



NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk



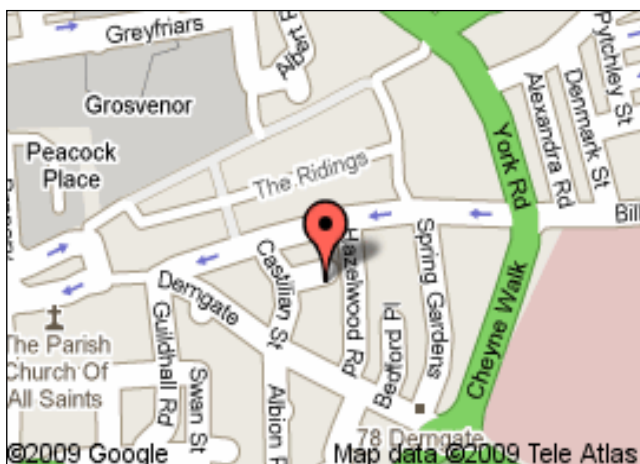
October 2018

NAS AGM and public lecture

Tuesday, 13 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:

AGM Chair: Mike Curtis

Officers' reports

Statement of accounts

Election of Hon. Officers of council:

Secretary: Andy Chapman

Treasurer: Carol Simmonds

Meetings Secretary: Rob Atkins

Membership Secretary: Pat Chapman

Mark Holmes: NASNEWS editor

Journal Editor: Andy Chapman with Rob Atkins

Other members of council:

David Waller, Brian Giggins, Stephen Hollowell, Graham Cadman, Roy Friendship-Taylor and Ian Barrie.

The public lecture, given by Paul Stamper will start at c.7.20 pm (see below).

Paul Stamper

Legacies of the First World War

Copies of a new Historic England book co-authored by Paul, *Legacies of the First World War: Building Towards Total War, 1914-1918*, will be available for sale at the meeting. The book covers five years of fieldwork identifying surviving physical remains of the camps, airfields, war factories, coastal defences and the like constructed over 1914-18. The lecture will place Northamptonshire in its wider context.



Seaplane hanger relocated to Wimbledon

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It has been awhile now since we submitted our response in the *Future Northants* consultation. Whilst our submission as part of the consultation process generated no response, I have been meeting regularly with County Councillors to bring them up to speed on our concerns regarding the rich archaeological and historical heritage that exists within our county.

These discussions have revealed a worrying gap in the knowledge and understanding amongst the decision-makers regarding the subject of heritage and who has the responsibility for maintaining and caring for it.

Accordingly, I have initiated a second phase of inquiry by asking not only the county council but also the district and borough councils about the monuments and historic buildings they are responsible for and their policies regarding the maintenance and care of them. Whilst their responses are still being received it is already evident that there is a general level of ignorance and complacency regarding the sustainability of this heritage.

As the County moves towards the setting up the new unitary authorities it is important that NAS continues to lobby for the right level of support and funding to maintain and protect the heritage of Northamptonshire. This is a process that will need to extend beyond my Chairmanship and over the next couple of years. Already there are indications that there will be changes ahead and that

sadly this is likely to come in the form of staff and budget cuts, and this is before the new political map for the county has been finalised. The threats are therefore very real and should concern us all.

Whilst talking about change I also would like to mention our own Society. Northamptonshire is fortunate in that we have a high level of community engagement and participation in archaeological and historical activities. As a county-wide society it is important that NAS engages with the local societies and groups not just in the Northampton area but throughout the county.

This year the Committee has considered various ways of doing this such as offering a series of NAS sponsored lectures to fit into local society organised event programmes and holding our own conference. To undertake this successfully we need your help in the form of people who want to get involved either as NAS committee members or simply as helpers in arranging and setting up the events. So as my Chair year comes to an end my challenge to the membership is to encourage you to come forward and get involved. Your Society needs you!

Michael J Curtis

NAS COMMITTEE

Anyone else 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 they can be nominated on the night.

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. We would ask all those paying by Direct Debit to check that they have adjusted the amount paid according to the subscription rates as increased a couple of years ago, mainly to take account of the increased costs of posting the journals.

