

NASNEWS



Newsheet of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

THIRD SERIES No 1

JUNE 1990

Chairman

Dennis Jackson
37 Hunsbury Close
Northampton

Secretary

Alan Williams
11 St Michaels' Avenue
Northampton

NASNEWS Editor

Mike Shaw
42 King Street
Earls Barton

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!!

The Society's AGM, held at the Cornmarket Hall, Kettering, on April 16th saw a wholesale change in the composition of the Society's committee. Mike Rumbold, Wendy Parry, Peter Myhill, Tim Sharman and Graham Cadman retired as Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Meetings Secretary and NASNEWS editor respectively. On behalf of the Society I would like to offer our thanks to all of these for their sterling work on behalf of the Society over the years. The Committee as elected at the AGM is as follows:

Chairman - Dennis Jackson

Secretary - Alan Williams

Meetings Secretary - Melanie Whewell

Committee Members - Burl Bellamy, Graham Cadman, Karen Griffiths, Terry Pearson, Mike Rumbold, Tim Sharman.

Vice Chairman - Roy Friendship Taylor

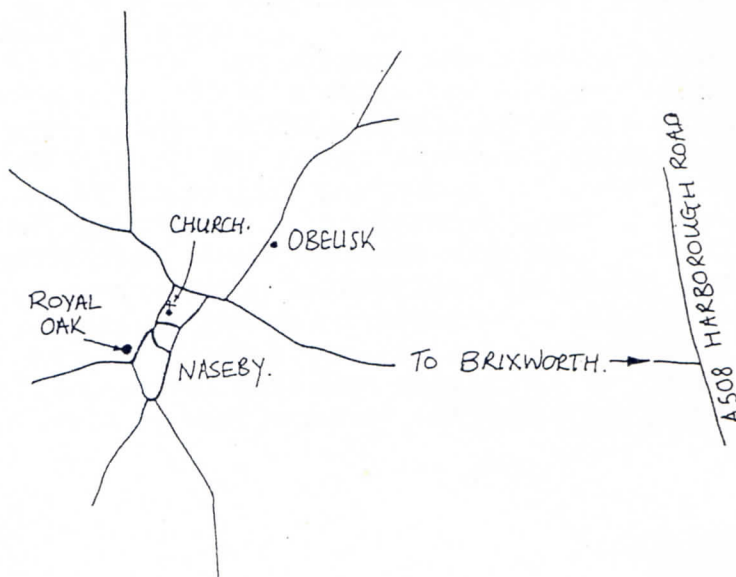
Treasurer - Steve Young

NASNEWS Editor - Mike Shaw

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Society has arranged two attractive field trips for members (and their guests) over the summer:

BATTLE OF NASEBY On the 14th of June 1645 one of the most decisive battles of the Civil War was fought. Charles I saw his main field army destroyed, an event which led to his loss of the Civil War, his throne and eventually his life. On the 345th anniversary of this event Glenn Foard who in addition to heading NAU's Curatorial Section is a Civil War enthusiast and a member of the Sealed Knot, has agreed to lead a tour of the battlefield. In addition Members of the Society should be able to get a sneak preview of the two brand new interpretation panels of the battle designed by NAU and due to be officially opened on the following day. Please assemble at the Royal Oak pub in Naseby (see map below) at 7.30pm on 14th June 1990.



STANWICK ROMAN VILLA David Neal has agreed to give society members an exclusive guided tour of his excavations of this huge Roman villa complex at 11am on Saturday August 11th. Members will be able also to view the new, enlarged exhibition on the Raunds Area Project. A special feature is a do-it-yourself mosaic for children.

VILLAGES FROM THE PAST

As part of their policy of raising public awareness of the county's archaeology the Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit (NAU) have put together a travelling exhibition called Villages from the Past which tells the story of the villages in Northamptonshire from their origins in the Saxon period down to the present day. The exhibition commenced at Raunds Library in April 1990 and will be touring various venues, chiefly libraries, local museums and country parks, throughout the county until April 1991. A leaflet giving details of exhibition venues and dates is available from NAU (tel 0604 700493).

CURRENT EXCAVATIONS

THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON The main excavation being carried out by NAU at the moment is on the site of the Guildhall Extension in Northampton. The site lies in the heart of the Medieval town but outside the original area of Saxon settlement and the chief aim is to establish when settlement first moved into this area. At the moment this appears to be in the late 11th - early 12th century when the area was perhaps part of the 'novus burgus' or new borough mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. This appears to have been the start of a massive phase of town expansion which saw Northampton become one of the leading, and largest, towns in the kingdom in the 12th century. A viewing area has been provided by St Giles' Street and information boards provide a basic interpretation of the site. In addition a display case on the ground floor of Northampton Museum shows some of the finds from the site. Prospective visitors be warned, however, that the excavations cease on June 15th, after which the development commences.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

The committee is only too well aware that the next edition of the journal, Volume 22, is overdue. Unfortunately his new responsibilities at NAU has meant that Brian Dix had to give up the post of Editor of Northamptonshire Archaeology at the AGM. Brian is attempting to complete his work on the editing of Volume 22 and Roy Friendship-Taylor has kindly offered to then step into the breach and see the journal through the press. All of the contributions are in and will include a report on Dennis Jackson's excavations of an Iron Age enclosure at Wootton Hill Farm near Northampton and the long awaited publication of the important sites of Wakerley Roman villa and Wakerley Anglo-Saxon cemetery dug in the 1950s and late 1960s respectively.

DIARY

I hope in future to be able to include in NASNEWS a more comprehensive diary service giving advance notice of local society meetings, courses and other items of archaeological and related interest. In order to do so, however, I need to know of forthcoming events. Can I appeal therefore to Secretary's of local societies to inform me of the dates of their meetings and to everyone else to let me know of any meetings or exhibitions which they think may be of interest to NAS members.

LONDON'S PRIDE

Meanwhile members who combine an interest in archaeology with a passion for gardening ought to set aside a day for a trip to the Museum of London to view an exhibition entitled London's Pride - The History of the Capital's Gardens. This is a vast exhibition which traces the history and evolution of London's parks and gardens, covering everything from grand formal layouts to small city plots. Of especial interest to visitors from Northamptonshire will be the Chinese pavilion which is on loan from Boughton House, near Kettering. As part of the exhibition a nursery garden has been created in the museum's central courtyard. A series of beds devoted to the major nurseries traces the history of plantsmanship in London showing new introductions and plants typical of each era. Admission is £2 adults, £1 children. The exhibition runs from 1st May to 12th August. The Museum of London is 5 minutes walk from the Barbican Tube Station.