



NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk



February 2014

NAS COMMITTEE

At the first committee meeting following the AGM, the elected committee members voted to retain Steven Hollowell as Chair and David Waller as Vice Chair.

We are also still looking for someone to come forward as a potential future treasurer.

POTENTIAL SUMMER MEETING

We are looking towards arranging a guided tour of Chester Farm and Irchester Roman town, hopefully in early June

NAS 40th ANNIVERSARY

**Sywell Country Park
Ancient Crafts weekend
Saturday, 20 September and
Sunday, 21 September 2014**

This will be main event of the year. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of NAS we are planning a weekend at Sywell Country Park for NAS members and the public. The theme is ancient crafts, with demonstrations from several skilled craftsmen and women, including some workshop sessions that people can sign up to, for a small fee.

Already booked:

Graham Taylor: Potted History

Saturday, prehistoric pottery workshop

Sunday, public demonstrations;

James Dilley: flint knapping

Saturday, public demonstrations

Sunday, flint knapping workshop

Guardrobe: Alex and Paul Thompson

Saturday, Medieval craft demonstrations

Sunday, Roman military drill for children

Michael Brown, The Historic Gardener

Saturday and Sunday, including some hands on sessions for children.

And more to be arranged.

Please note: the pottery and flint knapping workshops are aimed at adults or younger people with a serious interest, and they will not be suitable for younger children. If any members would like to express a provisional interest in signing up for the prehistoric pottery or flint knapping workshops, with a probable fee of £10 a session, please email me to give me an idea of interest. Formal booking will be some months ahead.

We are hoping for good weather, a good turnout and an enjoyable and educational weekend in the open air.

Northamptonshire Archaeology Volume 38

Work is beginning on the next issue of the journal. We already have a number of articles in from some of our long-standing society members and affiliated societies, so this volume is likely to be dominated by local society work, rather than commercial archaeology.

If anyone has any articles, notes, book reviews or local society news please send it through for inclusion. It would be helpful if material could arrive before Easter, mid-April, but late arrivals of shorter contributions can be accepted until the end of May. Notes for contributors are available on the website.

A special Northampton edition of the journal is still in planning, and hopefully it will be possible to bring that together for 2015.

Northamptonshire Archaeology joins MOLA

On the 21 January 2014 Northamptonshire Archaeology was transferred from Northamptonshire County Council to MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology).

The Northampton *Chronicle and Echo*, not for the first time when reporting something archaeological, managed to get the story wrong and reported that NA was being transferred to the Museum of London, under the headline: *Archaeology team digs in for museum*.

MOLA were externalised from the Museum of London a couple of years ago and are now a limited company with charitable status.

Below we provide the official press release from the MOLA website:

The 50 strong team based in Northampton continues to work closely with clients to assess and investigate the archaeology and built heritage of the area, cost-effectively and speedily, as it has for over 25 years.

MOLA brings with it the combined knowledge of 40 years' of practise and 200 staff. Experienced in challenging urban, waterfront and infrastructure schemes; MOLA's expertise is complemented by the Northampton team's experience in geophysical survey, rural archaeology and residential schemes. Working in collaboration over the past year the benefits of merging the strengths and talents in both organisations is already apparent.

Taryn Nixon, Chief Executive of MOLA, said: "The two organisations have complementary skills, stemming from our different backgrounds, yet have a strong, shared sense of how best to deliver archaeological services to commercial clients in today's market. Together, we can offer a more resilient and flexible range of services over a wider

geographical area, and offer stronger prospects for our staff."

Steve Parry, Director of MOLA's Northampton team said: "The two organisations have already gained from successful partnering and we are looking forward to working together on further developing key services such as geophysical assessment, publication and public archaeology".

The changes have come about in response to plans Northamptonshire County Council submitted in 2011 to rehouse its archaeological service, to secure its future stability and growth. MOLA was selected by Northamptonshire County Council in December 2012, through a competitive tender process, as the preferred new home for its archaeology team.

<http://www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk/NewsProjects/Current-News/NorthamptonshireArchaeology>



The transfer of NA brings to an end some 40 years of archaeological fieldwork based within public services in Northamptonshire.

The early 1970s saw the appearance and growth of archaeological field units across the country, providing a response to the rapid pace of development that had left so much of our rural and urban archaeology vulnerable to destruction without record.

From the mid-1970s to the mid 1980s Northamptonshire actually had two teams in operation. Northampton Development Corporation Archaeological Unit, under

John Williams, was active from the early 1970s with a series of excavations that explored the Anglo-Saxon origins of Northampton and the Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Briar Hill, and some other smaller rescue digs.

