



# NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society



Website: [www.northants-archaeology.org.uk](http://www.northants-archaeology.org.uk)

## June 2010

### NAS COMMITTEE

At the February committee meeting Steven Hollowell was elected as Chairman and David Waller, Vice-chairman of the society.

### THE JOURNAL: *NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY*, 36

Following the bumper issue for 2008, which arrived in time for the AGM in November 2009, I am afraid that last year we fell behind with the preparation of the journal and didn't manage to get it ready for either the AGM at the end of the year or the fall-back position of a spring publication. However, work is now in progress and the aim is to have it available for the AGM this year.

### DENNIS JACKSON - A REMARKABLE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Work on preparing Dennis's autobiography for publication is also nearing completion, and we hope to have it out in the autumn and certainly by the next AGM, which may become a combined AGM and book launch. For anyone new to the county it will provide a vivid account of what they have missed, archaeologically, over the past 40 years, and for those of us who have lived through some or all of those years it will bring back many memories. It certainly provides a vivid picture of how the practice and structure of archaeology has changed over the past few decades, and catalogues the many sites that Dennis has excavated over the years; from the Neolithic mortuary enclosure at Aldwinckle, the Earls Barton round barrow, the numerous Iron Age enclosures, including work at the Hunsbury hillfort, and through to the rich grave goods of the Saxon cemetery at Wakerley.

### ARCHAEOLOGY AND PLANNING IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

For the past few years, the lack of a curatorial archaeologist to scan planning applications and issue advice to the planning authorities has made Northamptonshire a national example of bad practice and a warning to others of the need to be vigilant. English Heritage and other groups have been encouraging the county council to restore the service and finally there has been a response. Below, Lesley-Ann Mather, the County Archaeological Advisor, describes the service in its present form.

'The archaeology planning service has been expanded to enable provision of a full service to the Districts. The provision of a full service has been achieved by the negotiation of service level agreements (SLAs) with all the Districts, with the exception of Corby, although the service still advises on strategic applications in this area. The SLAs have enabled the County Council to recruit an Assistant Archaeological Advisor and also provides for half a post for the Historic Environment Record. The planning advice is based within the planning section of the County Council.

'As part of the SLA, all the District's weekly lists of planning applications are assessed for archaeological potential, pre-application advice is also provided and all fieldwork undertaken as part of the planning process within the county is fully monitored. The location of the archaeological service within the planning department facilitates integration with strategic planning in the County. The curatorial staff also provide advice

to utility companies and respond to enquiries from the general public. The curatorial staff aim to uphold nationally defined archaeological standards and also to ensure that the information from archaeological investigations is disseminated to the general public.'

The advice is provided by the County Archaeological Advisor, Lesley-Ann Mather (01604 237909; [LMather@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:LMather@northamptonshire.gov.uk)) and Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Liz Mordue ([LMordue@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:LMordue@northamptonshire.gov.uk)).

## ONLINE ARCHAEOLOGY REPORTS

*Northamptonshire Archaeology*, as a commercial contractor operating in Northamptonshire and across the country, is continuing to make pdf copies of client reports available online to print or download through the *Archaeology Data Service* as Unpublished Fieldwork Reports (Grey Literature Library) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

In addition to the 60 reports on Northamptonshire sites previously available, a further 43 have been added this year and a total of 147 reports are currently available from NA, and many more are in the process of being added to the system.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP (NIAG); SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMME

The information below is taken from the NIAG website: <http://www.niag.org.uk/>.

The NIAG committee has organised a number of walks and visits during the summer months catering for all interests and abilities. Unless stated otherwise these meetings take place on a Friday evening starting at 7:30 pm. NIAG Members should contact the appropriate organiser for any last minute changes to the arrangements. NIAG also welcome non-members who are interested in joining any of the walks or visits. Anyone intending to take part in these events should contact the NIAG Secretary to obtain further details. Since most walks involve field footpaths, members and visitors should wear appropriate footwear.

*NIAG gives formal notice that it makes arrangements for these events as Agents on behalf of each member attending and that no liability can be accepted by the Group for any injury, loss or inconvenience caused to any member in consequence of the event.*

### July

- 2nd Brackley town walk: SP 584368
- 9th Watford locks: SP 597694
- 16th Northampton railway walk - a tribute to Jan Fajkus: SP 754596
- 23rd Helmdon village and viaduct walk: SP 588438
- 30th Deanshanger village walk: SP 769397

### Aug

- Sat 7th 10:30 am Nene Valley Railway: TL 166972



Every year, all over the country, thousands of artefacts are discovered by members of the public. For anyone that has found any human-made object that is over 300 years old, the *Portable Antiquities Scheme* provides an opportunity to discover more about their find and, through having it recorded, to take an active part in the preservation of our heritage.

