

# NASNEWS

## Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

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

**June 2009**

### STANWICK LAKES VISITOR CENTRE

Situated north-east of Wellingborough on the A45/A605 Stanwick-Raunds bypass, the new visitor centre was opened at Easter. The building itself is spectacular, with its glass façade standing in and overlooking one of the quarry lakes.

On display on the ground floor there is the late Saxon decorated grave slab excavated at Furnells manor, Raunds in the 1970s, and a reconstruction of the churchyard cross that may have stood nearby (the photograph on the right shows the reconstructed cross during manufacturing).

On the mezzanine floor there is a display of finds from the deserted medieval village of West Cotton, Raunds, excavated in advance of the new road and quarrying in the 1980s.

In addition, the visitor centre provides teas while Stanwick Lakes itself offers a range of walks and cycle tracks, opportunities for bird watching and fishing, an adventure playground for younger children and an assault course for older children of all ages. Further details are available on their website (<http://www.stanwicklakes.org.uk/>).



### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR OF STANWICK LAKES

On Saturday, 12th September, Andy Chapman will be giving a guided walk of the valley touring the former sites of the Neolithic long barrow, the Bronze Age round barrows, the Iron Age settlement, the Roman villa and West Cotton medieval village, all excavated as part of the Raunds Area Project in the 1980s. The walk starts at 2.00pm and lasts about 2 hours. You need to book in advance with the park rangers (telephone 01933 625522).

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY ONLINE

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) has finally installed the first batch of our journals onto *ArchLib: An online library of publications for archaeology*.

Either go on the CBA website (<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/>) and follow the links through Publications to the ArchLib site, or go directly to the ArchLib site (<http://archlib.britarch.net/>).

Currently available are Bulletins 1-8, as complete volumes, while Journals 9-19 are available article by article. We are making the contents of early volumes available free of charge to all, while for the last five year there will be a charge of £4 per article. Any income will be shared between the society and the CBA.

## SUMMER EVENTS

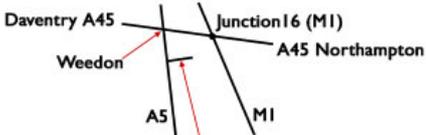


**Sunday July 12th**  
**10am to 4pm**

# Whitehall Roman Villa OPEN DAY

a great day out for all the family

- VISIT THE EXCAVATIONS
- SEE OUR FINEST TREASURES
- ROMAN SOLDIERS OF LEGIO XIIII  
- parading and demonstrating their giant catapult
- ROMAN CRAFTS VILLAGE
- LOTS FOR CHILDREN TO DO  
- find-a-find, metal-detecting...
- WHITEHALL VILLA SHOP
- PIG ROAST and PASTIES



Whitehall Farm, Heyford Lane  
Nether Heyford, Northants, NN7 4SF  
Tel: 01327 342581

From the A5, turn towards Nether Heyford  
at the Narrow Boat pub

Adults £6  
Children (under 14) free

[www.whitehallvilla.co.uk](http://www.whitehallvilla.co.uk)

## Festival of British Archaeology 2009

Saturday 18th July - Sunday 2nd August 2009

The Festival of British Archaeology is an annual extravaganza of heritage events coordinated by the *Council for British Archaeology*.

Each year the Festival helps museums, local societies, national and countryside parks, universities and heritage organisations hold hundreds of events showcasing the very best of British archaeology. The Festival aims to give everyone the opportunity to learn about their local heritage, to see archaeology in action, and to get involved.

Events ranging from excavation open days and behind-the-scenes tours to family fun days and finds identification workshops are taking place all over the UK.

To find out what is happening both locally and nationally go to: <http://festival.britarch.ac.uk/whatson/>

## English Heritage Festival of history weekend

The annual English Heritage re-enactment get together covering just about all periods up to WWII, will take place at Kelmarsh Hall, check their website for further details and ticket costs.



## The Medieval Landscape of Nassington: a Guided Walk

Saturday, 18 July, 10.00-16.00

The Prebendal Manor, Church Street, Nassington, nr Peterborough  
PE8 6QG

A guided walk looking at the medieval landscape and village houses of Nassington, nr Peterborough. The day will include registration /coffee and a short introductory talk in the tithe barn museum. There will be a walk, lunch and a guided tour of the Prebendal Manor and the recreated medieval gardens in the afternoon. Tea will be served before leaving. Sensible shoes are essential. The fee is £25 adults, children free. **Pre-booking is required.**

Organiser: Living Middle Ages

Contact: Mrs Jane Baile

Directions: The manor is brown signed from the A605 at Warmington, Northants, and is up by the church in Church Street, Nassington  
T: 01780 782575

## NAS Visit to Piddington Roman Villa excavations 7.00pm, Monday 14 September 2009

Northamptonshire Archaeological Society is grateful to Roy Friendship Taylor and the Upper Nene Archaeological Society (UNAS) for providing a unique opportunity for members to have a guided tour of the Piddington Roman Villa excavations. We will visit towards the end of this year's main digging season and hear the latest information about their most recent discoveries, including new finds for an early Roman military presence.

The excavations (at SP 7970 5400) are located in fields west of Piddington village. The village is approximately 7 kms south of Northampton. Follow the B526 to Hackleton village and then take the turn to Piddington village. Turn right on to Church Street and head in the direction of the parish church. A track leads to the excavations from Church End/Old End (at SP 8015 5450, between house numbers 2 & 4). Either park in the vicinity of the church and walk down the 750m-long track to the excavations or, if it has been dry, carefully drive down the track to the excavations. Please allow time whether walking or driving to arrive at the site by 7pm.

After the site tour there will be an opportunity to visit the nearby Piddington Roman Villa Museum (NN7 2DD), which is located on the eastern edge of Piddington village at Chapel End. Please respect local resident's wishes and do not park in Chapel End. It is recommended to bring stout shoes/boots for the excavation and clean shoes for the museum please.

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