£12 individual membership,
£15 family membership, £10 students
£15 local associations, £25 institutions
Cheques payable to Northamptonshire Archaeological Society: to Pat Chapman, NAS Membership Secretary, 4 Oat Hill Drive, Northampton, NN3 5AL.

THE JOURNAL

Northamptonshire Archaeology Volume 40, 2018

This will be a general volume and it is being brought together by Andy Chapman and Rob Atkins, and we hope to have it ready in the early New Year with publication in the Spring, March/April.

Northamptonshire Archaeology The Archaeology of Northampton Volume 41, 2019


Meanwhile, the Northampton special edition has not been abandoned, just delayed, partly due to Andy Chapman still not having fully retired from MOLA so he has the time to finalise it all. But he retires at the end of the year, and will then focus on pulling the Northampton volume together, which will be well worth waiting for. We hope to have it ready in the autumn and published in time for either next year's AGM or Christmas.

UPCOMING TALKS

Annual Brixworth Lecture
Saturday, 27 October
5.00pm in the church

THE FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BRIXWORTH
with THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER'S MEDIEVAL RESEARCH CENTRE

King Æthelstan & the Making of England



MICHAEL WOOD
BROADCASTER & PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC HISTORY
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BRIXWORTH, NORTHANTS
SATURDAY 27th OCTOBER, 2018 at 5.00pm

All proceeds to Brixworth Church: tickets from the Friends (below) & on the door
£10 incl. tea from 3:30 at The Brixworth Centre (students & 'Friends' concession £8)
KATE KNIGHT | T: 01604 881 810 | E: kate.knight1a@hotmail.co.uk | Brixworthfriends1@yahoo.com

Penny of Æthelstan; Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum. CM.1.53-1930

Michael Wood: King Æthelstan and the Making of England

In this illustrated talk, historian and broadcaster Michael Wood looks at the life of Æthelstan, the first king of England, who died on this night, 27 October, in 939. Using 'unconsidered trifles' - notes from burned manuscripts, paintings, gift inscriptions, fragments of lost poems, even recovering family memories, traditions and oral stories - he will take us into the mind of a man who only ruled for fourteen years but was long remembered as 'the most just and learned of all who ruled the English state'.

There will be tea and coffee available in the church from 3.30pm. Tickets are £10.00 (or £8.00 for 'Friends of Brixworth Church' and concessions). For details see:

<https://le.ac.uk/medieval/events/brixworth-lecture>

**CBA South Midlands
Autumn conference**

**Buildings of the South Midlands
Haynes village hall, Bedfordshire
Sunday, 28 October 2018**

The CBA South Midlands conference will concentrate on historic buildings in the region. There will be talks on Leighton Buzzard's Tudor House, Canons Ashby House, the restoration of Brackley Town Hall, the modern archaeology of Milton Keynes and The Historic Towcester Survey (the latter given by our very own Brian Giggins who gives us a sneak preview of this project later in this newsletter).

The day starts at 10:00am with tea and biscuits and finishes at 4:45pm. Tickets are £18 for members of CBA South Midlands and its affiliated members and £22 for non-members. Lunch is included. Booking is essential. Further details can be found at:

www.archaeologyuk.org/cbasml/cbasml%20events.htm

**NAS Tour of Northamptonshire
Record Office, 22 January 2019**

The society has arranged a tour of the Northamptonshire Record Office at Wootton Hall Park, Northampton on Tuesday 22 January 2019. There are ample parking facilities at the Record

Office which is situated immediately next to the Mereway fire station (NN4 8BQ for those of you with SatNavs).

The focus of the tour will be the archives that have been collected, preserved and made accessible to the public. The tour will include an explanation of how the public rooms operate, and will also show us behind the scenes, where the archives are stored. As part of the visit, documents will be brought out that reflect the range of the collections held.

The tour starts promptly at 6pm and will last for approximately one hour and thirty minutes, with the expectation that the visit will end by 7:45pm at the latest. Please note that as it's an evening tour when the office is normally closed, for security reasons the entrance door is set to exit only. Consequently, those who arrive late will not be able to gain access to the building and will miss the tour. Please also be aware that the tour will involve long periods of standing.

Fifteen people will be the maximum that can be accepted that evening, as any more would make the tour of the repository too crowded. The cost is £8 per person and booking is essential.