You can meet the Northamptonshire *Finds Liaison Officer* (FLO), Julie Cassidy, at a local *Finds Surgery*. Alternatively, contact her on 01604 237 249, or email [jucassidy@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:jucassidy@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

### Finds surgeries

26 July 2010	Daventry Council Offices, Lodge Rd	2.30pm - 4pm
2 August 2010	Wellingborough Museum	11am-1pm
2 August 2010	Oundle Museum	2.30-4pm
9 August 2010	East Carlton Country Park, Corby	2.30 - 4pm
11 August 2010	Kettering Manor House Museum	2pm - 4pm
19 August 2010	Northampton Central Museum	2.30pm - 4pm
8 Sept 2010	Kettering Manor House Museum	2pm - 4pm
16 Sept 2010	Northampton Central Museum	2.30pm - 4pm
20 Sept 2010	Daventry Council Offices, Lodge Rd	2.30pm - 4pm
1 October 2010	Wellingborough Museum	11am-1pm
1 October 2010	Oundle Museum	2.30-4pm
11 October 2010	East Carlton Country Park, Corby	2.30 - 4pm
13 October 2010	Kettering Manor House Museum	2pm - 4pm
21 October 2010	Northampton Central Museum	2.30pm - 4pm

### HERITAGE CENTRE GO-AHEAD (From the *Evening Telegraph*, 17 March 2010)

Work on a long-awaited museum to celebrate Corby's unique heritage will finally get under way next month. Corby Heritage Centre, which will open in the borough's oldest house, the former Manor Farm house, at 75-77 High Street has been in the pipeline for five years.

The refurbishment of the 17th century cottage will include the re-thatching of the roof and will dramatically improve the overall look of the building, with the work being carried out by an experienced master thatcher. Within the building visitors will be able to learn about the history of this important building. There will also be information about aspects of the borough's heritage contained in a timeline. Temporary exhibitions will be shown in the largest room, beginning with an exhibition about the village and changing regularly throughout the year to cover other aspects of local heritage and culture.

The centre will open in late Autumn and anyone interested can call Billy Dalziel 01536 464284 or e-mail [billy.dalziel@corby.gov.uk](mailto:billy.dalziel@corby.gov.uk).

## SUMMER EVENTS

### ENGLISH HERITAGE FESTIVAL OF LIVING HISTORY

#### Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th July, 9.30am - 6pm

The ultimate historical adventure and a block buster of an event; the Festival of History is the highlight of the English Heritage event calendar.

Experience over 2000 years of history and watch as over 1,000 re-enactors march out of history and into the heart of England.

Hear the thud of Roman soldiers as they march in unison, the thunder of charging horses, swords clash as Knights engage in battle and the roar of vintage fighter planes as they soar overhead.



With more than 50 different shows each day this is an action packed weekend for the whole family. For information and tickets call 0870 333 1183 or visit [www.festivalofhistory.org.uk](http://www.festivalofhistory.org.uk)

### PREBENDAL MANOR, NASSINGTON

#### Thursday 1st July 2 pm

##### **Many A Sundry Flower: Plants and their uses in the Medieval and Tudor times**

Michael Brown MA is a garden historian who has a great deal of knowledge about the history and plant uses in the medieval and Tudor periods. He will be giving an illustrated lecture in the Tithe Barn Museum. There will also be a display of the uses of the plants discussed in the lecture.

Cost per person £10.00, includes tea.

Pre-booking is essential. Tickets can be obtained by contacting the Prebendal Manor.

#### Saturday 17th July 2 p.m.

##### **A Day in the Life of Time Team**

Paul Blinkhorn is Time Team's Anglo-Saxon and Medieval pottery expert who has worked with them for many years. He will be giving a lively illustrated lecture on aspects of Time Team that are not shown during their television programmes.

Cost per person £10.00, which includes tea.

Pre-booking is essential. Tickets can be obtained by contacting the Prebendal Manor.  
Tel. 01780 782575

# Conference on the Battle of Northampton 1460

Saturday, 10th July, 2010: 10.30am-4.30pm

Presented by The Battlefields Trust and Northampton Museum & Art Gallery, this conference commemorates the 550th anniversary of the Battle of Northampton. The programme covers various subjects together with a demonstration of 15th-century arms and armour and miniature figure display depicting the battle will also occur during the day.

## Programme:

- The Wars of the Roses and the Northampton campaign (Dr Peter Burley)
- Developments in warfare during the 15th century (Matthew Bennett)
- The Battle of Northampton (Mike Elliott)
- Where is the battlefield? (Dr Tom Welsh, Harvey Watson, Mike Ingram)
- Finding medieval battlefields (Dr Glenn Foard)

A demonstration of 15th century arms and armour will also take place during the day.

