



NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk



SPRING 2018

Welcome

This edition sees a few changes in the Society (see the AGM news on page 2 for full details). Firstly, a new NASNEWS editor, myself Mark Holmes. I'll be taking over from Andy Chapman who has diligently curated all the news that's fit to print about the County's heritage over the last few years. I'm always happy to hear of any archaeological or heritage events happening in the County, so if you've got any news, views or ideas that you would like included in the newsletter then please send them to me at:

MHolmes@mola.org.uk or via the NAS email: NAS196674@gmail.com

NAS also has a new Chair, who introduces himself here:

Message from the NAS Chair

As this is the first newsletter of my Chair year let me briefly introduce myself. My name is Michael Curtis and I have been actively involved in archaeology for over 50 years. I live in Wellingborough and some readers may have come across me during the Chester Farm excavations or out in the field with one the commercial units. I am a professional landscape archaeologist and doctoral researcher at the University of Leicester where I am a leading researcher and author on the coastal landscape and maritime culture of Hellenistic and Roman Crete.

Archaeology in Northamptonshire, as in other parts of the country, faces an increasing number of challenges. Archaeology, in law and practice, is changing and the lessening interest amongst younger audiences continues to

be problematic both in the field and at universities.

In this county the problems raised by the crisis within the Northamptonshire Council are also beginning to impact on the heritage sector. Whilst we do not yet have a decision on the new political map it is evident that over the next few years we must be prepared to get involved in lobbying, commenting and fighting for the services and processes that maintain and protect the rich heritage of this county. It is a little too early in this process to see exactly what our role might be but when this is clearer I hope that our members and member groups and organisations will want to join us in becoming involved in this process.

Over the coming year you will see some changes taking place within NAS. Our reasoning behind this is that NAS as a representative voice of archaeology throughout the county needs to move forward with the times. We are currently discussing improving our online information, NAS visits, talks and possibly an annual conference and I am grateful for the work that is being undertaken by committee members to make this happen. I hope that members will find something of interest in these events and come along and support them. I also hope that we can perhaps encourage more members to become involved in NAS and to consider joining us on the committee. New faces, new skills and ideas on the committee are always welcome and if you are interested please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or one of the current committee members.

Michael J Curtis

AGM: election of officers and members of council

At the society AGM, 14 November 2017, the following officers were either re-elected or newly elected to the NAS Council:

Officers standing for re-election:

Journal Editor and Secretary: Andy Chapman
Membership Secretary: Pat Chapman
Treasurer: Carol Simmonds

New Officers:

Meetings Secretary: Rob Atkins
NASNEWS editor: Mark Holmes

Other members of council:

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

In addition, at the first committee meeting of 2018, 1 February, the Council elected Mike Curtis as Chair for the year, with a mandate to promote the society and archaeology within the county. Andy Chapman was elected as Vice-Chair, with a continuing focus on the preparation and production of the society journal.

Other AGM news

At the time of the AGM the society accounts were still in preparation, so a copy of the full accounts for 2016-17 is attached to this newsletter. The costs of the journal will fall in the accounts for 2017-18.

The public lecture at the AGM was given by Elizabeth Craig-Atkins, Senior Lecturer in Human Osteology, University of Sheffield, on the subject of: *The Rothwell Charnel Chapel Project, Multidisciplinary Explorations of a Unique Medieval Charnel Chapel and its contents.*

The project has used geophysical survey and innovative 3D digital technology to unlock the history of Rothwell's famous ossuary.

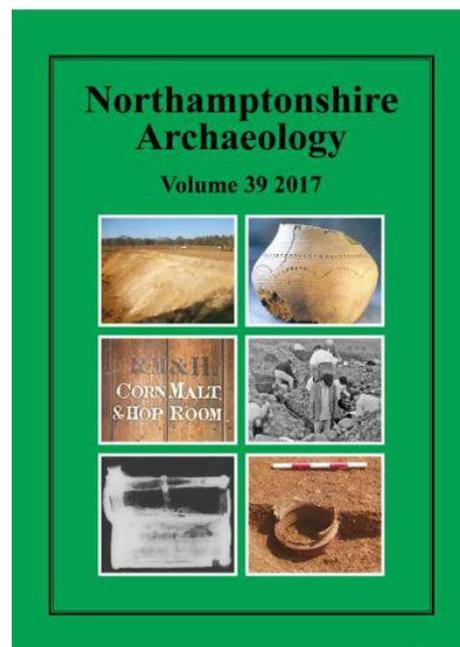
These parts of the overall Project are now completed and if you would like to

read more about the project a summary has appeared in the Spring edition of The Society for Medieval Archaeology Newsletter or you can go direct to the project's website:

<http://www.rothwellcharnelchapel.group.shef.ac.uk/>

There you can see a simplified 3D model of the crypt but if you want to see the site in its full virtual splendour (and if you have a large enough hard drive) you can download the whole 3D data set to explore on your own computer.

Northamptonshire Archaeology Volume 39, 2017



Volume 39 was available for collection by members at the AGM and copies were distributed to all other members and institutions by post through November and December.

The preparation of volumes 40 and 41 is progressing, with one issue being a general volume while the other will be the promised Northampton special edition.

Upcoming NAS tour of Delapre Abbey, Wednesday 4 July

The Society have arranged a tour of the newly re-opened Delapré Abbey, in Northampton.

The abbey (a Grade II* Listed Building) is a neo-classical mansion and outbuildings which incorporates remains of a former nunnery dating from cAD1145. It is also incorporates part of a Registered Battlefield. Here, the "Battle of Northampton" was fought in 1460 where King Henry VI was captured watched on by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The cost is £8 per person and booking is essential as numbers are limited. Arrive around 6:00pm (there is plenty of parking in the park) ready to meet with our tour guide outside the front of Abbey (by the two black lamps).

The Tour of the Abbey itself starts at 6:15pm and lasts for about an hour. At 7:15pm there will be tea/coffee and biscuits served in the Coach House. Departure time will be around 7:45pm.

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

NAS Archaeological Conference 2019

In order to help celebrate the heritage of Northamptonshire, the NAS Council is considering the feasibility of organising a day conference in Summer 2019. The hope is that the other heritage groups across the County as well as commercial archaeological practitioners and interested individuals will participate.

For this conference we would especially like to encourage people who would not normally take part in such events to join in, so initially we will be setting up a working party to explore ideas and then we will go on to form an organising group. Please note a call for sessions and

presentations will not go out until later this year.

The leader of the working party is Carol Holmes (NAS treasurer). If you think you can or want to help, please email Carol at digdurt_80@hotmail.com using *NAS Conference 2019* in the subject title. No previous experience in such things required! She hopes to organise an initial meeting late June/ early July.

New Data Protection Act, 25 May 2018

Many thanks go to all of our members who have taken the time to reply to our email and postal circulations confirming that we may continue to hold your contact details. The prize for quickest response goes to Fred Kay, who replied within 6 minutes, I hadn't even got out of the chair after sending the email!

It has also been a useful exercise in checking addresses and obtaining some more email addresses.

However, there are still a few members who have not confirmed. If you are receiving this newsletter by email and/or post, you are still on our mailing list. If you wish to be removed from the list please contact the Membership Secretary, Pat Chapman at NAS196674@gmail.com or by post at NAS, c/o 4 Oat Hill Drive, Northampton, NN3 5AL, and we will remove you from this list, but we would much prefer that you stay with us.

With our enlarged committee, we hope to offer our members more meetings and events in the future, and we have the Northampton special edition of the journal still in progress, as well as a conventional edition of reports from across the county.

Northampton: 'Fanfare for the Castle'

On the 30 April Northampton Borough Council in partnership with Northamptonshire Partnership Homes and Friends of Northampton Castle (FONC), held a 'Fanfare' to showcase the work that is currently being undertaken at the castle site. The evening saw the Mayor unveiling new plaques at the site, talks on findings from recent surveys undertaken at the Castle site and future plans and projects that the Borough Council are hoping to implement in the area including a trail, signage and interpretation. In addition, FONC unveiled its new Virtual Reality App which is designed to make you feel like you are actually walking round in the castle grounds. The app is free to download from the FONC website at:

<https://www.northamptoncastle.com>

Towcester: historic building recording project

'Historic Towcester Survey' is undertaking building recording of some the premises in Towcester that contain pre-1750 fabric. This is part of an Historic England project that will last 3 years. The survey started this year and has 12 members who have received tuition from Allan Adams on surveying and drawing. Two domestic buildings are currently being recorded and there are others in the pipeline which include historic retail and commercial premises.