Please email Rob Atkins to book a place at ratkins@mola.org.uk or phone 01604 809815.

You can pay by Bank Transfer into the NAS account using the reference 'Record Office Tour 19' (or something similar) or by cheque payable to 'Northamptonshire Archaeological Society' which you can send to: Rob Atkins MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology), Kent House, 30 Billing Road, Northampton NN1 5DQ.

FIELDWORK UPDATES

CLASP

David Hayward of the Community Landscape Archaeology and Survey Project (CLASP) has kindly sent in the following update on their recent work.

CLASP has been very active recently on a number of projects in the south of the county. At Bannaventa, the Romano-British town to the east of Daventry fieldwalking, structured metal detecting, geophysical surveys and limited excavation have been undertaken.

At the nearby deserted medieval village of Thrupp, a mixture of dwellings has been found which probably date from the late 15th century. Beneath these medieval remains a low status Romano-British settlement was found including two probable iron smelting furnaces. A further excavation carried out in August and October 2018, whilst not revealing buildings, has obtained further dating evidence to confirm the existence of a medieval settlement. Additionally, we have located a possible Late Iron Age farmstead near to the DMV.

Work on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Whitehall Farm, Nether Heyford, has continued with, to date, 17 'post-Roman' and Saxon burials examined. This site is producing several phases of burials that are still being categorised although it does appear that the earliest group, dated from the mid-5th century AD, were aligned east-west with a lack of grave goods whilst later burials, on a north-south alignment, were all male with shields and other grave goods. The earlier burials may relate to the nearby Roman

villa which seems to have continued in a reduced extent until the mid-5th century.

Fieldwork has been completed on the Whitehall villa and the post-excavation work for the final report is currently being undertaken. Other work undertaken by CLASP includes a joint project with MOLA on the hillfort at Borough Hill, Daventry (see further article below - ed).

CLASP is always seeking new members who can be either experienced or totally new to archaeology; membership is just £10 per annum. If you would like to join, please visit the following link to obtain a membership application form: - http://claspweb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/membership_form.pdf

Borough Hill, Daventry

CLASP are working with MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology), with support from Daventry Borough Council and Historic England, on a project to explore the large multivallate Iron Age hillfort of Borough Hill, Daventry.

Borough Hill is one of the largest defended hilltop enclosures of this date in the country and much of the defences survive as substantial earthworks. The site actually includes a second, smaller hillfort. The hillfort's circuit also includes the remains of Bronze Age barrows, a Roman building complex and barrow cemetery. The hillfort was used as a racecourse in the 19th century and from the early part of the 20th century it was the site of the famous BBC Daventry transmitting station.

There are other hillforts in the county (some only relatively recently discovered)

but all of these, including Borough Hill, have received much less attention than those in other parts of the country and as a result are relatively poorly understood. In addition to potentially expanding our knowledge, exploring Borough Hill will also help Daventry Borough Council and Historic England with its long-term management of the site, which is a Scheduled Monument.

The first phase of the project is undertaking a geophysical survey (both magnetometry and earth resistance) and a drone-based aerial survey. This fieldwork is nearing completion and the preliminary results will hopefully be available soon.

Historic Towcester Survey

Brian Giggins introduced us to the Historic Towcester Survey in the last NASnews. Here, Brian updates us on the project.



Park Street, Towcester

The 'Historic Towcester Survey' group was formed in January this year. Our aim

is to identify those Towcester buildings with pre-1750 origins, record them, see how their use changed over time and how they fit in with the development of the town. This research forms part of Historic England's "Early Urban Buildings" Project. In the project's first phase Ely was researched by an Historic England in-house team, Beverley by 'Yorkshire Vernacular Building Study Group' and Chipping Norton by 'Chipping Norton Buildings Record' and 'Oxfordshire Buildings Record'.

Towcester is probably a fairly average market town for the survival of early buildings. Its location on Watling Street does mean that the percentage of inns may be higher. Recent discoveries have shown that there are the remains of two medieval and an early 17th century inn on the west side of the Market Place hidden behind later facades. The early buildings of the town were timber-framed but by the late 18th century brick frontages dominated. Stone was used as a walling material in all periods.