## Tickets £15.00 available from:

Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, Guildhall Road, Northampton, NN1 1DP  
Tel 01604 838111

## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

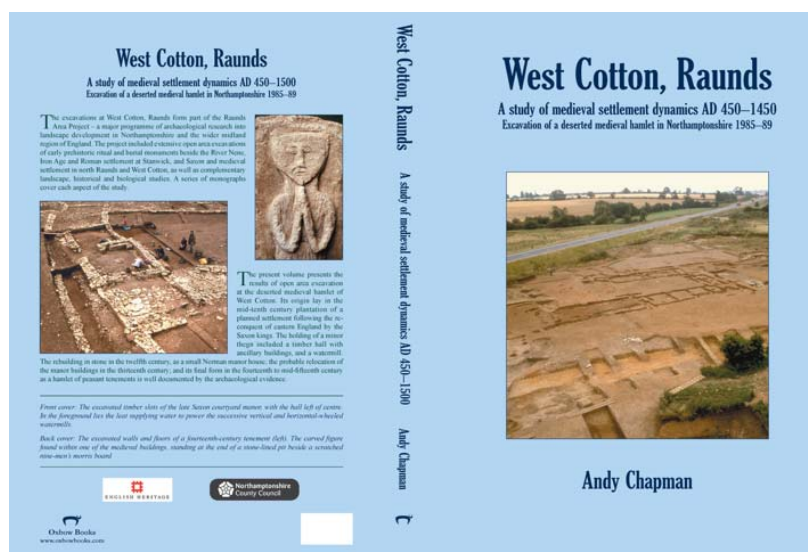
West Cotton, Raunds: a study of medieval settlement dynamics AD 450-1450.  
Excavation of a deserted medieval hamlet in Northamptonshire 1985-89

by Andy Chapman

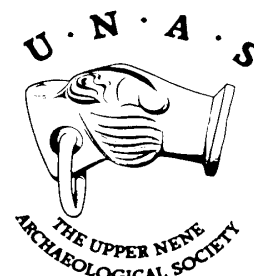
I hope I can be forgiven for giving a plug to my own forthcoming book, reporting the results of the five seasons of excavation at the deserted medieval hamlet of West Cotton, Raunds, which produced a sequence of development beginning in mid-tenth century and

encompassing a late Saxon timber manor and watermill, a post-Conquest stone manor and the 13th-century abandonment of the manor and its conversion to a medieval hamlet.

It will be available from Oxbow Books in the autumn ([www.oxbowbooks.com](http://www.oxbowbooks.com)), along with the previous Raunds Area Project publications, which are still available.



## NEWS FROM THE UPPER NENE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND PIDDINGTON ROMAN VILLA



### ROMAN FAMILY DAY

This event will take place at Piddington Museum and the Roman Villa site, with various activities taking place at both simultaneously. It is advertised by UNAS on the *Sheet* as Saturday, 11th July, but as the 11th is the Sunday, please check before attending, see contact details below.

Attractions include a 'Roman' potter at work and various Roman games for adults and children and children's activities. At the site will be Roman cooking, dressing up etc. There will also be various Roman soldiers and crafts people.

Entry: individual: £3.50; over 60s, under 16s, unwaged: £3.00; family rate (2 adults, with up to 3 children): £10.00. Proceeds will go to the Museum.

### SUMMER EXCAVATION

This year's main 'dig' at Piddington, begins on Saturday, 31 July and continues until Monday, 30 August 2010.

The **Open Day**, at both the site and Museum will be on Saturday, 28 August, 11.00-5.00.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS

The **2010 Interim Report on the Excavations at Piddington** is now available.

Price £6.50 (£6.00 to UNAS non-members), from the Museum or by post (please add £1.20 2<sup>nd</sup> class p & p or £1.40 1<sup>st</sup> class).

**Iron Age & Roman Piddington: Ritual Roman Piddington: an investigation into the animal bone assemblages of a Well and Sump** by Richard Easton (member); Fascicule 7.

Price £6.50 (£6.00 to UNAS members + p & p as above).

**'Who Were Ti. Claudius [Se]Verus?'** by Peter Macrae

Another paper by a UNAS member. An interesting analysis of who the two Roman citizens, possible villa owners, whose names were stamped on tiles at the site, actually were - very readable and thought provoking.

Price: £5.00 (£4.50 to UNAS members) + £1.75 p & p.

UNAS publications by post from Roy & Liz Friendship-Taylor, 'Toad Hall', 86 Main Road, Hackleton, Northampton, NORTHAMPTON, NN7 2AD (Tel. 01604 870312). Cheques payable to UNAS.

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