forest court of 1635, Edward Montagu claimed "exemption of all forest jurisdiction" for certain lands in Little Oakley and in 1639 obtained from the crown "all arable, meadow and pasture lying in the common fields south of Harpers Brook" also the woods in the north of the parish and the "separate parcels of land in the east field and the Wood Close." (Bridges 1791).

The forest perambulation of 1641 sets out the bounds of the forest excluding the land disafforested by Edward Montagu, and so descending Harpers Brook to Little Oakley, to the end of the parish towards Rising Bridge, and so between the boundaries of Little Oakley and Stanion to the lane called Eastfield Lane, thence following the land called Thackley Green excluding the East Field and the close called Wood Close and woods called Brookers Dale, Sallow Coppice and Redmore Hawe, (Wise 1891, 155; N.R.O. Brudenel charters 13th



century Brockhildale, Redemor). What remains of these woods is now known as Oakley Purlieus.

A small wood in the southern part of the parish overlies ridge and furrow and is bisected by a riding set out by the second Duke of Montagu around 1720.

Abutting onto the woodland in the north of the parish were a group of ancient closes which were later subdivided. These were the result of medieval encroachments on the forest, referred to in a charter of Edward I as "the stocking of Parva Acle" (N.R.O. *ibid*). Assarts were reported at Little Oakley together with most of the adjoining parishes in the forest regard, of 1209 (P.R.O. E32/249), and were still being made at the end of the 13th century (Raftis 1974). Traces of ridge and furrow are visible within these closes on aerial photographs (R.A.F. F21/82/RAF/865 0246).

West of these closes was a great enclosure of 80 acres called Shackledine, (Shackeldenfeld, 14thC Manor Court Roll, N.R.O. Mont 16.97) which, it is evident from aerial photographs, once formed part of the arable of the parish. This is undoubtedly the East Field referred to in the perambulation of 1641 and at some date was taken

out of the common fields and enclosed. This piecemeal enclosure which diminished the size of the common fields, must have precipitated a change in the remaining field divisions. The outcome of this may have been the splitting of the Upper and Nether fields into three by the forming of the Middle Field. The very name Middle Field suggests this was a later intrusion.

Prior to the enclosure of the parish in 1808, Little Oakley lordship also encompassed around 90 acres of an outlying part of Geddington (N.R.O. Mont 16.101). The village common consisted of East Field Lane, now Featherbed Lane which survives as a wide, double hedged green lane, How Green, How Green Lane and Broad Green. The last mentioned two were also commonable to Corby, Great Oakley, Stanion and Rockingham.

A low, stone covered mound was found on Mill Furlong, which must be the remains of the mill referred to.

#### References.

J. Bridges, *The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire*, 1791.

J. A. Raftis, *Assart Data and Land Values*, Canada 1974.

C. Wise, *Rockingham Castle and the Watsons*, 1891.

## Lloyds Bank Schools Award 1981

This award for archaeological project work in secondary schools and sixth form colleges is organised by the Council for British Archaeology and sponsored by Lloyds Bank. It aims to encourage original fieldwork and research by schoolchildren. There will be a first prize of £100 and £50 each for two runners-up, as well as a prize of £50 to the teacher who has shown most initiative in archaeological work with children. The title, with a brief summary of a proposed project must be approved by the judges, but suggested topics are:

- a survey of an area, such as a parish, or group of parishes
- fieldwalking, either to locate a particular site or to fulfil a rescue need such as fieldwalking the line of a proposed road
- a survey of upstanding monuments or buildings
- graveyard recording
- experimental archaeology

Details of the award are available from:  
Mike Corbishley, Educational Officer,  
Council for British Archaeology,  
112 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE  
Telephone: 01-582 0494

## Animal, Vegetable and Mineral

*Lesley A. Fairey*

The recent Animal, Vegetable, Mineral Quiz held at the Guildhall Road Museum by the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society proved that archaeology isn't all backache and old bones.

Under the able and witty Chairmanship of Dr. Peter Fowler, the panel consisting of Paul Woodfield, Roy Friendship-Taylor, John Thornton and Don MacKreth were confronted with such diverse objects as a piece of samurai armour and a vase made from a camel's bladder!

Anyone needing a piece of sixteenth century sculpture should consult Paul Woodfield. His attempt to beat the panel – successfully I may add, with what he thought was a skilful "Roman" forgery, circa April 1981, certainly shows that "finds", not backed with proper archaeological recording can be misleading to say the least.

Midway through the evening panel and audience alike were revived with wine and supper, for which much thanks must be given to the society secretary Mrs. Sue Phillips whose culinary delights were much appreciated by all present.

Further objects were then brought forth from behind the screen by Robert Moore, but even a ladder maker's rung maker failed to trip the panel up! And though they identified the saxon ladies girdle hanger I feel the audience were still puzzled as to why the good lady required such a strange implement.