Recruitment and training of the new members of the 'Historic Towcester Survey group' with no experience in recording standing buildings began in April this year when two days training was given under the tutelage of Allan Adams, formerly an illustrator for English Heritage. The recording and analysis of buildings is supported by cartographic and documentary research. In May the group visited the Record Office to see the range of documents it holds including the extensive Fermor-Hesketh Collection which contains so much Towcester material.



Training underway at the Chantry House

The group has now undertaken an external survey of the town's buildings to identify those with potential early material, recorded two 18th-century houses, a tailor's workshop due to be converted into housing accommodation and a former baker's shop with warehouse dating from at least the 17th century. Undoubtedly it will be challenging to obtain access to record all the significant buildings in town but those we are able to gain access will certainly provide some interesting insight into the town's history. The project will last three years.

Northampton 'Pop-Up' Museum



The 'pop-up' museum in the Grosvenor shopping centre

Northampton Museum is currently undergoing extensive renovation. However, to overcome this lack of an accessible space and to engage with the public over the school holidays, the museum hosted a temporary exhibition in an empty shop in Northampton's Grosvenor Centre this Summer.

This 'Pop Up' Museum hosted an exhibition for families entitled 'Nasty Northampton' with exhibits from the town's past which illustrated Northampton's more 'down to earth' history. The Pop-Up Museum also provided a space for local groups such as the Friends of Northampton Castle and MOLA to bring other aspects of archaeology to the visiting public.

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

Over the next few months, two local museums are staging exciting exhibitions and events.

Kettering

Kettering Manor House Museum will be staging a Local Treasures exhibition from Saturday 22nd September to Saturday 12th January 2019. As the title suggests, the free event will see a display of the most spectacular and interesting finds from the area. Amongst the exhibits are nationally significant items on loan from the British Museum. Perhaps of special interest to NAS members is that one of these items is the Desborough Mirror, which of course the society uses as its logo! The website for the event can be found at:

<http://www.thisiskettering.com/localtreasures>

For the half term week from Tuesday 23rd - Saturday 27th October, the museum is also holding a free Family Fun week of crafts and activities. Free activities will be available all week including meeting characters from the past and the chance to be an ancient poo and bone detective! More details can be found at:

<https://www.kettering.gov.uk/childrensactivities>

Peterborough

Not to be outdone, Peterborough Museum is also holding a Treasures exhibition. This is described as 'a once in a lifetime' chance to see national treasures with a connection to the Peterborough area. The treasures derive from institutions around the country (including the British Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum) and are being displayed together at Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery for the first time. The exhibition continues until January 2019 and full details can be found here:

<https://vivacity.org/heritage/peterborough-museum/treasures-the-exhibition/>

In conjunction with this unique exhibition, a series of expert talks are also being held. There is one lecture a month until February 2019 and the next will be on 23rd October 2018 at 7.30pm when Dr Nicholas Karn, Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Southampton, talks on 'Peterborough Abbey and the Peterborough Chronicles'. The talks cost £3 and booking is strongly recommended. A full list and details of the talks are available at:

<https://vivacity.org/treasurestalks>

OTHER NEWS

Northampton stone type series

The Northampton stone type series is held at the Northampton Historic Environment Record (NHER) which is based at the Record Office at Wootton Hall Park, Northampton. This NHER service is well known for holding both the archaeological site reports and aerial photographs for the county but it also includes many other lesser known services. The Northampton stone type series is housed in four large boxes and is freely available for use as a reference collection. These stone samples were collected and prepared by Diana Sutherland when she wrote her iconic 2003 book on the subject. Sutherland, D S, 2003 Northampton Stone, Dovecote Press (ISBN-13: 978-1904349174).

If you want to use this reference collection, please contact Charlotte Walker:

CharWalker@northamptonshire.gov.uk

AND FINALLY.....

News items of interest are also posted on the NAS Facebook page. If you have any items you would like included there contact:

Andy Chapman

NAS secretary and journal editor

NAS email: NAS196674@gmail.com

If you have any news or information that you would like included in the next NAS newsletter then please contact:

Mark Holmes

NASNEWS editor

mholmes@MOLA.org.uk