

## A SUMMARY OF THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2004

### 1. Membership

The NAS, as a whole, continues to do well with membership back up above 150. In an attempt to increase this still further, a flyer about the NAS has been put into each copy of our new book *The Archaeology of Northamptonshire* that is sold through local bookshops in the hope that it will bring in new members.

### 2. Activities

NAS has been involved in a new survey of the hillfort at Hunsbury. Despite being owned by Northampton Borough Council and also being a scheduled ancient monument, this celebrated monument is in a poor condition, burrowed into by rabbits and overgrown with vegetation as well as being used as an unofficial BMX track and car incinerator by the local youth. Last year, Dennis Jackson received a grant to carry out a study into the long term future of the monument. The initial grant was matched by English Heritage which also gave permission for geophysical surveys and limited excavations within the Hillfort. The trial trenching revealed that more of the interior had survived 19<sup>th</sup> century quarrying than had previously been imagined. In addition, geophysical survey produced dramatic evidence showing the burning of the ramparts and much more. Further work is planned for next year. An interim report appears on the NAS website and a full report will be published in the future.

### 3. Editors Report

At the 2003 AGM, Volume 30 was available for collection and it was therefore gratifying to announce that Volume 31 of Northamptonshire Archaeology will be published in a matter of weeks, possibly before the end of December. It will include articles on Bronze Age burials, the Iron Age settlement at Wilby Way, Great Doddington, a medieval manorial farm at Lime Street, Irthlingborough and medieval tenements at Weldon and Higham Ferrers

The AGM formally launched *The Archaeology of Northamptonshire*, an assessment of Northamptonshire's archaeological record for the new millennium. Copies of the book were presented to AGM speaker Dr Frances Pryor and to the guest of honour Mr John Steane, the author of *The Northamptonshire Landscape*, which was published 30 years previously [In the two weeks since the launch over 30% of the total print run has been sold to members of the NAS and through independent bookshops, two of which have sold out and re-ordered].

### 4. Accounts

The accounts show that the NAS has a healthy surplus, with an increase on last year despite the publication of Vol. 30. Next year a decline in the surplus is anticipated since the NAS will have to meet both the cost of the book and Vol 31. It is expected that this will only be temporary since the main articles in Vol. 31 come with publication grants and over time, sales of the book will eventually recover the cost of publication and may even produce a small profit for the Society.

## ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31.08.04

### INCOME

2002/2003 (£)		2003/2004 (£)	
Subs & Sales	1608.49	Subs & Sales	2733.95
Grant from English Heritage	388.00	Grants	2192.00
Bank Interest	1.64	Bank Interest	2.72
Building Society Interest	607.35	Building Society Interest	575.55
		Gift aid Tax Refund (2yrs)	300.00
Sub Total	2605.48	Sub Total	5804.22
Balance B/F	23569.17	Balance B/F	25507.59
Total	26174.65	Total	31311.81

### EXPENDITURE

2002/2003 (£)		2003/2004 (£)	
Postage & Stationery	119.68	Postage & Stationery	364.71
Donation to Young Archaeologists	50.00	Donation to Young Archaeologists	50.00
Stowe IX Churches Excavation	257.38	Donation to MARS	300.00
Donation to UNAS	240.00	Room Hire AGM	35.00
		CBA Affiliation Fee (2yrs)	88.00
		RD Cheque & Bank Charge	12.00
		Journal	4176.00
Total Expenditure	667.06	Total Expenditure	5025.71
Bank Balance	1059.92	Bank Balance	638.88
Building Society Balance	24447.67	Building Society Balance	25647.22
Total	25507.59	Total C/F	26286.10

### 5. Election of Officers and Members of the Council.

The following Nominations have been made:

Chairman	Martin Tingle
Vice-Chairman	Roy Friendship Taylor
Secretary	Andy Chapman
Treasurer	Ian Barrie
Editor	Martin Tingle
Membership Secretary	Pat Chapman
NASNEWS Editor	Graham Cadman

Ordinary Members of the Council:

Mike Rumbold, Burl Bellamy, David Waller, Michael Webster and Bob Kings

## 6. The Lecture. Flag Fen : 30 Years in a Nutshell

The lecture reviewed 30 years of ground breaking research at the waterlogged site at Flag Fen on the fen edge at Peterborough ([www.flagfen.com](http://www.flagfen.com))



*Dr Frances Pryor discusses the finer points of a Bronze Age axe with NAS secretary Andy Chapman and Andy Mudd from Northamptonshire Archaeology.*