

NASNEWS

April 2003

County Council Heritage Services Update

As part of its budget proposals for 2003-04 Northamptonshire County Council has been, as reported in the January issue of NASNEWS, proposing to axe up to two thirds of its Historic Environment Team, formerly known as Northamptonshire Heritage. After some vigorous local and national lobbying it is understood that the County Council has partly relented and reduced the severity of their 'disinvestment' proposals. Whilst up to a third of posts will still be lost as part of a restructuring of the service it is pleasing to report that a new head of the Historic Environment Team has been appointed. This post effectively takes over from the 'old' County Archaeological Officer and will be occupied by Myk Flitcroft, formerly the County Council's archaeological planning officer. At a time when proposals abound for substantial new housing and commercial development, Northamptonshire's archaeology, historic landscapes and buildings have never been more vulnerable. NAS wish Myk good luck in what will doubtless be a challenging role. It is understood that an ongoing internal review will shortly decide the fate of other remaining posts. We hope to bring further details of services that will be available and the staff providing them in a future NASNEWS.

Two New Websites

The **NAS website** has been re-designed thanks to member David Waller and family. It can be found at www.northants-archaeology.org.uk One feature of the new site is the inclusion of illustrated summary site reports. Along with reports on work with direct NAS associations at Stowe Nine Churches and Stanion, the site currently includes a report on the Oxford Archaeology open day held at Higham Ferrers earlier this year. That excavation has now finished. Other excavation, survey, unusual discovery or similar reports for inclusion on the NAS website would be welcome. Please contact Martin Tingle if you have any material that you would like to be considered for inclusion.

Northamptonshire Archaeology, the archaeological contracting arm of Northamptonshire County Council also has a new website which can be found at www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk

The site advertises the range of services provided by this contractor, and provides details of staff and contact information. A 'recent projects' section is being developed to provide summaries of work undertaken locally and further afield. Current summaries include the medieval monastic cemetery at St James's Abbey Northampton excavated in advance of the redevelopment of the former Express Lifts factory (famous of course for its lift tower, Northampton's best known landmark).

Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre Lectures

A series of double lectures have been arranged at the Flag Fen BA Centre, The Droveaway, Northey Road, Peterborough PE6 7QJ. Commence 7pm and end about 9.30pm. Tickets £5 per evening - advance booking essential. Cheques payable to Fenland Archaeological Trust.

- 7th May: Flora of Flag Fen by Paul Lacey + Wood from the Trees by Maisie Taylor
- 14th May: N Norfolk Coast & Seahenge by Mark Brennan + A Bird's Eye View by Ben Robinson
- 21st May: Fengate & Flag Fen by Francis Pryor + Palaeo-environmental & agricultural economies by James Rackham
- 28th May: The Other Side of the Flag Fen Basin by Mark Knight + River Witham "Gateway to the Gods" by Jim Rylatt.

For further details contact the Flag Fen Centre on 01733 313414 or www.flagfen.com

CBA South Midlands Spring Conference

Ritual & Religion in the South Midlands (Part II) Anglo-Saxon to the Present Day. Saturday 3rd May 10am to 4pm at The Abbey Centre, Northampton. Tickets £4 in advance or £5 on the door. Programme 10.00am - 11.00am Mike Farley. The Anglo Saxons, 11.00am - 12noon Andy Chapman 'Monks, Knights and Townsfolk, The Cemetery at St. James's Abbey Northampton. 12.00noon - 1.00pm Denise Snell Concealed objects. 1.00pm - 2.00pm Lunch (packed lunch or try Tesco's nearby) 2.00pm - 3.00pm Kev Beachus, Witchcraft. 3.00pm - 4.00pm James Hewison, 'Did you really walk all that way' 4.00pm Close

Tickets in advance from C Edbury, 18 North St, Middle Barton, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 7BJ (tel: 01869 347013). Please send SAE with your booking and make cheques payable to CBA South Midlands.

Victoria County History – Volume V. Cleley Hundred

A new volume, the first to be published by the Victoria County History of Northamptonshire since 1937, deals with a group of parishes in the south of the county between Towcester and Stony Stratford. 514 pp, with 52 b/w illustrations. Advertised as being of interest to local residents and a wide range of amateur and professional historians. Cost £90 + £3 postage. Available from Boydell & Brewer Ltd. PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF. Tel: 01394 411320.

Chilterns Conference

New Perspectives on Chilterns Landscapes. A major conference on the historic environment of the Chilterns to be held Saturday 28th June 2003 in Chesham, Bucks. For further information visit :<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/archaeology/conference.htm> or tel: 01844 271300

Corby Archaeological Society?

NAS have received a plea for assistance from Myk Flitcroft in connection with personal research interests. He is trying to locate the records and finds from fieldwork undertaken in Corby prior to 1970 by the late Mr R Cross. The material is reported in volume 4 of BNFAS (the predecessor to the current Journal) as being kept by the Corby Archaeological Society. This society is believed to be no longer active and enquiries to existing archaeological stores have drawn a blank. Does anyone know the whereabouts of the finds and records? Any information would be welcome – please contact Myk via his work, telephone 01604 237248 or via NAS.

Northamptonshire Archaeology Journal

Preparation of Volume 30 is now nearing completion and should be available to members by the end of the year. Work is already underway on compiling Volume 31. Unfortunately completion of the *Archaeology in Northamptonshire* book has been delayed after the publisher pulled out at the last moment. The Society is now considering whether to go ahead and publish the volume itself or seek another professional publisher

Betty Bamford

We are sad to report the death in February of Mrs Betty Bamford of Northampton. Betty worked for many years in the 1970s and 1980s with the County Council's old archaeological unit then based in County Hall where she provide incomparable administrative and financial support to many full time and local amateur fieldworkers. The funeral was held at the Counties Crematorium on 27th February. Our deepest sympathies go to husband Bryan and family.

We welcome items to include in NASNEWS. Deadline for inclusion in the next issue is the end of June 2003.

This NASNEWS edited by

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