



# NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

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



## August 2023

### Heritage Open Days special edition

**Heritage Open Days**  
**Sunday, 10 September**  
**11am-4pm**  
**Abington Park Museum,**  
**Northampton**

**Free entry**

A wide variety of stalls, exhibits, displays and demonstrations from history and heritage organisations from around the county, **including NAS**. These will be both inside and outside covering different local subjects. As part of Heritage Open Days, a classic free bus service will run between Northampton town centre and Abington Park Museum.

**St Peter's Church, Marefair,**  
**Northampton, NN1 1SR**  
**8-10 September 2023**

Free Entry - Donations Welcome  
Friends of St Peter's Church welcome you to visit St Peter's Church. We have a short guide and puzzle sheet to help you enjoy this fine 12th century building  
Friday 8th September 10:00 - 16:00  
Saturday 9th September 10:00 - 16:00  
Sunday 10th September 13:30 - 16:30

#### **Additional events at St Peter's**

Max 30 people per tour. 40 mins duration  
**Sunday 10 Sept, 14.00 WALK** the site of the neighbouring Anglo-Saxon Great Halls

complex, excavated in the 1970s-80s, with local archaeologist Andy Chapman.

**Sunday 10 Sept, 15.00 WALK** the site of the former magnificent medieval Northampton Castle with local historian Ruth Thomas.

**Contact for the day:** Karen Moore  
07876324554

**Join us Online: Tuesday 12 Sept 19.30**  
**FREE ZOOM TALK** Medieval St Gregory's Church with Speaker: Graham Ward.

<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/>

#### **The Old Black Lion, Marefair**

Meet next door at the historic St Peter's church, and then join a crawl through the story of a pub that stands on a thousand years of history. See how a £3.5million restoration project is breathing new life into a much-loved community asset.

This is a working construction site and places are limited. We will be running 4 tours of 10 people on Friday 8th September and again on Saturday 9th September. **Booking is essential.**

#### **Event Times:**

**Friday 8 September:** 1000-1600: Tours at: 1000, 1130, 1330 & 1500

**Saturday 9 September:** 1000-1600: Tours at: 1000, 1130, 1330 & 1500

**Pre-booking: Required**

Email Nick Patrick to confirm your place.

**Email:** [npatrick@thecct.org.uk](mailto:npatrick@thecct.org.uk)

**Many other churches and buildings will also be open, see The Heritage Open Days website for details: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>**

They include:

**Behind the Scenes at the Northamptonshire Archive**

Northamptonshire Record Office,  
Wootton Hall Park, Mereway,  
Northampton. NN4 8BQ

There will be tours of the archive building giving an insight into our work and how the County's history is preserved, and a display of historical documents and artefacts. **Displays and video will be free to visit but tours must be pre-booked.**

Email: [archivist@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:archivist@westnorthants.gov.uk)

Booking closes: 8 September 2023 11:00

**Bombs, bankruptcy and bigamy, Mary Maxwell Channell's experiment in rural industrialisation**

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery, 4-6  
Guildhall Road, Northampton, NN1 1DP

**Heritage Bus Services**

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery  
George Row, Northampton, NN1 1DF

**Northampton Castle Guided Walks**

Meet at St Peter's Church gate,  
Marefair, Northampton NN1 1SW

Visit the site of Northampton Castle and hear about the many major events that took place here.

**Saturday 9 September: 1100**

**Sunday 10 September: 1100**

No booking required

**Max 25 people per tour.**

Walk takes up to 90 minutes.

Friends of Northampton Castle

**Delapré Abbey**

London Road, Northampton, NN4 8AW

**Friends of West Hunsbury Parks - Scheduled Monument Iron-Age hillfort and Viking Re-enactment**

Hunsbury Hill Country Park, Hunsbury Hill  
Road, Northampton, NN4 9UW

Once again, we are hosting a Viking village, Viking ship and various Living History demonstrations within the village. There will also be a programme of re-enactments - battles, skirmishes and ambushes, staged by the Vikings. Having experienced this before, we are confident that everyone will be entertained.

