



NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk



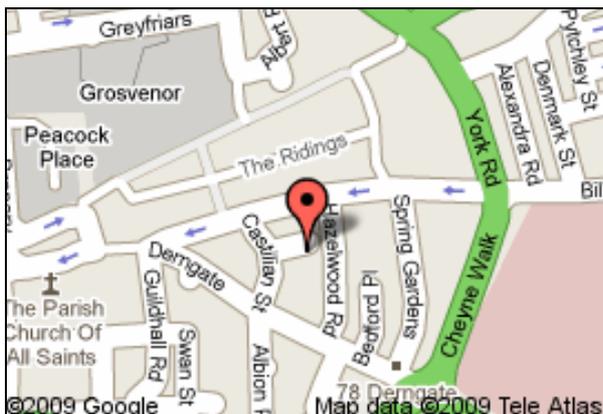
April 2013

NAS Spring meeting

Thursday, 23 May, 7.30pm

With the appointment of a Meetings Secretary, we hope to be able to offer members a few more meetings. To get this programme rolling we are holding a spring meeting at the Humfrey Rooms of the Northamptonshire Natural History Society, also our AGM venue.

**10 Castilian Terrace
Northampton NN1 1LD**



There will be tea/coffee and biscuits from 7.00pm with the meeting starting at 7.30pm. The speaker will be:

Marcus Roberts

History & Archaeology of the Northampton Jews

This is particularly appropriate given the recent demolition of the former Fishmarket, as the identified site of the synagogue probably lay beneath the nearby buildings that are being retained.

Journal 37, 2012

By early 2013, volume 37 of the journal had been distributed to all members and institutional members. If we have missed anyone, please let us know.

Unfortunately, neither this volume nor the previous one is available through Northamptonshire Libraries. With both volumes we have been promised NCC orders but these have never materialised, so you could consult these volumes in various libraries in other parts of the UK and abroad, but not in Northampton Central Library. Through the county council it can be seen at both the Record Office at Wootton Hall Park and at the Historic Environment Record at County Hall. We will continue to issue reminders to the Library Service and perhaps one day an order will materialise.

Journal 38, 2014

Given the editor's other commitments, the journal will again be biennial, with no issue this year but another to follow in 2014. This will have a central theme of either: Iron Age and Roman or will be a Northampton special, depending on how various reports progress through the next year. Anyone with material for either an article or a note can approach the editor at any time.

Given rising publication costs and the growing use of digital publication, particularly for excavation reports containing lengthy specialist reports, our aim going forward is to publish shorter syntheses for longer excavations, with the target for articles to be between 5,000 and 15,000 words.

The 40th anniversary of NAS

The content of the next journal and society activities for 2014 will also be influenced by the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the society and the issuing of the first full volume of the journal, volume 9. Between 1966 and 1974 there had been the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies, which issued an annual bulletin that forms the first eight issues of the journal series.

If anyone has any ideas for appropriate ways to celebrate the anniversary please pass them on to the committee. For the 25th anniversary in 1999, we held a day conference with period overviews presented by a range of speakers. We could hold a similar event in 2014, or perhaps something more aimed at the public. Another possibility would be to organise a portable display that could travel around libraries and other venues, and thereby reach an even wider audience and perhaps attract some new members.

NASNEWS

With the last newsletter we ran out of envelopes for the last batch to be posted. While we realised that the hastily purchased envelopes were slightly larger than normal, we did not appreciate that this put them into the next size range for postage. We apologise to the members who incurred a postal surcharge as a result of this, many of whom emailed to let us know.

Given the ever rising cost of postage, we have now created a new society email address, see below, and all members for whom we have an email address will only receive a digital copy of this newsletter. If you have received this by post but have an email address, please pass it on to us so you can receive the next NASNEWS digitally. NASNEWS is also available on the society website.

Recent publications

The *Atlas of Northamptonshire* by David Hall, Tracey Partida and Glenn Foard has recently been published by Oxbow Books. This volume compliments *Rockingham Forest: An Atlas of the medieval and early-modern landscape* by Foard, Hall and Partida, published by the Northamptonshire Record Society in 2009. The two volumes present in map form the results of fieldwork and documentary research undertaken since the mid-1960s to map the landscape of the whole of Northamptonshire prior to enclosure by Parliamentary Act.

There is also yet another volume covering the same subject matter and data, but offering an alternative interpretation of the origins of villages and open fields, *Champion: The Making and Unmaking of the English Midland Landscape* by Tom Williamson, Robert Liddiard and Tracey Partida, published by The Exeter Press.

Both volumes are available online through Oxbow Books.

Northampton Castle Station

Beginning in the Easter snow at the end of March and continuing through April and May, Northamptonshire Archaeology is excavating the former short-stay car park at Northampton Station prior to the building of the new station: an area that lies within the outer bailey of Northampton Castle, which was largely levelled when the station was built in 1879-80. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to have the site open to visitors, but the next NASNEWS will contain further details of the results. Much of a 12th-century stone building has been excavated, and beneath this there are ditches and other features from the late Saxon town of the 10th-11th centuries.

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