If you are interested in taking part or helping in any way then please contact Brian Giggins:

brian.giggins@googlemail.com

Irchester: Chester Farm

Work is continuing apace on the new County Archaeological Archive and

Heritage centre on the site of Irchester, Roman Town

There is a comprehensive website covering all aspects of the Chester Farm development: www.chesterfarm.co.uk and a lively Twitter account keeps people up to date with progress @ChesterFarmNcc

Fotheringhay Castle

Archaeologists and historians are currently carrying out research into Fotheringhay Castle with a grant from the Castle Studies Trust. The work is using geophysical survey and aerial photography to explore the origins and development of the castle. We'll bring you further news when the results and analysis are completed meanwhile details of the project can be found here:

<http://www.castlestudiestrust.org/Fotheringhay-Castle.html>

Nassington



The Middle Nene Archaeology Group will be continuing with the excavation at Nassington of a Roman building and landscape survey which was started in 2016 under the direction of Derek Roberts. The single stone building had been rebuilt at least once and evidence also points to the possibility of other buildings and includes industrial activity

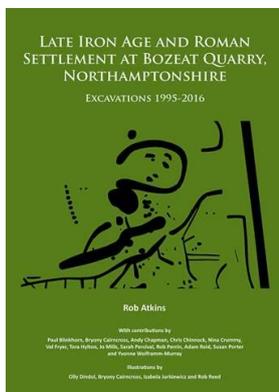
on and around the site. A Magnetometer survey last year showed an extensive area of Roman and possibly earlier activity around the building covering several hectares.

They will be finishing the excavation of the building this year and hope to solve the problem of why the south wall needed to be substantially reinforced at the south-east corner. A puddled floor is also under scrutiny and the sampling of layers with their new flotation equipment should provide interesting information about flora and fauna in the area.

The excavation commences on 18th August to 1st Sept. They have an open day on Sun. 26th Aug from 11am to 4.30pm. More info. On

<http://www.midnag.org.uk>

Bozeat



The results of long-term archaeological work within Bozeat Quarry have just been published by MOLA in the volume: *Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Bozeat Quarry, Northamptonshire: Excavations 1995-*

2016 by Rob Atkins

Features dating from the Bronze Age through to the Anglo-Saxon period were found but the most significant comprised parts of two Iron Age to Roman settlements located c0.5km apart. Of particular interest in the southern settlement was a scatter of finds, including twelve Iron Age and 1st century AD Roman coins and twenty-four contemporary brooches, found over an area of 2.2ha. This collection suggests the presence of a shrine or temple located in the area although no such

structure survived in the excavation. It is perhaps significant that in 1964 directly to the west of the excavation, a middle Roman round stone building was found; perhaps a later, replacement shrine.

The northern settlement was only occupied for about 150 years and was involved in pastoral farming. However local coarseware pottery production was also of great importance, as the site had a group of twelve pottery kilns dated to the middle to late 1st century AD. This is probably the largest number of pottery kilns from a single settlement of this period yet found in the regionally important Upper Nene Valley pottery producing area.

The book is published by Archaeopress and costs £45. Further details are available from:

<http://www.archaeopress.com/ArchaeopressShop/Public/displayProductDetail.asp?id={46439DE0-FBCD-4E07-BAA4-6DB6CD590FE2}>

Piddington

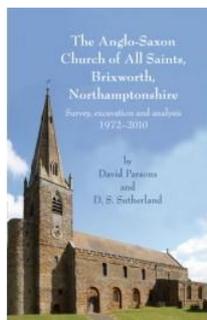
Long-term excavation at the important late Iron Age settlement and Roman villa at Piddington is continuing in 2018. The excavations will be examining a Roman stabling block adjacent to the villa and will start on Saturday 28th July and end on Sunday 26th August. If anyone is interested in helping at the excavations please phone Roy Friendship-Taylor on 01604 870312 ASAP as they will need to fill out an application form.

