



NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk



September 2024

NAS AGM and public lecture
Thursday, 17 October, 7.00pm

**The Threshing Barn, Chester House,
Higham Road, Little Irchester,
Wellingborough, NN29 7EZ**

(use main drive, Lime Avenue,
and park behind the ARC)

There will be tea/coffee and biscuits from
6.30pm, with the NAS AGM at 6.45pm:

NAS AGM

Chair: Mike Curtis

Officers' reports

Statement of accounts

Election of Hon. Officers and other members
of Council. The following are all willing to
stand for re-election:

Andy Chapman: Secretary, Editor and
Treasurer

Rob Atkins: Meetings Secretary

Pat Chapman: Membership Secretary

Other elected and co-opted members of
council: Mike Curtis (Chair), Graham Cadman,
Brian Giggins and Sarah Scott.

**Anyone who wishes to join the committee
to help keep the Society running, and who
can also bring in new energy and fresh
ideas, and also be ready to implement
those 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.

**The AGM will be followed by a
Public Lecture delivered by
Professor Sarah Scott**

Professor of Archaeology, School of
Archaeology and Ancient History
University of Leicester

Every June and July, archaeologists from the
University of Leicester's School of Ancient
History and Archaeology excavate within the
suburbs of the Roman town, in partnership
with volunteers and staff from Chester
House Estate.

This programme offers a unique opportunity
to engage with experienced archaeological
researchers and CHE staff and volunteers
passionate about making archaeological
research accessible. Together we are working
to provide life-enhancing opportunities
focused on archaeology and heritage for
young people and the wider community

NAS Subscriptions

**We would also remind those who pay
directly through their bank to update their
payment to the present rates, as listed
below.**

The membership rates are:

Individual: £15.00

Family membership: £18.00

Student or retired: £12.00

Local Societies: £18.00

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

**Calling All Archaeology
and History Buffs
Your Society Needs You!**

Michael J Curtis, Chair

Guess what?

Northamptonshire Archaeological Society
has turned fifty this year.

For half a century we've been sharing with you the fascinating stories of our county's history through site visits, talks, newsletters and the journal, and supporting field projects and research financially by providing small grants.

**And the best part is that
YOU can be a part of it!**

Our trusty Managing Committee is the engine that keeps our Society running. We meet 4-5 times a year to plan events, sort out Society business, and hand out small grants to support some awesome research.

**But here's the thing -
we need fresh faces and new ideas
to keep the momentum going.**

The world's changing, and there are more chances than ever to bring Northamptonshire's ancient tales to life for new audiences. We're on the lookout for new committee members who are just as enthusiastic as we are. So, if you're a member of the Society and have a couple of hours to spare on the occasional evening (our meetings are online), why not join us?

Think of it as a chance to help shape the future of the past! There's a lot more that we'd love to do, and with your help, we can make it happen.

**Ready to make history?
We'd love to have you on board!**

**NAS visit to
Northamptonshire Archives
Service, Wednesday, 21 October,
7.00pm**

We are in the process of organising a society visit to the Northamptonshire Archives Service (previously known as The Northamptonshire Record Office) at Wootton Hall Park, Mereway, Northampton, NN4 8BQ. Date, time and booking details will be confirmed shortly by email.

Annual report of the Treasurer

Andy Chapman

NAS Accounts 2023-24

The headline figures for the accounts, with our financial year running to the end of August 2024, are as follows:

Total Income:	£10,295.58
Total Expenditure:	£ 8,982.41
Current balance:	£31,109.95

The full statement of accounts is attached to this NASNEWS. Most often, in the years when we publish a journal the society makes a financial loss, with the income from commercial contributors covering either all or much of the cost of publication, but not the costs of postage and packing, which now amount to some £7.00 per volume.

This financial year has, therefore, been exceptional in that we have published and distributed a journal, and have also made a profit of some £1700.

There are, however, a number of other factors that have made a significant contribution to this profit.

Firstly, we have not paid out any grants this year, and we even had a grant of £480.00 returned, as it was not possible to carry out this piece of grant supported research. So that alone accounts for a large part of the profit.

