

**MINUTES OF THE AGM OF
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
26 NOVEMBER 2007**

- 1) Apologies for absence received from: Martin Tingle, Liz Friendship-Taylor, Rod Conlon, Christine Addison, Steve Ashby and David Blackburn

Council members in attendance: Roy Friendship-Taylor, Steven Hollowell, Graham Cadman, Andy Chapman, Pat Chapman, Ian Barrie, David Waller and Martin Weaver

- 2) Minutes of the AGM for 2006 were accepted by the members as a true record.

3) **Secretary's and co-editor's report**

This year, both Burl Bellamy and Mike Rumbold have stepped down from the committee. Both are old friends of the society who have contributed much in the past, but are now making way so that new people can get involved.

We have proposed holding a county Archaeology Day in the spring, something many other counties provide. A firm date and venue have not yet been set, but after Easter at around mid-April is suggested. This needs to be more than just a day for those already converted, so we do need to advertise it to try to attract new interested people. The aim is both to tell people about activities in the county and perhaps to attract some new members for all the societies involved on the day. We need local groups willing to set up displays, and a number are already committed to taking part, and more are welcome. When we issue details with the next newsletter we will also provide a poster, and would ask everyone to do their bit to make sure it goes in your library and/or local shop so that we reach as many people as possible.

Membership is basically staying pretty much constant at around 130, and it would be nice if perhaps we could get that to around 150 this year.

For the fifth year in a row, we have managed to produce a journal annually and for, I think the third year in a row, it is ready in time to be distributed at the AGM, which saves a little in postage and packing and also in the time taken to package and post it.

The journal contains an editorial looking at the issue of publication in archaeology; what to publish and how to publish it. You will also notice our first adventure into digital publishing, with the inclusion of a CD providing copies of the original eight Bulletins of the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies, the origin of the journal. Next year there will be a CD carrying copies of previous journals. I hope this will continue as an annual feature, in which the paper journal is supplemented by material in digital form.

This will be the last of the old-style, black and white, quarto journals. As indicated in the July newsletter, the intention is that next year it will go to A4 with digital printing, which will mean we can use colour throughout for plates and figures. This should be achieved at no extra cost. Currently the journal costs us around £4500 to produce 250 copies,

about £18.00 per copy, but most of that cost is met by the contributors and the institutional members. We are hoping that going digital will give us a more attractive product, which might help us to maintain or perhaps even increase our membership.

We now have the entire journal series digitised, and the next stage is to contact the CBA Archaeological Library to organise making them available online.

4) **Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts**

Copies of the accounts for the year ending 31/8/2007 were available at the meeting. Ian Barrie briefly explained that the society was still in a very healthy financial position, with a substantial reserve of funds and a grant still to come in for contributions to journal volume 34.

5) **Election of Officers and Members of Council**

The following stood for re-election:

Secretary, Andy Chapman; Treasurer, Ian Barrie; Editors, Martin Tingle and Andy Chapman; Membership Secretary, Pat Chapman

Ordinary members of the Council:

Roy Friendship-Taylor, Graham Cadman, Steven Hollowell, Steve Young, David Waller and Martin Weaver

All were re-elected unopposed.

Brian Giggins was elected as a member of council; proposed by Graham Cadman and seconded by Christine Addison.

Roy Friendship-Taylor is currently Chair and Steven Hollowell vice-Chair by election of the council.

Public Meeting

Following the conclusion of business there was a public lecture by Bill Boismier, *Fear and Loathing in the Middle Palaeolithic: Mammoths at Lynford Quarry, Norfolk. Neanderthal Hunting or Scavenging?*

This presentation was something completely different to what all of us are used to, as Palaeolithic archaeology is unique in almost every way. The content and the presentation were much enjoyed by all.

One aspect of interest is that the information recovered is the source of some disagreement between archaeologists as to whether it is indicative of pro-active Neanderthal hunting (let's go and get those mammoth for dinner), or a more circumspect and opportunistic approach (I know a really neat place where dead mammoths are just waiting to be eaten).