

NASNEWS

Newsletter of Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk

October 2007

NAS AGM & PUBLIC LECTURE BY BILL BOISMIER

Annual General Meeting of Northamptonshire Archaeological Society Monday 26th November at the Jeffery Room, Guildhall, Northampton

The Guildhall is close to the Museum, at the top of Guildhall Road. Car parking in St. John's car park (open and multi-storey) at bottom of Guildhall Road or street parking along St. Giles Street or Derngate. Go up the Guildhall steps and inside turn left up the flight of stairs and follow the signs and/or the stream of people heading towards the Jeffery Room.

Doors open at 6.45pm, tea & coffee available. AGM commences at 7.00pm with the lecture starting at 7.15pm. Admission to both AGM and the lecture is free to all.

NAS are fortunate to welcome Bill Boismier, Senior Archaeologist with Northamptonshire Archaeology to speak on the subject of:

Fear and Loathing in the Middle Palaeolithic: Mammoths at Lynford Quarry, Norfolk, Neanderthal Hunting or Scavenging?

See attached poster for further details.

ELECTION OF NAS COMMITTEE AT AGM

The existing Committee members standing for re-election are Roy Friendship Taylor, Steven Hollowell, Graham Cadman, Andy Chapman, Ian Barrie, Pat Chapman, Martin Weaver, David Waller and Martin Tingle; with Steve Young representing CLASP.

The following society posts are occupied:

Roy Friendship Taylor, Chairman (elected annually by the committee)

Steven Hollowell, Vice Chairman (elected annually by the committee)

Andy Chapman, Secretary

Ian Barrie, Treasurer

Martin Tingle and Andy Chapman, journal co-editors

Pat Chapman, Membership Secretary

In the past year Burl Bellamy and Mike Rumbold have retired from the committee after many years involvement with NA. Nominations would therefore be welcome for any members willing to serve on the committee. This is vital if the committee is to be as representative as possible of the wider membership at a time when archaeology in Northamptonshire is facing many challenges. No prior experience necessary, just a willingness to contribute to the running of the Society for the benefit of archaeology across the county, and to attend up to four committee meetings a year. Please submit nominations to Andy Chapman, NAS Secretary, c/o Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2 Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton NN4 8BE (email: achapman@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY, VOLUME 34

Volume 34 of the journal is with the printers. It contains several shorter articles that provide a cross-section of the range of developer-funded archaeology carried out in the county. These illustrate the often frustrating limitations of such work, where you can dig only what is likely to be damaged during development, which is often not the bit that you would really like to get at.

The Future for our Past: Publication and Archaeology Andy Chapman

A late Iron Age settlement at Manor Farm, Newton Bromswold, Northamptonshire
Tim Upton-Smith

Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosures at the former sports ground, Alma Road, Peterborough Andrew Mudd and Tim Upton-Smith

A Romano-British settlement at West Haddon, Northamptonshire Paul Mason

The Roman Villa at Deanshanger, Northamptonshire: Excavations 2004-2005 Jim Brown

Early to Middle Saxon Iron Smelting Furnaces at Fineshade Abbey, Northamptonshire
Andrew Mudd

Higham Ferrers, Saffron Road: an archaeological evaluation Stephen Morris

The Archaeology at 46-50 Sheep Street, Northampton Jim Brown

The Hospital Chapel of St. John, Northampton Iain Soden and David Leigh

The volume will also contain a CD providing PDF copies of the first eight journals, the *Bulletins of the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies* and the first *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, as published between 1966 and 1973 with paper covers. This should be the first of a number of such publications to make past work in the county available in digital form.

The journal is due to be delivered in early November, so we expect to have copies available for collection at the AGM, which means that all members attending get the journal earlier and save the society the cost of postage and packing. We try our best to ensure that the membership list is up to date, and those not attending the AGM should receive their journal through the post before Christmas, but mistakes are possible when posting over 150 copies to members and institutions. If your copy does not arrive please contact the secretary by post or email.

NAS SUBSCRIPTION REMAINDER

Subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st September 2007. Subscription rates remain extremely good value at an unchanged £10 for individuals, £12 family and £8 student. At the moment our major activities are the AGM with its guest lecturer, the publication of the journal and the maintenance of a web site.

We would also like to remind everyone of the Affiliated Society Status. This costs £15 and in return the society can have a delegate on the NAS committee as well as receiving a copy of the journal for the society library. This is the way in which the society had its origin, growing out of the *Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies*, and affiliation does help to maintain links between all the various organisations involved in archaeology and allied subjects, and I think a number of newer societies may be unaware of this.

