

NASNEWS

Newsletter of Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk

October 2006

NAS AGM & LECTURE BY ANDREW SELKIRK -

Monday 27th November at the Jeffery Room, Guildhall, Northampton (close to the Museum, at the top of Guildhall Rd in the town centre).

Doors open at 6.45pm, tea & coffee available. AGM commences at 7.00pm with the lecture starting at 7.15pm. Admission to both AGM and the lecture is free to all but as space is limited it is on a first come first served basis.

NAS are fortunate to welcome **Andrew Selkirk**, Editor-in-chief of *Current Archaeology* to give this NAS lecture. After a spell as an accountant, Andrew has gone on to become very well known throughout British archaeology for his having founded & edited the magazine *Current Archaeology*. The magazine has been a great success from the start, covering many and varied aspects of archaeology across the country. Andrew has a particular interest in amateur archaeology, and is Chairman of the Council for Independent Archaeology. He still hugely enjoys travelling round the country, visiting excavations and then writing about them. He is now looking forward to more world travel and writing about the results in *Current Archaeology*'s new sister magazine, *World Archaeology*. Come along and hear from the man himself!

AGM ELECTION OF NAS COMMITTEE

Existing Committee members comprise Roy Friendship Taylor, Andy Chapman, Pat Chapman, Ian Barrie, Steven Hollowell, Graham Cadman, David Waller, Burl Bellamy, Bob Kings and Mike Rumbold. Martin Tingle, after many distinguished years as Chairman and Editor has moved to Devon. The Society owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Martin, as well as to partner Liz, for all their sterling work for NAS. Andy Chapman has valiantly volunteered to take on co-editing of the Journal with Martin.

Nominations would be very welcome for new members to serve on the NAS Committee. This is vital if the Committee is to be as representative as possible of the wider membership and at a time when archaeology in Northamptonshire is facing many challenges. No prior experience necessary, just a willingness to contribute to the running of the Society for the benefit of archaeology across the county. Please submit nominations to Andy Chapman, NAS Secretary, c/o Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2 Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton NN4 8BE (E: achapman@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

Vacancies exist for a new editor of NASNEWS and for a Meetings Secretary – volunteers warmly welcome.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY VOLUME 33

Volume 33 of the journal has gone through proof reading and is now with the printers. It should be available mid November, so we hope to have copies ready for collection at the AGM.

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

Tom Brindle, the Portable Antiquities Scheme Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer has recently left the county to pursue doctoral research at King's College in London. Tom has taken the local post from strength to strength during the last three years. We wish him well in his new venture. Recruitment of a successor is underway. One of the first tasks of the new FLO will be organising a fresh series of regular 'finds surgeries' around the county. Details to follow in a later NASNEWS.

NAS SUBSCRIPTION REMAINDER

Subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st September 2005. Subscription rates remain extremely good value at an unchanged £10 for individuals, £12 family, £8 student and £15 Local Association. We would encourage members to sign up to Gift Aid as this provides some valuable additional income to your Society. If you are

renewing your subscription or want a Gift Aid form, please contact Andy Chapman, NAS Secretary at the address above. Those in subscription arrears may not receive the next Journal.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Below we provide details of a number of, mainly, recent publications relating to the archaeology of the county and nearby areas of interest.

Raunds Area Survey: An archaeological study of the landscape of Raunds, Northamptonshire 1985-94 by Stephen Parry

Raunds Area Project Monograph

The Raunds Area Survey was a major programme of archaeological research into landscape development in Northamptonshire and the wider midland region of England. This volume presents the results of the detailed fieldwalking survey, carried out in the later 1980s, which reveals a dynamic picture of landscape development from the prehistoric through to the creation and early development of villages and open fields (as presented at the 2005 NAS AGM). Available from *Oxbow Books* for £30.00

Raunds Furnells: The Anglo-Saxon church and churchyard by Andy Boddington

English Heritage Archaeological Monograph

This was the first volume relating to the Raunds Area Project, and was published by English Heritage in 1996. It concentrates on the archaeology of the late Saxon church and cemetery established at Furnells manor in the 10th century and in use into the post-Conquest period. This volume is also available from *Oxbow Books*, currently at its original publication price of £35.00

(The monograph covering other aspects of the archaeology of Furnells manor and other sites in north Raunds will be appearing in 2007, also to be published by *Oxbow Books*.)

Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Settlement at Sol Central, Marefair, Northampton: Archaeological Excavations 1998-2002 by Pat Miller, Tom Wilson and Chiz Harward

Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph, 27

Excavation work by Northamptonshire Archaeology and MoLAS of limited parts of the Sol Central development site, formerly occupied by the Barclaycard building, produced a long sequence of occupation. This included a Middle Saxon sunken-floored building, Late Saxon and Norman period settlement, with metalworking and bone working taking place, while a cemetery associated with the chapel of St Martin, was in use between the 10th and 13th centuries. The area continued to develop during the medieval period, with timber and stone buildings and intensifying industrial activity represented by pits, hearths and smithing debris, and by the 14th century the route of Pike Lane was established. The site declined during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Available direct from the Museum of London Archaeology Service, price £11.95

Flag Fen: Life and Death of a Prehistoric Landscape by Francis Pryor

Tempus Books

Francis Pryor has been working at the late Bronze Age site of Flag Fen, near Peterborough, for over thirty years, and it has emerged as one of the most important and most understood prehistoric landscapes in Britain. This book comprises a complete reworking of *Flag Fen: Prehistoric Fenland Centre* (1991), reflecting the mass of new material that has been uncovered and gathered during the last fifteen years. Throughout, Pryor reflects on his years at the site, the challenges and triumphs, and his efforts to open the site to the public and make more people aware of this hugely important site and archaeology as a whole (following very much the pattern of his 2004 address to the NAS AGM).

Available direct from Tempus books, price £17.99

Please check the prices of all these volumes before ordering.

Members might also be interested to know that further archaeological work at Grendon quarry was reported in last years *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*:- **Last, J, 2005 Life by the River: a Prehistoric Landscape at Grendon, Northamptonshire, PPS, 71, 333-360.** This adds to previous investigations reported in volumes 20 and 26 of *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, with a short report on yet more work in the area to appear in the next journal, volume 33.

SOME NOT SO NEW PUBLICATIONS, NUMBER 1

Earlier this year the Society gave away free copies of back issues of the NAS journal, and this was a big success, reducing the number held in stock by around 50%, and this offer is still open to all members. Copies of the following journals are still available: 9, 17, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 & 32. They are available from Andy Chapman, NAS Secretary (achapman@northamptonshire.gov.uk) and we will have them available for collection at the AGM.

Between volumes 10 and 21 some are available as single copies. We would like to reserve these for any members who may be missing the odd volume or two to complete the set. So, if there is anyone in this position, get in touch and let us know which volume you are missing and perhaps it may be possible to fill that gap.

This give away was also a prelude to the ongoing plan to have all the back issues scanned to provide a complete digital archive of the NAS journal series. This is being carried out as part of the Council for British Archaeology scheme to make county journals available online. So, ideally, as we run out of back copies of the journal we should be seeing these becoming available online for anyone wishing to research any aspect of the counties archaeology. The intention is that recent issues will be available by subscription, so as not to undermine the value of your membership subscriptions, but older issues will be free to all.

As this could be seen to constitute in effect a new publication, as they will be appearing in a different media, there could be an issue of copyright. We would like to think that all who have submitted material to the NAS journal in the past would be only too pleased to see their work made more broadly available, in line with the principles of the society, but if anyone does object to having their reports online please contact either of the co-editors (Andy Chapman & Martin Tingle) and we would have to arrange to have those articles omitted from the online journal.

SOME NOT SO NEW PUBLICATIONS, NUMBER 2

To follow the success of the journal give away, Northamptonshire Archaeology holds the remaining stock of the publications issued by the former Northampton Development Corporation Archaeological Unit, as well as some County Council publications.

Williams, J, 1979 *St Peter's Street, Northampton, Excavations 1973-1976, Northampton Development Corporation, Archaeological Monograph, 2*

The detailed report on a large-scale excavation tracing development within the urban nucleus from the Middle Saxon through to the end of the Middle Ages. Includes the Saxon mortar mixers related to the St Peter's church complex.

Bamford, H, 1985 *Briar Hill, Excavation 1974-1978, Northampton Development Corporation, Archaeological Monograph, 3*

Detailed report on the extensive excavation and finds from a Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure and Iron Age and Saxon settlement on the outskirts of Northampton.

We also have copies of a Northamptonshire County Council publication:

Hasting, S, Woods, P, edited and revised by Brown, K, 1984 *Rushden: The Early Fine Wares*

This report concentrates on the early Roman pottery manufacturing at a multi-period settlement excavated in 1970.

Copies of all of these are available free of charge if collected from Andy Chapman, NAS Secretary, and we will have them all available at the AGM, along with various smaller publications for which we have surplus copies. Otherwise p&p will need to be charged.