

NASNEWS

Newsletter of Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk

July 2007

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

We would like to remind all our members that this year National Archaeology Week runs for 9 days, from Saturday, 14 July to Sunday, 22 July. For details of events around the country go online with the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) website (<http://www.britarch.ac.uk>).

There are a few events taking place in Northamptonshire:

Northamptonshire Archaeology and Northamptonshire Record Office will be holding an Open Day on Saturday, 14 July at their offices at Wootton Hall Park, Mereway, Northampton, from 10am to 4pm (free parking). In addition to displays of finds and a display of material from the Record Office, there will be medieval and 17th-century historical re-enactments and Steve Ashby, Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, will be on-hand to identify and discuss any finds brought in by visitors. We will also have a table to advertise NAS to prospective new members.

Can You Walk The Talk? An archaeological talk by Dewi Morrison on Saturday, 21 July in Daventry Library, North Street Daventry, 10am to 11am, followed by a walk at an archaeological site at Borough Hill, 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

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Digging The Past: Become an archaeologist for a day. Archaeological excavation on a real site, for children over 10 years. Pottery washing. Handling artefacts. A family archaeological quest with a prize for the winner. Bring your finds and pottery for us to identify. Story telling about the past. 14 to 15 July, 12 noon to 4.30pm, The Prebendal Manor, Church Street, Nassington, Nr Peterborough PE8 6QG:

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY VOLUMES 34 & 35

The copy for volume 34 of the journal has gone for typesetting. We are hoping that we will once again have the new volume available for collection at the AGM in mid to late November.

Following discussion of the presentation of the volume at recent committee meetings, it has been agreed that we should move ahead with some fundamental changes, and the committee would welcome any comment on these proposals. There are two basic changes:

- To change from offset litho to digital printing, which will enable us to use colour plans and plates throughout the volume, whilst not increasing, and perhaps reducing, printing costs.
- To change from the present quarto format to A4. This will break with a long tradition but will help our contributors, who now largely produce publication material to A4 format.

UNIQUE CHANCE TO SEE INSIDE APETHORPE HALL

English Heritage Announces Summer Tours of Grade I listed Jacobean Country House Recently Rescued from the Brink of Dereliction

Tickets went on sale on Monday, 11 June for one-off guided tours of Apethorpe Hall, a grade I listed country house in a picturesque corner of Northamptonshire. The £5 tours will be run by English Heritage every Saturday and Sunday throughout August and September and will last an hour and a half.

The Hall is currently the subject of an ambitious £4 million rescue programme by English Heritage to save it from total collapse after it was left to rot by its previous owner, a foreign businessman. These tours are the first opportunity the general public has had to see inside the building in its five-hundred-year history. The hall has a particularly important place in the nation's heritage because of the role it played in entertaining Tudor and Stuart royalty at the pinnacle of its influence around the turn of the 17th century. Its State Apartment is arguably the most complete in the country and provides a fascinating window on a rich period of English history.

- The Apethorpe Hall tours begin on Saturday 4 August and run every Saturday and Sunday until Sunday 30 September.
- There will be six tours a day leaving at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm.
- Tours cost £5 (no concessions) and must be pre-booked by calling English Heritage Customer Services on 0870 333 1181. Places are limited so early booking is advised.
- The tours will run free of charge on Heritage Open Days (8, 9 September) and these tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Sensible footwear is advisable and the tour is not suitable for anyone with mobility issues or for children under 12.
- There are no toilets on site but can be found at the pub at the gates of the hall, the King's Head. The pub serves lunch between 12pm and 2.30pm and reservations can be made on 01780 470627.
- Parking is available on site only up to 15 minutes before the tour begins.
- Address: Apethorpe Hall, Apethorpe, Peterborough, PE8 5DJ
- For further details please visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/apethorpehall

This edition of *NASNEWS* has been edited by Andy Chapman. We hope to have a new editor for the next edition, but please submit any contributions to the Secretary, contact details below.

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