**Saturday 16 September: 1100-1700**

**Sunday 17 September: 1100-1700**

No booking required

**St. Matthews Church**

St. Matthews Parade, Kettering Road,  
Northampton, NN2 7HF

**Kingsley Park Methodist Church**

Milton Street, Northampton, NN2 7JF

**The Playhouse Theatre**

115 Clare Street, Northampton, NN1 3JA

**The Old Savoy**

**The home of The Deco Theatre**

Abington Square, Northampton, NN1 4AE

**Northampton Quaker Meeting House**

Wellington Street, Northampton,  
NN1 3AS

**Northamptonshire Natural History Society**

10 Castilian Terrace, Northampton,  
NN1 1LD

**The Charles Rennie Mackintosh House**

78 Derngate, Northampton, NN1 1UH

**The Guildhall**

WNC, The Guildhall, St. Giles Square,  
Northampton, NN1 1DE

## Stanwick Lakes Heritage Saturday & Sunday 9 & 10 September

Celebrating heritage and culture, the festival is shaping up to be a brilliant showcase of what's on offer in the Nene Valley



**THE BIG BRONZE AGE  
BOAT BUILD**  
GUILD OF SPINNERS,  
**WEAVERS & DYERS**  
"Celebrating Huldremose Woman"  
**BLACKSMITHING**  
DEMONSTRATION  
**BRONZE AGE  
LIVING HISTORY**  
with Ancient Craft  
BIFROST GUARD  
**VIKING CAMP**  
IRON AGE  
ROUNDHOUSE SETTLEMENT

### Axe casting in a Bronze Age camp!

Dr. James Dilley and Emma Jones from Ancient Craft will be returning to Stanwick Lakes for the weekend, to set up a Bronze Age camp where they'll be casting liquid bronze to make axes and other ancient tools. They'll also be making jewellery, cooking and displaying ancient crafts as people did in the Nene Valley over 3000 years ago!

**Viking life and the Viking Olympics!**  
The Bifrost Guard are back at Stanwick Lakes for the festival. Learn the crafts, hear the sagas of ancient life and give the loudest battle cry! Immerse yourself in Viking Camp life, and explore Viking crafts from woodwork to leathercraft, through to cooking and metal work. And... who will be victorious in the Viking Olympics? Get involved in the tournament and cheer for your winner!

### Other Stanwick Lake Projects

The path around the round barrow is NOW OPEN giving you a new perspective of this ancient monument as preservation work continues and beyond, as well as some lovely views of how the barrow sits in the landscape and also over Solstice Lake.



Three members of the heritage team have constructed a willow coracle frame (for a prehistoric boat) which is now on display in the Heritage Zone.



## Finally, at Stanwick Lakes

Boat build volunteers have continued to work on the Big Bronze Age Boat Build, with the experimental burning out of one log well underway, as well as lots of hours spent carving out with bronze tools on the main log.



All photographs from the Stanwick Lake Facebook page

## Chester House Estate

And don't forget all that the Chester House Estate (Irchester Roman Town) has to offer at all times: The Roman town, a small museum, an excellent café, and Nene valley walks.

## NAS Subscriptions

A reminder for those of our members whose subscriptions are due from the beginning of September and who don't pay by Standing Order (for anyone who has joined recently it will carry over).

<b>Individual:</b>	<b>£15.00</b>
<b>Family membership:</b>	<b>£18.00</b>
<b>Student or retired:</b>	<b>£12.00</b>
<b>Local Societies:</b>	<b>£18.00</b>

This entitles the member/society to a single copy of the journal and copies of our newsletter, as well as supporting the existence of the society and the journal. New members get a bonus copy of the last journal on joining, as well as the next edition.

## Sale of older journals

We are once again in the position to offer some of our back issues for sale. To find out what past issues contain, so you can target particular articles of interest, a full index to the journal series is available on our website.

The old quarto format is available for £3.00 a copy, while the colour A4 issues from 2002 to 2019, are priced at £5.00, plus £2.99 p&p.

**All money brought in through the sale of older journals will go towards the purchase of the Bronze Age gold bracelet terminal for Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, see below.**

## AND FINALLY.....

Any items for the next NAS NEWS or our Facebook page contact: Andy Chapman

NAS Secretary and Journal editor

NAS email: [NAS196674@gmail.com](mailto:NAS196674@gmail.com) or

Rob Atkins, email [ratkins@mola.org.uk](mailto:ratkins@mola.org.uk)