We would also encourage members to sign up to Gift Aid as this provides valuable additional income to the Society. If you are renewing your subscription or want a Gift Aid form, either download them from the society website or contact Pat Chapman, NAS Membership Secretary, c/o Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2 Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton NN4 8BE (E: pachapman@northamptonshire.gov.uk).

A NEW MUSEUM FOR NORTHAMPTON?

In September, Northampton borough councillor and former MP, Tony Clarke, was given front page coverage in the *Chronicle and Echo* for his suggestion that the collection of architectural stone from Northampton Castle held in the basement of Northampton Museum could form the centrepiece of a new museum and visitor centre to be established near the railway station, the site of castle, and within Mr Clarke's ward of course.

This proposal was the catalyst for numerous letters in response, and it was encouraging to see so many members of NAS using this opportunity to raise a number of crucial issues relating to the neglected heritage of both the town and the county. These included: Andy Chapman (18th September, "Castle museum: look at the wider picture), Steven Hollowell (22nd September, "Musuems are vital for our new communities" and 27th September, "History helps us avoid mistakes of the past"), David Blackburn (22nd September, "Display artefacts at developments", and Brian Giggins (26th September, "Short-sighted to spend cash on castle museum").

Among the issues raised in these letters were the lack of a county archive and museum for storing and displaying all the finds recovered in recent decades, and the withdrawal by the County Council of the provision of archaeological advice and monitoring to the borough and district planning departments.

Heritage issues had also been raised in the press a month earlier in relation to the demolition of the former Malting and the Victorian church (latterly The School for the Deaf) next to St. Peter's Way at Green Street, Northampton. Martin Ellison, who was once with the County Council providing advice on listed buildings and who now has a similar role at Milton Keynes, castigated Northampton for its lack of conservation zones to offer real protection for our built environment, and Dennis Jackson provided an historic perspective of the rise and fall of local government interest in providing protection for our historic environment (6th August, "Disappointed at lack of interest in the past").

If nothing else, at least these issues have been given an effective and sustained airing and it may have made local people more aware of the underlying problems. We would encourage all our members to keep an eye on local heritage issues and write to the local papers to maintain active discussion and debate of these issues.

A NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY DAY?

At the last committee meeting it was decided that we should try to provide our members with more value for their subscriptions by holding a Northamptonshire Archaeology Day. The provisional suggestion is that it should be held shortly after Easter 2008, around mid-April, possibly at Cogenhoe Village Hall, as a venue near Northampton with good parking.

The success of this event will not depend on NAS but on the members of the many local societies affiliated to NAS, as they will be the ones that will have to provide displays, "man" tables, provide literature to inform the public, talk to the public and perhaps recruit new members. For this day to happen we therefore need positive responses from several groups who are willing to take part. Could you get in touch with Andy Chapman by the end of the year at the latest and, if we have sufficient interest, we will go ahead and book a venue and start planning. If successful, we would like to make this an annual spring event to promote the archaeology of the county to the public of Northamptonshire.

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Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

AGM & public lecture

FEAR & LOATHING IN THE MIDDLE PALAEOOLITHIC: MAMMOTHS AT LYNFORD QUARRY, NORFOLK NEANDERTHAL HUNTING OR SCAVENGING?

public lecture by

Bill Boismier

Senior Archaeologist, Northamptonshire Archaeology

at

**JEFFERY ROOM
NORTHAMPTON GUILDHALL
NORTHAMPTON**

Monday 26th November 2007

All welcome - free entry

The Society welcomes Bill Boismier to give this annual public lecture. Bill is senior archaeologist with Northamptonshire's foremost archaeological contractors, ***Northamptonshire Archaeology***.

At Lynford Quarry, Norfolk an old river channel contained the remains of mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, reindeer, horse, bison, wolf, red or arctic fox and brown bear, along with stone handaxes and other tools, all buried under two to three metres of sands and gravels. Well-preserved Middle Palaeolithic open-air sites are exceedingly rare in Europe, making Lynford of national and international importance. However, a key issue of debate is whether the evidence indicates that the Neanderthal population was systematically hunting mammoth or whether they were being opportunistic and scavenging the carcasses of dead mammoths. Bill Boismier directed the excavations at Lynford Quarry and has been preparing the report. At the AGM he will provide us with a presentation of the results and discuss the interpretation of these important but contentious remains of our early ancestors. Come along and hear more direct from Bill.

6.45pm Doors open, refreshments

7.00pm NAS AGM

7.15pm Public lecture by Bill Boismier