The panel recorded a resounding win over the chair, and museums, who kindly provided the objects. It is to be hoped that this is only the first of a widening circle of activities the NAS will arrange to bring archaeology to the attention of a wider audience in the county.

The Society would also like to thank Mr. Terry for allowing them to hold the event at the museum.

And I would like to thank Andrew Selkirk for drawing the raffle tickets – I promise I didn't tell him which numbers were mine!

My thanks also to everyone else who helped to make the evening a success, especially Di Friendship-Taylor.



*The panel at work. Left to right — John Thornton, Don MacKreth, Roy Friendship-Taylor and Paul Woodfield.*

# Barnwell - Northamptonshire's Unknown Castle

Brian L. Giggins

The year was 1276; Edward I, one of our country's most able monarchs, had been on the throne some four years. Under his father's reign the country had suffered 26 years of personal misrule which had roused both the clergy and the barons, causing civil war to descend on the country. The last major rebellion had been a mere 12 years previous. In order to obtain a strong basis for his period of rule, Edward I immediately appointed Commissioners to find out what were his possessions, enquire into what state the administration was in and investigate what encroachments had taken place. His own lands received special attention and, therefore, when it was learnt that a small but strong castle had been built at Barnwell in the Northamptonshire Polebrook Hundred, an investigation was carried out. This showed that the Lord of the Manor was also holding markets and fairs probably also without permission. To establish the true facts an inquiry was held.

The castle, which was as modern in design as any in the country, had been commenced about 11 years earlier at the time when Simon de Montfort had seized power and assembled the first Parliament. It's builder was Berengar le Moynes, who was keeper of the peace for Hunts. He held the manor from the Abbey of Ramsey who in turn held the land in chief of the King - hence the inquiry into its alienation without licence. The case went against Berenger although it was found out that permission for the markets and fairs had been granted. As a result he was forced to sell his manors and castle which were acquired back by Ramsey Abbey for the considerable sum of £1,666 13s 4d.

Even after 700 years it is not difficult to imagine Berengar's feelings. The castle had been a massive undertaking which must have severely drained his finances. In addition his endeavours to make Barnwell St. Andrew grow into a thriving market were beginning to show results. But now the King, with whom he had gone on Crusade six years earlier, had taken these from him ending six generations of Le Moynes supremacy.

At this stage the first chapter of the castle's history ends. When the second chapter is turned to there is nothing but blank pages and the same is true of the following chapters. The history of the manor is known but what happened to the castle up to the Reformation does not appear to have been recorded. Just what was the castle used for in this period and was the fabric altered? When we get to the year 1540 a little more is known. In this year the Chief Justice, Sir Edward Montagu, purchased the manor and coincidentally the castle was visited by Leland. He describes the castle as:— "4 strong towres part of Berengarius Moynes Castel, after longging to Ramsey Abbey and now to Montacute. Withyn the ruines of the castel is now a meane house for a fermar." Evidently the castle was degenerating into a ruin and most historians see this as the last active chapter of the castle's history - but was it?

The earliest drawing of the castle so far found was produced by Thomas Eayre in 1721, presumably to accompany Bridge's History of Northamptonshire. In appearance it hardly appears to have changed at all. Plants, particularly wallflowers, have colonised every available crack and ledge and venerable pear trees trained as espaliers over a century ago, clasp the masonry of the bastions. Whereas most D.O.E. ruins are prim and sterilised, Barnwell has the air of a Victorian romantic ruin. The curtain walls and towers, despite the action of the destructive climbing ivy, have survived the last 700 years in remarkable condition. They still stand over seven metres high and the ground floor of the gatehouse survives intact. As the documents are silent on the later history of the castle it is necessary for these remains to tell us what they can.

Last summer the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit carried out some rescue excavation in two of the towers whose floors were to be lowered as part of a conservation scheme. The writer and Mr. Geoff Pitcher were invited by the archaeologists to carry out a brief survey of the towers to establish their construction

and development. Needless to say the rest of the castle was also inspected whilst there was the opportunity. It soon became apparent that the castle was slightly more complex than had previously been thought. For example the courtyard door of the gatehouse had always been commented on as being small - in fact too small to allow the passage of carts. Examination of the masonry showed this small doorway to be a secondary feature; part of a considerable alteration to the castle walls which involved thickening the courtyard faces of both curtain walls and towers by a metre of masonry. Why and when this took place is difficult to say, but its affect was to completely revise the internal courtyard building arrangement, i.e. it meant almost a complete rebuilding within the shell of the present walls. To add yet further confusion to dating and understanding these alterations the doorways created by the alterations had semicircular heads whilst the doors they replaced were of the two-centered type i.e. there was a step backwards in the development of architectural style. As there are no dateable features it cannot even be stated if the alteration was medieval or post medieval.

Another curious factor is that if the castle was already a ruin in the early 16th century why does one tower have stone mullioned windows which are unlikely to date before 1560, and why are there a large number of large rectangular window openings at first floor level which must have taken wooden

casement windows? This later type of window is a 17th century feature.