Secondly, the journal also contained seven articles from six different commercial contractors, so a higher proportion of the contents were grant funded than was the case for the previous journal, or is likely to be the case for the next journal as well.

However, this is a very healthy bank balance compared to many similar societies, so we can move forward with both publishing the next journal, with funds in hand for both grants and other activities.

Annual report of the Journal Editor and Secretary

Andy Chapman

As already noted above, this year we published volume 42 of Northamptonshire Archaeology, with a particular focus on Iron Age settlement, and containing seven articles from six commercial contractors, the most we ever had supporting one issue.

Distribution of the issue to members and institutions has been completed, and we have a residue of copies remaining.

It should also be noted that the previous issue, volume 41, The Archaeology of Medieval Northampton, is now effectively out of print, as I have one copy remaining from the print run of 400 copies. (Sales of this journal through the last financial year also made a significant contribution to our bank balance).

We already have some material either in hand or in preparation for the next issue, volume 43. There will be a return to a medieval theme, with articles covering The Archaeology of Northampton Castle (Part 2), Fotheringhay Castle, Badby Monastic Grange, and the Abbey of St James's Abbey, Northampton, and its cemetery. However, there should also be something, long overdue, coverage of Roman Towcester.

The provisional target date is for publication either in late 2025 or early 2026.

John M Steane: Obituary

John M Steane died on 12 April 2024, at the age of 92 (b. 3 May 1931).

He was best known as the County Archaeologist for Oxfordshire from 1976 to 1990, where he was also a part-time tutor within the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education. He also published several books on medieval studies, and was a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (MIFA), and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (FSA).

From a Northamptonshire perspective, he was the 'inspirational' Headmaster of Kettering Grammar School, from 1964 to 1976, with his appointment at the age of 32 making him the youngest senior school head teacher in the country at the time.

A keen archaeologist, he would take pupils out in his Morris Traveller on expeditions and field walks to look for evidence of archaeological sites. The boys spent several summers excavating the medieval pottery kilns near Lyveden New Bield, and they even recreated a kiln in the grounds of the grammar school, fuelling the fire with broken school chairs. (The Lyveden excavations were published in the Northampton Museums Journal; 2, 1967; 5, 1969; 9, 1971 & 12, 1975)



John Steane in 1974 at the launch of his book, The Northamptonshire Landscape

His influence is best described by one of his former pupils, Dr Paul Stamper who, along

with several other former pupils, has gone on to have a distinguished career in archaeology himself. As quoted in the *Northamptonshire Telegraph* (7 June 2024) Paul Stamper recounted that John Steane, "was a very liberal and stimulating teacher - dynamic and forceful. He was inspirational. I was very, very lucky to have him as a headmaster."

"In addition to generations of schoolboys, he taught many adult education classes, and was the founding secretary of the Kettering Civic Society. He was also involved in numerous other organisations, among them the Northamptonshire Record Society."

"He was a bullish character, full of enthusiasm. He was physically imposing and would wear a gown, tweed suit and heavy brown leather shoes. He would crash around the school corridors so people could hear him coming. He admitted to me later that it was deliberate and a means of exerting his presence. He was intimidating and I wouldn't have dared to be cheeky to him."

Stanwick Lakes

Sunday, 20 October, 1:30pm - 2:30pm

**A 'Walk' Through Time
with Andy Chapman**



Embark on a fascinating journey through time with archaeologist Andy Chapman at Stanwick Lakes, without leaving the Visitor Centre! Explore the rich history of the people who established roots here: from the Neolithic to the medieval hamlet of West Cotton.

Andy will employ photographs and maps to depict the settlements uncovered during the 1980s archaeological excavations.

Thanks to the support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund this talk is FREE.

Admission is by RSVP ticket only. Head to the Stanwick Lakes website to book

**CBA South Midlands,
Autumn Conference
Sunday, 17 November
Cherwell School, Oxford**

**On the theme of
Industrial Archaeology**

Programme still being finalised

But they expect to be taking bookings from early October

**41st Annual Brixworth Lecture
In conjunction with The Medieval
Research Department of Leicester
University**

***The Reign of Offa of Mercia in
Context***

**by Prof Rory Naismith,
University of Cambridge**

**Saturday, 2 November, 5.00 pm
(Tickets include refreshments from
3.30pm)**

To book tickets go to:

www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk

Adults: £12.00

Students: £8.00

The Chester House Estate

Due to popularity, we have opened up more Archaeological workshops this October half term!

