

# NASNEWS

SEPTEMBER 2001

## **NAS Annual General Meeting 2001**

NAS will be holding its 2001 AGM at the University Centre on Barrack Road, Northampton on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 7.45pm. New nominations to the NAS Council would be very welcome! Please send nominations to the Secretary (address below) as soon as possible.

At 8pm, following the AGM there will be a public **lecture by Mr Brian Giggins entitled 'Researching Northampton Castle'**. An architectural historian and County Archaeologist for Milton Keynes, Brian has undertaken in depth research on the origins and development of Northampton Castle, once one of the foremost castles in England. Bringing together unpublished excavation results and a wide range of little-known documentary sources, Brian has undertaken the most comprehensive modern review of the castle past and present. There is perhaps rather more still surviving than many would suspect. This promises to be a fascinating evening. Members and non-members are all welcome. Free entry to all.

**Postponement: The Archaeology in Northamptonshire Day Conference** being organised by NAS has been unavoidably postponed until next year. Details of the re-arranged conference will be confirmed in a future edition of NASNEWS as will details of the book whose launch the conference is to mark. Both conference and book draw on the recent English Heritage inspired 'regional research frameworks' exercise and will provide an up to date overview of the archaeology of Northamptonshire. This is a vast subject and compilation of the final drafts of the chapters for the book will require a little longer than anticipated to complete. It should be well worth waiting for, but in the meantime our apologies for the postponement.

## ***Northamptonshire Archaeology Volume 29***

Following the successful publication of Volume 28 of the Society journal during the summer, volume 29 has just been sent to the printers. This promises to be yet another bulky edition which should be with you in spring 2001. Editor Martin Tingle is now accepting papers and notes offered for publication in the following volume.

## **Subscriptions**

### **All members are reminded that subscriptions for 2001/2002 were due on 1st September 2001**

Subscription rates remain unchanged at £10 for individuals, £12 family, £8 student and £15 Local Association. The costs of producing the journal continues to exceed the income from subscriptions but with careful management of other resources we hope to hold subscriptions unchanged for yet another year. As an alternative to raising subscriptions we would encourage tax paying members to sign up to Gift Aid. This provides some valuable additional income to your Society. Gift Aid does not need declaring on your tax return. **Please send subscriptions and Gift Aid declarations to Martin Tingle as soon as possible.**

## Wollaston Helmet Goes on Show!

Artefacts from the burial of an Anglo-Saxon prince excavated at Wollaston in 1997 go on show at Northampton's Central Museum, Guildhall Road from 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. until early 2001. Artefacts include the spectacular helmet with its boar crest, one of only four Saxon helmets ever found in Britain. Other finds include a decorated hanging bowl, iron sword and bronze buckles. On **20<sup>th</sup> October** the Museum are holding an **Anglo-Saxon day** (10am – 4pm) to complement the display. Costumed interpreters will be present along with demonstrations of coin, weaving and bone comb making and the making of a replica helmet. Free.

## Graham Webster

It is with great sadness that we record the death earlier this year of Professor Graham Webster, Vice president of NAS and one of the last great polymaths of British Archaeology. Graham was born at Stamford in 1913. After a career as an engineer he became Curator of the Grosvenor Museum in Chester. In 1953 he carried out his first work at Wroxeter and shortly after became lecturer in Romano-British Archaeology in the Extra-Mural Dept of Birmingham University. For over 30 years he ran a training excavation at Wroxeter helping train a whole generation of British archaeologists. A Romanist though and through, his expertise extended to the Roman army, the study of Roman pottery in Britain, Roman towns, material culture and Romano-Celtic religion to name but a few. There are few areas of Roman Britain where his work did not have a lasting impact.

## NAS Excavations

The old trench cut across an enigmatic earthwork at Stowe Nine Churches south of Weedon Bec and suspected to be of prehistoric date, was as reported in the last NASNEWS, subject to re-excavation and recording by the Society during the summer. An interim report is available on the Society website at [www.american.u-net.com/archaeol/home.htm#Events](http://www.american.u-net.com/archaeol/home.htm#Events) Volunteers are wanted to help with the backfilling and consolidation of the trench to be conducted during the winter, probably after Christmas. Please contact Martin Tingle (contact details below) if you would like to assist.

## Shoe & Leathercraft Week

An annual series of workshops to celebrate shoe making in Northampton and St Crispin, the patron saint of shoemakers takes place at Northampton Central Museum 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October.

## Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey, Essex

This extensive and unique explosives manufacturing and experimental site, opened its doors to the public in May, for the first time in 300 years. Much of the remarkable 175 acre site is scheduled as an Ancient Monument and as an SSSI. There are over 20 listed buildings along with displays and exhibitions helping explain the working of this complex and long lived site. The site at Beaulieu Drive, Waltham Abbey is open daily until 28<sup>th</sup> October 2001.

*We welcome items to include in NASNEWS. Please send any items by the end of October 2001.*

<i>Chair/Editor</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>NASNEWS Editor</i>
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