Roy has kindly invited NAS members to a visit to the museum and excavations on Sunday 19th August at 2pm. Please park near the church at Chapel End. The museum is a couple of minutes walk away. Meet at the museum for 2pm and following a tour of the museum there will be a tour of the excavations. Please bring stout footwear. Cost will be £4.

Summer Reading

Here are a few bargain books on Northamptonshire archaeology currently on bargain offers through Oxbow Books:

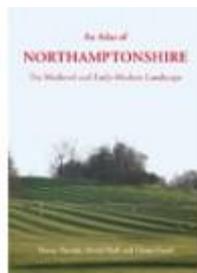
<https://www.oxbowbooks.com/oxbow/>



The Anglo-Saxon Church of All Saints, Brixworth, Northamptonshire: Survey, Excavation and Analysis, 1972-2010 by David Parsons and Diana Sutherland

Regular Price: £90.00

Special Price: £29.95



An Atlas of Northamptonshire: The Medieval and Early-Modern Landscape by Tracey Partida, David Hall and Glenn Foard

Regular Price: £40.00

Special Price: £12.95



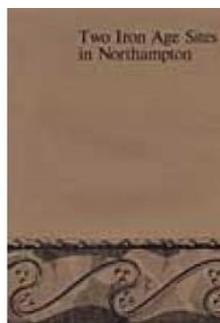
Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Settlement at Sol Central, Marefair, Northampton: Archaeological Excavations 1998-2002 by Pat Miller, Tom Wilson and Chiz Harward

Tom Wilson and Chiz Harward

Regular Price: £11.95

Special Price: £4.95

And a blast from the past in 1974, the first publication of the former Northampton Development Corporation is still available!



Two Iron Age Sites in Northampton by J H Williams £1.95

Year of Publication: 1974 | 66p, 37 b/w illus

This volume contains concise archaeological reports from the excavation of two sites: two Iron Age enclosures at Moulton Park and a double-ditched enclosure at Blackthorn. Specialist reports also discuss and illustrate pottery, small finds and environmental remains from both sites.

And Finally

We are sending this issue of NASNEWS by post to all members so we can also distribute copies of the new Heritage Forum booklet: Museums, Historic Houses, Heritage Sites and History Societies. Since the last issue came out a couple of years ago, the Northamptonshire Association for Local History, of which NAS was a member, has merged with the Heritage Forum so that there is now a single countywide body to represent all aspects of heritage, from stately homes to NAS. So the booklet now contains details of places to go and societies to join.

News items of interest are also posted on the NAS Facebook page so keep a look out there for up to the minute news.

Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Accounts for the year ending 31 September 2017

Sept 2015- Aug 2016		Sept 2016- Aug 2017	
Income			
Subs and sales	£1,960.50	Subs and sales	£1,418.00
Publishers license	£33.66	Publishers license	£58.38
Journal article payments	£4,120.00		
B/Soc interest (MHBS)	£252.98	B/Soc interest (MHBS)	£368.62
B/Soc interest (Nationwide)	£1.02	B/Soc interest	£0.56
Sub total	£6,368.16	Sub total	£1,845.56
Balance brought forward	£30,703.44	Balance brought forward	£30,269.04
Total income	£37,071.60	Total income	£32,114.60
Expenditure			
Postage and other fees	£776.11	Postage and Stationary	£45.84
Room Hire AGM	£50.00	Room Hire AGM	£55.00
Website hosting	£20.00	Website hosting	£20.00
NAS journal printers (4Word)	£5,632.45	Subs refund	£50.00
Associations	£224.00	Bank admin charge	£4.00
Towcester Museum visit	£70.00	Associations	£135.50
NAS journal - admin MHBS	£30.00	AGM speaker	£50.00
Total Expenditure	£6,802.56	Total Expenditure	£360.34
Bank balance	£4,529.28	Bank balance	£2,106.32
B/Soc balance MHBS	£25,332.31	B/Soc balance MHBS	£29,239.93
B/Soc balance Nationwide	£407.45	B/Soc balance Nationwide	408.01
Total carried forward	£30,269.04	Total carried forward	£31,754.26

Accounts prepared by CJH, January 2018