



# NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: [www.northants-archaeology.org.uk](http://www.northants-archaeology.org.uk)



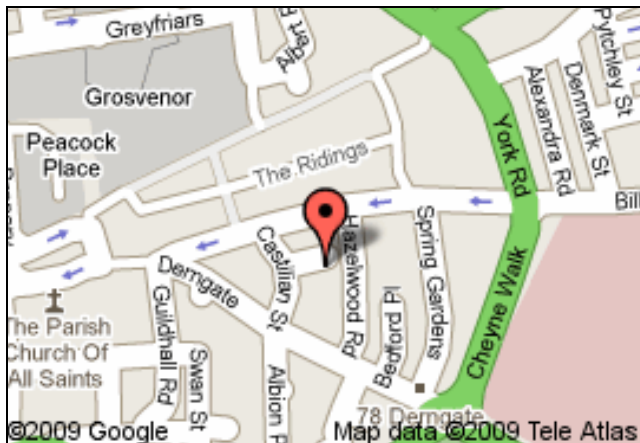
## October 2013

### NAS AGM and public lecture

Thursday, 14 November

The NAS Annual General Meeting will be held in the Humfrey Rooms of the Northamptonshire Natural History Society:

10 Castilian Terrace  
Northampton NN1 1LD



There will be tea/coffee and biscuits from 6.30pm, with the NAS AGM at 7pm:

Officer's reports

Statement of accounts

Election of members of council

(see page 2 for details)

The public lecture will start at 7.30 pm, and will be a joint meeting with the Northampton Branch of the Historical Association.

Sarah Tarlow

(University of Leicester)

### The Criminal Corpse: Disposing of the remains of executed criminals in the 18th century

Between 1752 and 1832 the bodies of executed murderers were legally denied burial in consecrated ground. Instead they were donated for anatomical dissection or 'hung in chains' (displayed in a gibbet).

A new major research programme funded by the Wellcome Trust is bringing Leicester academics in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, and the School of Historical Studies together with colleagues from the University of Hertfordshire and Oxford Brookes University to examine the fate of the corpses of executed criminals.



*A woodcut from the Newgate Calendar, which shows the hand of a newly hanged man being applied to a young woman in an effort to cure a disease of the neck.*

## NAS COMMITTEE

Anyone wishing to join the committee to help keep the Society running, and who can bring in new energy and fresh ideas, please step forward.

New candidates should notify the Secretary in advance, together with the names of two members to nominate and second their application (or they can be nominated on the night).

Elected by the committee:

Chair: Steven Hollowell

Vice-chair: David Waller

Standing for re-election to the committee:

Secretary and journal editor  
Andy Chapman

Membership secretary  
Pat Chapman

Treasurer  
Ian Barrie (see below)

Meetings secretary:  
Craig Plowman

Other committee members:

Graham Cadman, Roy Friendship-Taylor  
and Brian Giggins

## NAS TREASURER

In the absence of any willing volunteer, Ian Barrie has continued to serve the Society as Treasurer for yet another year, and the committee would like to extend their thanks to Ian and his wife for keeping going, and for supplies of tea and biscuits at committee meetings.

However, Ian would still like to hand over to a replacement, so we do continue to seek a new Treasurer who can pick up from Ian over the coming months, ideally someone who we know and ideally, but not essentially so, in the Northampton area.

## SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

A reminder for those who do not pay by direct debit that subscriptions were due in September, apart from those who joined from this summer onward. Subscriptions are still held at the same rate, despite inflation.

£10 individual membership,  
£12 family membership, £8 students  
£15 local associations, £25 institutions

Cheques payable to Northamptonshire Archaeological Society.

Send to: Pat Chapman, NAS Membership Secretary, 4 Oat Hill Drive, Northampton, NN3 5AL.

## NAS visit to Piddington Roman Villa, Saturday, 10 August 2013

Roy Friendship-Taylor, below, leads the NAS tour of the excavations at Piddington Roman Villa, which was followed by a visit to the villa museum. NAS would like to thank Roy for taking us around and, as you can see, the weather was good as well.





## **Rothwell Crypt and Ossuary, Saturday, 10 August 2013**

In addition to the visit to Piddington, we had an action packed day on the 10 August by spending the morning visiting the famous ossuary in the crypt at Rothwell Church arranged by the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield who have begun what is likely to be several years of work on this assemblage.

Details of the current research and potential future directions were explained in a number of evening lectures.

The ultimate aim is to generate a greater understanding of the bones and also to ensure their long-term survival, as conditions in the crypt are not ideal, damp is a problem, and bones within the stacks are being crushed by the weight of the overlying bones.



*Above: Bone stacks and skulls in the crypt at Rothwell*

## **Northamptonshire Archaeology to merge with MOLA**

As reported in the last NASNEWS, Northamptonshire Archaeology, who have been providing fieldwork services on a commercial basis to developers since the early 1990s, are to be transferred from the County Council to MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology), who operate as an independent charitable company, as they

are no longer part of the Museum of London.

The transfer is due on the 1st December 2013, and final consultations with staff are currently in progress.