Camden, when writing about the castle at the end of the 16th century described it as follows:— "a little castle repaired and adorned with new buildings by the worthy St. Edward Montacute." The castle is also mentioned in 1748 when the then Duke lamented that his father who died in 1709, had pulled the castle down. Historians have therefore decided that Camden must have meant the building of the present Manor house and have completely ignored the reference to the demolition of the castle. If the castle was demolished why is there so much standing? Could it possibly be that Sir Edward built a house within the ruins and that Lord Chief Baron Montacute lived there as Bridges writing thirty-five years later states he did? If so was it this building that was demolished? Further investigation of the structure hopefully will reveal additional information.

Whatever the arguments about its' later history, Barnwell remains the finest piece of 13th century military architecture in the Midlands and is, as Pevsner states, the first example in Britain of the most monumental type of castle architecture.

## References:

VCH  
Bridges History of Northamptonshire  
Barnwell Castle, Northamptonshire -  
Markham 1912  
Ass Arch Soc. Reps xxxi 525

## Help, Help, Help!

Would you like to help on an excavation or with finds processing?

Northampton Development Corporation  
Archaeology Unit  
Excavations in and around Northampton.  
Help also required with finds processing.  
Contact for further information:—  
Mr. J. H. Williams, N.D.C. Archaeology Unit,  
Cliftonville House, Bedford Road, Northampton. Tel: Northampton 46444.

Northamptonshire County Council Archaeology Unit  
Excavations in the county. Help required also with finds processing.  
Contact: Mr. A. Hannan, N.C.C. Archaeology Unit, County Hall, Northampton.  
Tel: Northampton 34833.

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

# Mirror Crossword

## Across

1. Famous cycling archaeologist.
5. Italian flower.
6. Inscriptional.
8. Bronze constituent
9. Send domestic animals back to a pyramid.
10. Sit on what a tomb robber does backwards.
12. Set up cocoa tin for settlement.
13. Is X or Y an antelope?

## Down

1. This sharpener sounds a little damp.
2. Cardinal Hill.
3. Did this make Sutton Hoo music?
4. Again and again about little French atom.
5. Linguistics.
7. Pour back into common excavated feature.
11. Fast 17th century cartographer.

A mixture of straight and cryptic clues.

A prize of a £3 book token to the first correct solution opened on November 1st.  
Send solutions to:—  
F. Williams, Plot 306, Froxhill Crescent,  
Brixworth, Northants.  
Mark envelope 'Mirror Crossword'.



# Letters

Dear Editor,

As organiser of field visits for NAS, I have been appalled by the apathy of the membership over the last few years. For the 1980 visit to Wroxeter, Shrewsbury and Acton Scott working farm museum, I received only seven applications, of which only my wife and I were members of NAS, the remainder either from my Society, or were members of the various other federated Societies.

This apathy and general lack of interest in the activities the Society tries to organise, does not bode too well for its future. Field visits have been organised in the belief that there is a demand from members for this type of activity, but there is in this world today a complete lack of commitment and loyalty to the various organisations people nominally belong to. As usual, the hard working few are left to organise events in the forlorn hope they will not be let down by its membership—SO COME ON MEMBERSHIP—SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY IN AS MANY WAYS AS YOU CAN.

Roy Friendship-Taylor.

## Calendar

### Saturday, September 12th.

Upper Nene Archaeological Society. Car visit to Littlecote Park villa. Contact Mrs. D. E. Friendship-Taylor, 86 Main Road, Hackleton, Northants.

### Friday, September 25th.

Upper Nene Archaeological Society. Members evening. University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 p.m.

### Friday, October 2nd.

Northamptonshire Archaeology Society. Professor K. Branigan, 'Town and Country in Roman Britain'. Lecture Theatre, Tresham College, Kettering. 7.30 p.m.

### Friday, October 10th.

Upper Nene Archaeological Society. A. E. Brown, 'Excavations in Highgate Wood'. University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 p.m.

### Friday, November 20th.

Joint meeting Northamptonshire Archaeological Society and Wellingborough Archaeological Society. David Miles 'Celt and Roman in the Thames Valley'. Wellingborough Technical College. 8.00 p.m.

### Friday, November 27th.

Upper Nene Archaeological Society. D. MacKreth, 'Wroxeter'. University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 p.m.

### Friday, December 4th.

Upper Nene Archaeological Society. Christmas Dinner. Details from Mr. D. E. Friendship-Taylor. 86 Main Road, Hackleton, Northants.

### Friday, March 26th.

Joint meeting Northamptonshire Archaeological Society and Upper Nene Archaeological Society. Guy Beresford, 'Excavations on four medieval moated sites'. University Centre, Barrack Road, Northampton. 8.00 p.m.

Please send contributions for the next Northamptonshire Mirror to: Mrs. F. Williams, Plot 306 Froxhill Crescent, Wolfage Manor, Brixworth, Northants.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of individual authors as indicated.