From the mid-1970s the County Council Archaeology Unit, under County Archaeologist Alan Hannan, was developing a countywide Sites and Monuments Record and began its first major excavation at Furnells manor, Raunds in the later 1970s, and through the 1980s ran the Raunds Area Project in partnership with English Heritage.

From 1990 onward Northamptonshire Archaeology became a successful team in the world of commercial archaeology, and remained so through to the present.

The Historic Environment Record and the Archaeological Planning Advisors remain with the County Council.

A more detailed history of local authority archaeology will appear in the next journal.

English Heritage New Model: Consultation

You will have to move fast, as this consultation closes at 7 February 2014 12:00am.

The following statements are abstracted from the introduction to the Consultation Document from the Department of Media, Culture and Sport, to which many heritage and other organisations have already expressed concerns.

To decide whether you think this will benefit our heritage or whether the plan to reduce '*unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape without reducing protection for heritage*', will just make it easier for developers to get at parts of the wider historic environment, download the consultation document from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultation/english-heritage-new-model-consultation>

The government is supporting the creation a new charity, which will keep the name "English Heritage", to run the National Heritage Collection with an £80 million investment. Through this programme the charity will be able to grow its income and become self-financing by 2023, while the Collection will of course remain in public ownership.

There will be no change to the Commission's duties and responsibilities for preserving England's wider historic environment. Those services will be delivered under the new name of "Historic England". But the split does provide an opportunity to reassess priorities and to look at ways of improving how these vital heritage services are managed and delivered.

Historic England will aim to make the heritage protection system work better for owners, developers and infrastructure providers, reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape without reducing protection for heritage. It will look to develop a stronger public-facing role. It will continue to develop its constructive approach to conservation demonstrating that heritage supports sustainable economic growth and job creation.

This consultation seeks views on the principles of these changes and invites consultees to respond.'

The consultation will be open for nine weeks, closing at midnight on 7 February 2014.

Brixworth, All Saints

Parson, David (2013) 'All Saints' Church, Brixworth, Northamptonshire: The Development of the Fabric c. 1100 to 1865', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, Volume 166, Issue 1 (Sept 2013), pages 1-30

Abstract on next page from: <http://www.maneyonline.com/doi/full/10.1179/0068128813Z.00000000014>

Following the publication of a detailed monograph on the Anglo-Saxon phases of the church, this is an account of its development from the late 11th century until the eve of the Victorian restoration in 1865-66. The Romanesque contribution to the fabric is mainly represented by the late 12th-century south doorway, but a series of reset corbels implies a complete re-roofing; the pitch of the roof was reduced in the late middle ages.

Major changes in the late 13th and 14th centuries included the growth by stages of the south-east chapel, the replacement of the Anglo-Saxon apse by a square-ended chancel, and the addition of a bell stage and spire to the west tower. New data from surveys by the Brixworth Archaeological Research Committee have made it possible to propose a detailed sequencing for the south-east chapel.

Site of the Battle of Northampton 1460: Conservation Management Plan

For anyone looking for a weighty read: The Conservation Management Plan for the site of the battle of Northampton runs to 179 pages and is available as a free download from the Northampton Borough Council website. It has been prepared by LUC (Land Use Consultants: www.landuse.co.uk/) in association with Glenn Foard and Tracey Partida.

<http://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/6910/site-of-the-battle-of-northampton-1460-conservation-management-plan>

The following summary is abstracted from the background and methodology statements: The preparation of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has involved reviewing existing records and reports, charting the development of the battlefield and the surrounding landscape together with an analysis of the current and previous land uses within the Registered battlefield boundary.

Particular focus has been given to the location of the Lancastrian encampment

and, where possible, primary as well as secondary data sources have been reviewed. Consultation has also been carried out with key stakeholders and specialist groups including the Battlefield Trust, English Heritage and the Friends of Delapre Abbey.

The 237ha (586 acre) Registered Battlefield, situated in the Borough of Northampton, is a well used historic landscape providing social, economic and environmental benefits to the local community. The long history of site including its use as a Cluniac Nunnery, the siting of the Battle of Northampton and the residence for the Bouverie family has greatly shaped the character of the area as have 20th-century additions of the golf course and gravel extraction.

The conservation management planning process has enabled the project team to collate and review existing documentary sources, carry out field surveys and consider local opinion in order to understand the resource. By considering the significance of the Registered Battlefield and assessing the vulnerabilities and issues we have been able to develop a strategy for the future conservation and management of the site. This plan sets out policies which underpin a series of actions which will guide the future management and conservation of the Registered Battlefield.

STOP PRESS

The March/April edition of *British Archaeology*, the magazine of the CBA, will contain an article on Northampton Castle and the recent excavations at the station. Subscriptions or individual back copies available from:

<http://www.britisharchaeology.org/>

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