## **NAS 40th anniversary celebration**

**Saturday, 20 September and  
Sunday, 21 September 2014**

**Sywell Country Park  
Ancient Crafts weekend**

To mark the 40th anniversary of NAS we are planning a weekend event at Sywell Country Park for NAS members and the public. The theme is ancient crafts, and we will have several skilled craftsmen and women demonstration a range of crafts, including some workshop sessions that people can sign up to, for a small fee.

Already booked:

**Graham Taylor: Potted History**

Saturday, prehistoric pottery workshop  
Sunday, public demonstrations;

**James Dilley: flint knapping**

Saturday, public demonstrations  
Sunday, flint knapping workshop

**Guardrobe: Alex and Paul Thompson**

Saturday, Medieval craft demonstrations  
Sunday, Roman military drill for children

**Michael Brown, The Historic Gardener**

Saturday and Sunday, including some hands on sessions for children.

And more to come.

(Please note: the pottery and flint knapping workshops are aimed at adults or younger people with a serious interest, and they will not be suitable for younger children).

We are hoping for good weather, a good turnout and an enjoyable and educational weekend in the open air.

## **The Search for Richard III**

**Tuesday, 5 November, 7-9pm,  
Delapre Abbey, Northampton**

**Richard Buckley, University of  
Leicester Archaeological Services**

In August and September 2012, a team of archaeologists from the University of Leicester set out to search for the final resting place of Richard III in a car park in central Leicester. Against all odds, the project was successful in locating a potential candidate to be the king. After an extensive programme of scientific research, Richard's identity was subsequently confirmed beyond reasonable doubt, generating interest from all around the globe.

Tickets £3 each or free for Friends of Delapre Abbey. For more information or to book tickets, please telephone Vikki Pearson on 01604 214614 or e-mail: [fodacoordinator@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fodacoordinator@yahoo.co.uk).



## **Northampton Museum**

**King Richard III - A facial  
reconstruction**

**18 Oct 2013- 5 Jan 2014**

Northampton is proud to be one of the four museums chosen to display this amazing facial reconstruction.

Following the discovery of Richard III's remains in Leicester earlier this year, the *Richard III Society* commissioned the reconstruction based on CT scans taken from the king's skull.

Come and see this amazing model and learn more about King Richard III, the last Yorkist king of England, whose death at the Battle of Bosworth ended the Wars of the Roses.

## **Northamptonshire Natural History Society**

NNHS host a wide variety of entertaining and thought-provoking meetings. Please feel free to come along to one of our meetings to find out in person what NNHS can offer.

## **Northampton Castle - past and present**

**Tuesday, 26 November, 19.30  
Andy Chapman, Northamptonshire  
Archaeology**

No dead kings, but a dead castle. Andy will tell us all about the history of our town's very important Castle, including the recent excavation that took place earlier this year in advance of the building of the new station.

**Andy Chapman**

**NAS secretary and journal editor  
NAS EMAIL [NAS196674@gmail.com](mailto:NAS196674@gmail.com)**

**Northamptonshire Archaeological Society**  
**AGM and public lecture**

**Thursday, 14 November 2013**

*Doors open 6.30 for light refreshments:*

*7.00pm - AGM*

*Followed at 7.30 by a public lecture –*

**Sarah Tarlow**

**University of Leicester**

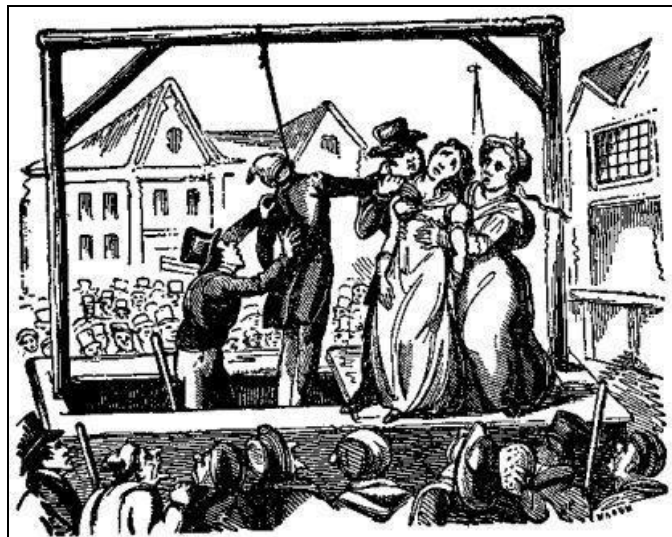
**THE CRIMINAL CORPSE:  
DISPOSING OF THE REMAINS OF EXECUTED  
CRIMINALS IN THE 18TH CENTURY**

at

**THE HUMFREY ROOMS, 10 CASTILIAN TERRACE  
NORTHAMPTON NN1 1LD**

*All welcome - free entry*

*Joint meeting with the Northampton Branch of the Historical Association*



*A woodcut from the Newgate Calendar, which shows the hand of a newly hanged man being applied to a young woman in an effort to cure a disease of the neck*

Between 1752 and 1832 the bodies of executed murderers were legally denied burial in consecrated ground. Instead they were donated for anatomical dissection or 'hung in chains' (displayed in a gibbet). A new major research programme funded by the Wellcome Trust is bringing Leicester academics in the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, and the School of Historical Studies together with colleagues from the University of Hertfordshire and Oxford Brookes University to examine the fate of the corpses of executed criminals.