Tues, 29 October & Weds, 30 October

An Introduction to Ancient Textiles

Join **The Prehistoric Workshop** for a session introducing you to flax linen, one of the most ancient textiles. You process your own bunch of dried flax using stone tools, and transform it into silky fibres ready for spinning. To find out more and to book go to the Chester House Estate website.

Publishing the Raunds Area Project

Historic England (HE) has provided a website page (link below) that will be used to highlight the work HE will be carrying out over the next 18-24 months on the archaeological archives for the Stanwick Iron Age and Roman settlement and villa project, carried out from the mid-1980s to the early 1990s as part of the Raunds Area Project, in conjunction with the then Northamptonshire County Council. The expectation is for all the specialist reports to be completed and uploaded. There will also be a synthesis (**though not a full publication**), which will also identify potential research questions for the archive.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/current/discover-and-understand/landscapes/showcasing-stanwick/>

As a reminder, the other aspects of the Raunds Area Project have all already been taken to completion and publication (listed below in order of publication). They are variously available either from the publishers (either as hardcopy or digital), or second-hand. In addition, Audouy and Chapman 2009 and Chapman 2010 are available online as pdf downloads, free of charge, from Andy Chapman through the *ResearchGate* website

(www.researchgate.net), and on *Academia* (www.academia.edu).

Boddington, A, 1998 *Furnells, Raunds, the Anglo-Saxon church and cemetery*, English Heritage Monog, 7

Parry, S, 2006 *Raunds Area Survey: An Archaeological study of the landscape of Raunds, Northamptonshire 1985-92*, Oxbow Books

Harding, J, and Healy, F, 2007 *The Raunds Area Project: A Neolithic and Bronze Age Landscape in Northamptonshire*, English Heritage

Audouy, M, and Chapman, A, (ed) 2009 *Raunds: the origin and growth of a midland village, AD 450-1500: Excavations in north Raunds, Northamptonshire, 1977-1987*, Oxbow Books

Chapman, A, 2010 *West Cotton, Raunds: a study of medieval settlement dynamics, AD 450-1450: Excavation of a deserted medieval hamlet in Northamptonshire, 1985-89*, Oxbow Books

Harding, J, and Healy, F, 2010 *The Raunds Area Project: A Neolithic and Bronze Age Landscape in Northamptonshire: Volume 2 Supplementary Studies*, English Heritage (digital publication)

AND FINALLY.....

If you have anything you would like included in either the next NAS NEWS or on our Facebook page contact:

Andy Chapman

NAS secretary and journal editor

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or Rob Atkins, email:

robatkins1968@gmail.com



Northamptonshire Archaeological Society



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Accounts for the financial year 2023-2024 (ending 29 August 2024)

Income	
Member subscriptions	£1,510.00
Institution subscriptions	£428.00
Journal sales	£220.50
Donations	£50.00
Journals grant support	£7,163.00
PLS copyright payments	£40.01
Returned grant (Newcastle University)	£480.00
Income sub-total	£9,891.51
MH Building Society Interest	£404.07
Total income	£10,295.58
Expenditure	
Postage and packing materials	£786.71
Typesetting and printing journal	£7,810.75
Misc. expenditure (printer ink, printing paper, plug in hard drive)	£91.45
Grant payments	£0.00
NAS memberships (CBA, Northants, Heritage Forum, BALH)	£217.50
Bank charges	£76.00
Total expenditure	£8,982.41
Balance of Accounts 2023/24 (29/08/2024)	
HSBC bank account	£4,480.42
Market Harborough Building Society savings account (includes £404.07 MHBS interest)	£26,629.53
Bank Balance 2023-2024	£31,109.95
<i>Profit over 2023/24</i>	<i>£1,711.96</i>
Balance of Accounts 2022/23 (29/08/2023)	
Total Income	£2,867.14
Total Expenditure	£2,106.25

Andy Chapman, Hon. Treasurer, Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

5 September 2024

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