

NASNEWS

May 2002

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE'S HERITAGE UPDATE

At Northampton Museum

Sadly, at Daventry the District Council's Moot House Museum's lottery project has been formally abandoned. After last year securing funding amounting to £355,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, work was to have started shortly on museum display and educational developments, including provision of a disabled access lift. Despite much local lobbying, Daventry District Council decided in March against contributing their share, amounting to £120,000 (plus some lesser additional costs) and the project has thus had to be abandoned. A follow-up proposal to relocate the Museum to smaller premises has thankfully been dropped though further re-organisation and loss of resources at the Museum can not be ruled out.

And from Northamptonshire County Council's Historic Environment Team comes the news that member Glenn Foard, County Archaeological Officer, left in April to take up a new post with The Battlefield Trust. NAS wish him well in his new role and hope that the Society and others in Northamptonshire can continue to benefit from his unrivalled fund of local knowledge and archaeological expertise. It is to be hoped that the County Council will refill the County Archaeological Officer post as soon as possible.

Better news from the Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer's post, part of the Portable Antiquities scheme. DCMS (Department for Culture, Media & Sports) has agreed to fund the post for another year. This will allow the HLF more time to consider the bid before them for a 3 year extension of existing posts and expansion of the Scheme to a national basis. Rhiannon Harte, Finds Liaison Officer for Northamptonshire is continuing to provide a free finds identification and recording service to metal detectorists and members of the public. Rhiannon may be contacted on tel: 01604 237249 or email: rharte@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Martin Tingle Chairman NAS

Meanwhile congratulations to the Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS) who following their award of a £166,500 grant from the HLF for their Piddington museum, have now secured yet another grant - £5,000 from Awards for All for conservation of excavated finds. Work on the museum will commence shortly with completion scheduled for mid/late summer.

Kettering Manor House Museum is holding a Historical Fayre from 10am to 4pm on Saturday May 11th. Re-enactors and historical encampments spanning the ages will be present with events throughout the day. For further information tel: 01536 534381

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY 29

Journal 29, for 2000/01 has just been published and its 240 packed pages of archaeological delight should (providing your subscription is up to date) be with you shortly. Editor Martin Tingle is now accepting papers and notes offered for publication in the volume 30.

STANION ROMAN VILLA EXCAVATIONS & MEMBERS SITE VISIT

RECENT FIELDWORK IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SUMMARY

A summary of recent archaeological fieldwork reported to the County Council's Historic Environment Team has been collated by the latter and made available to the Society for relay to interested members. The summary, along with an earlier issue, can be viewed on the NAS website (address below). Those without internet access who would like a copy, please contact M Tingle at the address below enclosing a self addressed & stamped envelope.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The Society continues to pursue arrangements for delivery of a Northamptonshire focused book and linked day conference arising from the recent regional research frameworks exercise. As previously referred to in NASNEWS, completion of the final draft of the chapters for the book is taking longer than anticipated. A realistic date for completion may now be 2003. We will keep you informed.

SUTTON HOO EXHIBITION CENTRE

A major new exhibition centre exploring the story of Sutton Hoo opened in March. Further information is available from the Centre tel: 01394 389700 website: www.suttonhoo.org

SUBSCRIPTIONS

NAS 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. We would encourage members to sign up to Gift Aid as this provides some valuable additional income to your Society. **Please send subscriptions and requests for a Gift Aid form to Martin Tingle, The Dial House, High St, Creaton, Northants NN6 8NA.**

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NAS Website at: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk