

CLASP

Community Landscape Archaeology
Survey Project



Seventh Annual Report
2011

Alan Watson

Chair of the Trustees

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Seventh Annual Report for the year ending 31st August 2011

The Trustees

Report by the Chair of the Trustees – Alan Watson

Archives

Once again another year has passed by and we are still looking for a building that would be suitable to store all our artefacts from our digs, field walking and test pits. We have agreed that this would be a "store" rather than a "museum" open to the general public. We do not have the man power or finances to staff such a facility. Finding such a store is still our prime objective. We are following up various leads and it is hoped that something may come from them. If anyone knows of a building that might suit, either long term or short term, please do not hesitate to contact us a.s.a.p..

(N.B. This paragraph was lifted from the Annual Report 2010)

Things are getting desperate; time is running out.

Thank you

I would like to thank all the Trustees, the members of the Organising Committee and all other groups and individuals associated with CLASP for their help and advice over the last 12 months. I would like especially to put on record my thanks to:-

- Dave Hayward, Secretary of the Organising Committee, for all his work in successfully applying for grants towards the purchasing of the Magnetometer. Dave was kept busy applying for and chasing further funding but as you will know from our Newsletters we eventually raised the full amount needed. Well done Dave.
- Fred Kay and David Adams who have run training sessions on using the Magnetometer in the field. They are now moving on to looking at training people to interpret the results obtained.
- Stephen Young for all his work above and beyond his remit as Archaeology Director. It is recognised by the Trustees that Stephen is the first port of call from interested parties for access to CLASP, member societies and other interested

parties and this places a lot of extra work on Stephen's shoulders. We are looking at ways to spread the load. If there is anyone out there who is willing to help easing this load please let me know. You do not have to be an expert archaeologist because a lot of the work is organisational.

- Ruth Downie for putting together this Annual Report from her new home in the West Country

Finances

We need in the region of £1000 per annum to cover our running costs, but in fact our income is only about 50% of this figure. The Trustees have decided to put it to the AGM that we increase the membership fee to £7.50 per individual member as from Sept 2012. We shall still be short of funds for everyday running, but hopefully we can get some income from the magnetometer hire. If we do have a shortfall this year we could, if absolutely necessary, meet it from project funds, but we must not make a habit of this.

Training Manual

As I mentioned in my report last year, we applied for a grant to reprint the Whitehall Roman Villa training manual as the CLASP Training Manual. Unfortunately we were not successful in our application. In the light of this, the revised training manual will have to be put on the back burner until other funds become available.

I commend this report to you as a true record of the work undertaken by CLASP during the past year. If you have any questions about the report, they may be raised at the Annual General Meeting.

Alan Watson

Chair of the Trustees

August 2011

Report of Secretary to the Trustees

Who are the Trustees?

CLASP has seven Trustees who were appointed at the 2010 AGM:

Alan Watson - Chair

Angela Evans - Treasurer

Sandra Deacon Secretary

Stephen Young - Archaeological Director

Nick Adams

Jeremy Calderwood

Tony Kesten

Their period of office expires at the end of the 2011 AGM but they are eligible for re-election. New Trustees will be appointed at the AGM and there is no limit to the number appointed or reappointed. If you are interested in becoming a Trustee please contact Alan Watson on 01327 340470 or by email: alan(at)alanwatson.demon.uk

Trustees must be a member of CLASP or the nominated representative of an organisation that is a member of CLASP

What do the Trustees do?

The Trustees meet four or five times a year...

- to advance the education of the public in the subject of Archaeology, in particular but not exclusively, in West Northamptonshire (Extract from CLASP Charity Constitution)
- to manage the business of the Charity and review the work undertaken by the CLASP Organising Committee
- to consider requests for financial aid/or expenditure from the CLASP sub-groups.
- to keep aware of the various sources of funding available and to make applications where possible.

Sandra Deacon

Secretary to the Trustees

September 2011

The view from the archaeological director:



The main focus of fieldwork since our last newsletter has centred on a new season of excavation at the Roman site of Whitehall Farm. This villa continues to provide the detailed context within which the range of material recovered from surrounding rural settlements can be interpreted with greater certainty. Our main aim of this year was to uncover the full extent, phasing and layout of Bath house 2. We also explored the area immediately to the north that lies between the two excavated bath house structures that contains the drainage channel of the later of the two buildings. The wider function of these surfaces was also open to interpretation whether it was for industrial or servicing use.

This year is probably the last of the large scale open area excavations planned for the site as part of the previously proposed research agenda unless the location of the graveyard can be identified. However it doesn't signal the end of archaeological activity at Whitehall Farm but a change of emphasis in the nature and scale of the fieldwork to be undertaken. A great deal of work still needs to be undertaken to illuminate the character of the late Iron Age habitation of the settlement and the environmental aspects of the farming regime practiced on the estate.

Several new rooms were identified and excavated at the southern end of the bath house. Two of these formed part of a suite of three rooms laid out along a west/east alignment attached to the south wall of Rooms 4 & 5, the initial one of the range being Room 6 which had been excavated the previous year. All three rooms (numbered 6,8,9) had been extensively robbed of their masonry and flooring levels with only the wall foundations surviving in situ. The depth of the foundations was indicative of a substantial superstructure and the large limestone and sandstone pads at the interface corners between the central room and its two neighbours could be indicative of an entrance way into the bathhouse and also hint at the possibility that the middle room was more of a tower gateway. These rooms would have fronted the building and may well have housed the 'frigidarium' and 'apoditerium' (changing room) elements of the bath house. A herring bone threshold cut through the foundations of the connecting wall between Room 8 and 9 suggests the location of an interior door opening that allowed access between the different rooms.

Elsewhere Room 7 revealed a small sunken tiled hypocaust system (Room 7a) which probably supported a heated sunken bath. This was associated with a second 'praefurnium' stoke hole (Room 7b) attached on the north side. The fact that there are two stoke holes located on the north side of bath house indicates that this was the

back of the building containing the service facilities. This is most interesting as it shows the building was approached from and lay along a different orientation from that associated with the main range of the villa, reflecting a dislocation between the buildings and possibly is indicative of the relative importance of the two structures and the underlying rationale behind their function and use. The large size of Bath house 2 in relation to the smaller plan of the main range suggests the latter was built to service the former and not the other way round.

A further room (Room 10) was located and excavated to the east of Room 5, the one which holds the surviving tessellated pavement. Unfortunately the robbing of the flooring levels and wall foundations is more extensive than elsewhere and it is difficult to determine the function of the room. Further excavation in Room 5 revealed that the tessellated pavement did not have a hypocaust below but did have a drain which post dated the floor cut through it. The drain lay beneath the hypocaust system in Room 4 thereby indicating that the bath house had at least two main phases of development. It appears that the original layout built in the late 3rd century AD included a long hypocaust hall heated by a 'praefurnium' aligned along the contour at the north end. At the southern end of the building a cross hall with a middle tessellated passage, terraced into the slope, was fronted by a range of three dressing rooms facing onto a track way. However the design and scope of the building had been significantly changed by the early 4th century. The three rooms aligned along the trackway were demolished and three new hypocaust systems were constructed, two in the existing structure and the last to the east of Room 2. These hypocausts comprised the apsidal heated bath of Room 3, the hypocaust system in Room 4 and the sunken hypocaust of Room 7. This extensive re-design of the bath house probably signals a change in the use of the building and the realignment of the function of the structure to the needs of the estate as opposed to the wider requirements of the larger 'latifundia' before the final demolition and construction of another bath house further up the slope.

The area dominated by the drainage leat to the north of Bath house 2 revealed two exciting findings beside the continuation of the channel itself. A high iron content picked up through metal detecting in the soil suggested industrial activity associated with the area along with a large stone with chamfered edges that appear to have been used as a sharpening stone. The leat produced most of the pottery and other finds from the excavation and a large number of nails were also retrieved from this area. Only three coins were recorded but very little else of note in terms of small finds.



The awarding of a grant from the Roman Research Trust has enabled us to progress the research work being undertaken on the structural timbers recovered during last year's excavation. Unfortunately the level of the award has limited our options

concerning total preservation. Hopefully it will prove sufficient for a specialist report by Dr Damian Goodburn of Time Team fame, an attempt at tree ring dating by Nottingham University and partial conservation of the jointed elements of the timbers by York Archaeological Trust in the future. At the initial assessment of both timbers it proved impossible to identify the original purpose of the wooden rafters although the lapping joints indicate that the larger of the two timbers had been reused more than once. Our timbers were judged as of local and to some extent regional significance as little Roman period woodwork has been excavated from the region. However the two large structural pieces of woodwork exemplify Roman approaches to woodwork such as hewing neat, straight, rectangular beams; the use of sawing longitudinally and the use of iron fastenings and, partly sawn-out, lap joints. Both timbers were cut from fairly fast grown oak probably situated in the vicinity by the banks of the River Nene.

The largest timber was shaped with axes to a rectangular section, or 'hewn boxed heart'. On the underside in places small incomplete axe stop marks could be found showing that the hewing had been done to a considerable extent along rather than across the grain. This is typical of Roman hewing. On an adjacent face and edge two sets of similar joints were visible, one type being unfastened lap joints set diagonally at the same angle and the same face had two large iron spikes driven into it. On the edge two shallow housings were preserved set at 90 degrees in which iron spikes had been driven to secure the joining timbers, removed for reuse. The shorter beam was also of oak but had no traces of previous use and a much fresher surface. The section of the parent tree used and tool mark evidence show how the beam was made. It had been manually sawn out of a square hewn oak log. The parent tree was only just large enough and much sapwood was left on the 'outer' face and two edges. This timber was not previously used but had either been made for the job or stockpiled for a short while. The marks and split off section suggest that the tripod method of sawing was used, one of three Roman methods of sawing, all of which involve some form of trestle support. Hewing timbers to regular rectangular sections and sawing length and cross ways were revolutionary features of woodworking technology the Romans introduced.

Apart from this fieldwork a series of initial training events have been held teaching members and local societies how to assemble and use the Bartington magnetometer which has been recently purchased. At the moment we are trying to organise another series of training events concerning the analysis and interpretation of field data obtained during fieldwork. A report was also produced by the Towcester Historical Society based on a reconnaissance field walking survey to characterise settlement associated with the hinterland of Lactodurum (Towcester). It will be interesting to see whether the settlement distribution has a similar development to that already analysed at Bannaventa (Whilton Lodge). Several meetings were also staged at Towcester Town Hall to help volunteers to identify the different types of Roman pottery fabrics common in the area. Finally I would like to thank all those who organised or took part in these activities which I am sure will be continued in the future.

From Jeremy Cooper, Organising Committee Acting-Chairman

The Committee has been joined by Trustee Tony Kesten as the Individual Members' Representative, and by Norman Garnett as Whitehall Representative. Norman has also been appointed as Secretary, while Dave Hayward is now released to focus on his preferred role as Research and Project Co-ordinator. Many, many thanks Norman! On the other hand, this development has deprived me of half the usual pleading content of this brief report! Oh well.

CLASP seems to be extending its involvement in many directions at the moment. This is, of course, much to be desired, but we need to make sure we don't spread out efforts too thinly. So, as ever, please don't hesitate to let us know if you want to get more involved.



Finances

Auditor's Report

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4 July 2011

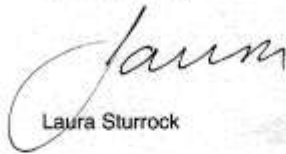
Dear Angela

**The Community Landscape and Archaeology Survey Project
Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 March 2011**

Once again I enclose my independent examiner's report.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



Laura Sturrock



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project (CLASP)

I report on the accounts of CLASP for the year ended 31 March 2011, which are set out on the attached page.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

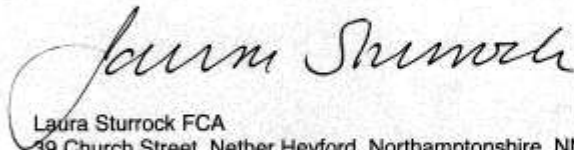
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Laura Sturrock FCA
39 Church Street, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LH:
4 July 2011

Accounts

Angela Evans

CLASP Treasurer's Report AGM 2011

I have tried to make the Accounts summary self explanatory.

This year we have purchased a Magnetometer the cost of which has almost been covered by obtaining grants, but this has increased our Insurance by an extra 160%. The generosity of some of our members has been really amazing and a huge thank you to them for their help in purchasing this machine. We actually have very little money other than that which is earmarked for specific projects.

Harpole has contributed another £1000 and three quarters of their spend has been on their dig, plus they also donated £250 towards the Magnetometer.

If anyone has any good ideas for raising funds we beg you not to be shy in coming forward.

Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project

Receipts & Expenditure Account for Year Ending 31 March 2011

Receipts

B/f from 31.03.10 Bank	6,840.90
Pd not on Statement	-653.53
Cash in Hand	0.09
Harpole Parish Council	1,000.00
History Societies	155.00
Other Donations	110.44
Membership fees	330.00
Bank Interest	8.74
Profit from AGM	87.74
Lottery Heritage Fund	6,507.00
Magnetometer Grants/ Donations	9,333.00
	23,719.38

Expenditure

AGM Costs	46.00
Harpole spend	1,064.71
Finds Processing	502.80
LP/ LP - Geophys Survey	0.00
Website	1,221.49
Travel Expenses re AGM	15.00
Office Costs	0.00
Committee Room Hire	20.00
Affiliation Fees	55.00
Insurance	555.84
Magnetometer	9,630.30
Other /Report/Repairs/ Batteries	1,119.64
Bank Statement	9,873.48
Cash in Hand	15.12
Paid not yet on Statement	-400.00
	9,488.60

At the year end then, the Harpole balance	£734.81
Roman Research Trust	£2,500.00
Countryside Agency	£6,010.64
Money raised by ourselves	£243.15
Thus usable funds	<u>£9,488.60</u>

Community Landscape Archaeology Project Accounts up to 2010/2011 Charity No. 1111667

04/04/2011

Income	Total	C'side Agency	Harpole PC	Other Donations	Expenditure	Total	Balance
To					To		
31.03.11 Harpole Heritage	8,000.00		1,000.00	Ordinary	31.03.11 Harpole Heritage	7,265.19	734.81
31.03.11 Lottery Heritage Fund	24,981.00	6,507.00			31.03.11 Lottery Heritage Fund	18,970.36	6,010.64
31.03.11 Roman Research Trust	6,000.00				31.03.11 Roman Research Trust	3,500.00	2,500.00
31.03.11 Ordinary	17,547.21			9,774.25	31.03.11 Ordinary	17,304.06	243.15
Adjustments to	56,528.21	6,507.00	1,000.00	0.00		47,039.61	9,488.60
04/04/2011				9,774.25			56,528.21

04/04/2011

Income

		Total	C'side Agency	Harpole PC	History Societies	Other Donations	Mship Fees	Other	£
b/f	Bank Statement	6,840.90							6,840.90
b/f	Paid not on statement	-653.53							-653.53
b/f	Cash In Hand	0.09							0.09
16.04.10	J A Willis	15.00				10.00	5.00		15.00
16.04.10	Daventry Local History Society	5.00			5.00				5.00
16.04.10	A H & C J Evans cash	10.00					10.00		10.00
06.05.10	Bank Interest	0.63						0.63	0.63
05.05.10	Bank Interest	0.76						0.76	0.76
05.06.10	R Hopkins	5.00					5.00		5.00
17.07.10	T A & E Newbery	25.00				25.00			25.00
04.06.10	Bank Interest	0.64						0.64	0.64
05.07.10	Bank Interest	0.62						0.62	0.62
14.08.10	History of Tiffeld Society cash	20.00			20.00				20.00
14.08.10	J A Pylo	5.00					5.00		5.00
14.08.10	Harpole Heritage	500.00		500.00					500.00
14.08.10	Robert Klin Charitable Trust	500.00				500.00			500.00
14.08.10	Anonymous Donation chq 12 08 10 Mag **	100.00				100.00			100.00
31.08.10	2nd Anonymous donation 27 08 10 Mag **	30.00				30.00			30.00
02.09.10	Donation re Norton Past Search Team Mag **	100.00				100.00			100.00
03.09.10	Julia Johns/Mr A Marsh cash	10.00					10.00		10.00
03.09.10	M Boxer/G Fleuchar/R Whyte/P Knight	20.00					20.00		20.00
03.09.10	F Key/S Deacon/SM Joca/J M Smith	20.00					20.00		20.00
03.09.10	AR Gray/R & B Vowles/J Smith/A Smith	25.00					25.00		25.00
03.09.10	K Stevenson/M Caine	20.00				10.00	10.00		20.00
05.08.10	Bank Interest	0.70						0.70	0.70
06.09.10	G Noble/C Davenport/Nhants Artefact Rec C	40.00			30.00		10.00		40.00
06.09.10	N Garnett/J Willis	20.00				10.00	10.00		20.00
12.09.10	Harpole transfer for Magnetometer **	250.00				250.00			250.00
16.09.10	AGM Refreshments profits	15.74						15.74	15.74
16.09.10	AGM Raffle profits	72.00						72.00	72.00
16.09.10	A Harrison	25.00				20.00	5.00		25.00
16.09.10	L Allen	10.00				5.00	5.00		10.00
16.09.10	M McIntosh/G Boreham/A Priestley	15.00					15.00		15.00
16.09.10	J Calderwood/J Cooper+ B Evans Rees	15.00					15.00		15.00
16.09.10	Harpole Heritage	25.00					25.00		25.00
16.09.10	J Baxter	10.00				5.00	5.00		10.00
16.09.10	J + M Aveling	15.00				5.00	10.00		15.00
16.09.10	G Heame	20.00				15.00	5.00		20.00
16.09.10	D Cotter/d Hayward/R Downie/G Biddle cash	20.00					20.00		20.00
16.09.10	J Helford/A+L Newman/R Conlon cash	20.00					20.00		20.00
16.09.10	I Gander/A Standish/T Smithurst/G Hutton cash	20.00					20.00		20.00
21.09.10	CJ Evans chq in lieu of cash £130								0.00
21.09.10	Northants County Council Magnetometer **	500.00				500.00			500.00
21.09.10	Bugbrooke History Group	25.00			25.00				25.00
25.09.10	Anonymous ex CAF Magnetometer **	200.00				200.00			200.00
29.09.10	Norton PAST Magnetometer **	150.00				150.00			150.00
30.09.10	A & PF Watson	10.00					10.00		10.00
04.10.10	Friends of Daventry Museum Magnetometer**	20.00				20.00			20.00
04.10.10	CG Wood	7.50				2.50	5.00		7.50
04.10.10	B Scott cash	5.00					5.00		5.00
03.09.10	Bank Interest	0.67						0.67	0.67
05.10.10	Bugbrooke History Group Magnetometer**	100.00				100.00			100.00
08.10.10	Towcester & Dist Local History Society Mag'ter	100.00				100.00			100.00
08.10.10	G A Boreham Magnetometer **	50.00				50.00			50.00
14.10.10	Mrs C Sharp/ AF & PO Chapman	15.00					15.00		15.00
14.10.10	M McIntosh profit from Jam to Magnetometer**	10.00				10.00			10.00
05.10.10	Bank Interest	0.85						0.85	0.85
16.11.10	JHS Craig	6.00				1.00	5.00		6.00
16.11.10	Wealdon Bee Fete Committee Magnetometer**	250.00				250.00			250.00
24.11.10	Brington History Society	25.00			25.00				25.00
05.11.10	Bank Interest	0.92						0.92	0.92
10.11.10	Northants CC grant re Magnetometer**	5,000.00				5,000.00			5,000.00
08.12.10	B Culling cash	5.00					5.00		5.00
30.10.10	Bank Interest	1.47						1.47	1.47
05.01.11	Bank Interest	1.07						1.07	1.07
09.02.11	M B Coward P.O.	6.00				1.00	5.00		6.00
09.02.11	Heritage Lottery Fund	6,507.00	6,507.00						6,507.00
15.02.11	FOAM	25.00			25.00				25.00
15.02.11	R Whale	5.00					5.00		5.00
18.02.11	Harpole Heritage	500.00		500.00					500.00
24.02.11	South Northants Council Magnetometer**	963.00							963.00
24.02.11	N R Garnett Magnetometer**	10.00							10.00
04.03.11	Milton Keynes Heritage Assoc Magnetometer**	1,000.00						1,000.00	1,000.00
04.03.11	Bank Interest	0.41						0.41	0.41
15.03.11	Flore Heritage Society	25.00			25.00				25.00
09.03.11	Bank Interest	0.94						0.94	0.94
		23,719.36	6,507.00	1,000.00	195.00	7,489.50	330.00	1,097.42	23,719.36
								16,558.92	16,558.92

Total Income This Year

Research and Project Co-ordination

This is my first contribution to the Annual Report under this new heading and is a result of Norman Garnett assuming the role of Secretary to your Organising Committee.

With this change of role it will enable me to focus on the two aspects shown in the title to this article. I very much see these aspects as interdependent and helping to focus the work of CLASP to achieve its objectives.

I see the role as both pursuing proactive research myself and helping others, both individual members and member societies, bring their research under the CLASP umbrella for mutual benefit. Hopefully this research will identify potential projects for not only CLASP itself it to undertake but also potential projects for both member societies and individual members.

From the outset it is important to acknowledge that whilst it is ideal for CLASP to broaden its perspectives and range of work, it will be unrealistic to expect the Archaeological Director to personally oversee all future projects. For the future it is important therefore to have an agreed format for a Project Proposal, these would be utilised for all future proposals. These would be submitted to the Organising Committee for agreement. These proposals will demonstrate the objectives of the project, how it will be financially supported, and arrangements for technical oversight. It is hoped to bring a draft template for a standardised project proposal to the Organising Committee and Trustees for agreement.

A good example of a project being undertaken by a member society is Towcester District Local History Society's work being undertaken to investigate the Romano-British hinterland of Towcester. This project has already identified previously unreported sites in the area and is therefore informing the principal CLASP Local People-Local Past project.

Most of you will have heard of the Barby Hill Project that has been led by an individual member, Gren Hatton, in conjunction with Barby History Group. The details of this project are provided by Gren in a separate article in this report.

Lastly I must mention two projects that I am involved with. Firstly there is the Landscapes of Government Project that is seeking to define the nature of early medieval governance through the Hundred system. We are looking at nine hundreds in west Northamptonshire. This project, which is being financed by the Leverhulme Trust, is being run jointly by Nottingham, UCL and Winchester Universities. Secondly there is the work being undertaken by a group of four members looking at early communication routes both within the immediate CLASP area and surrounding counties. Both of these projects will be reported on in due course, these reports will be made available for all to see.

Dave Hayward

A new archaeological project at Barby Hill

Recent archaeological work at Crick (1990s) and Barby Nortoft (2007) has made it increasingly apparent that this area was quite densely populated in the Iron Age. The present Warks/Leics/Northants border area was formerly a borderland between the Dobunni, Corieltavi and Catuvellauni tribes, and archaeologists and historians now view this area as being of national significance in understanding the interactions between these tribes. To complete the picture, it is gradually becoming apparent that some of the "Roman" stations along the Watling Street were probably former IA sites.

Recent archaeological work carried out during extensions to a Severn Trent reservoir near Barby village revealed further traces of IA round-houses, and there is good reason to expect that a large and previously unknown IA settlement is up there awaiting discovery. Gren Hatton is acting as initial co-ordinator for this new project, and work on site will start in September and continue through winter and spring - it will involve a mixture of field-walking, metal-detecting and magnetometer survey.

Members of NARC have already volunteered to assist, and Steve Parry of Northamptonshire Archaeology has also kindly offered some help.

This project will be organised and managed professionally, by a small core team - and volunteers for this team will also be very welcome! We are very fortunate to be sitting virtually on top of a site of such potential significance. If any members would like to be involved, please contact Gren in the first instance (gghatton@toucansurf.com, tel: 01788 822411).

For those not aware of the location of Barby, it is in the extreme north west of Northamptonshire on the Warwickshire border close to Rugby.

Membership

At the end of membership year 2010-11 CLASP had 71 individual members.

Julia Johns
Membership secretary

News from Member Societies

The member societies of CLASP are:

Blisworth Heritage Society

Brington History Society

Bugbrooke History Group

Daventry Local History Group

Flore Heritage Society

Friends of Alderton Monuments (F.O.A.M.)

Friends of Daventry Museum

Harpole Heritage Group

History of Tiffield Society (H.O.T.S.)

Northamptonshire Artefact Recovery Club [NARC],

Norton, Northampton Portable Antiquities Search Team (NNPAST)

Towcester and District Local History Society

Weedon Bec History Society

Whitehall Roman Villa and Landscape Project

Bugbrooke History Society

Eight members have been trained to use the CLASP Magnetometer. We had one training session in Bugbrooke on the site where the mediaeval village is supposed to have been. Our results were inconclusive but the exercise raised much interest. Plans are being discussed to extend the survey soon. We have also circulated copies of the 1779 enclosures map which was given to the Society.

We have had a good year with our meetings being well-attended. The meetings are held at our Community Centre on the second Wednesday every two months.

From Alan Kent 01604830518.

Daventry Local History Group

CLASP Exhibition to coincide with CBA Archaeology Week and Daventry Arts Festival.

The Daventry Town Council Museum put on a display which attracted some 200 visitors over the Festival week focusing partly on the metal detecting element of modern archaeology with a display of artefacts found in the area ranging from Iron Age to Modern Day, with items kindly loaned by members of NARC. Other items on display included artefacts from the Museum's own collection and items loaned by Christine Orr.

There was a follow up exhibition on Saturday 6th August with a similar display by members of NNPAST.

Angela Adams

Flore Heritage Society

...has been helping visitors from Australia and elsewhere to trace their ancestors in the village. The programme for the next twelve months includes talks on the history of the Cobblers, Northamptonshire's Victorian Inventors, Rockingham Castle, Medieval Masons, and Norton Hall. A talk on the Hallaton Treasure will be followed up by a visit to Market Harborough Museum, where it is housed.

Brian Culling

Friends of Alderton Monument (FOAM)

...report that they expect to carry out a Ground Penetrating Radar survey this coming Autumn.

Friends of Daventry Museums

The Friends' remit has changed. Founded to support the Daventry District Museum in the 1990s, it lost its remit when the Museum closed. Since then we have changed our constitution to allow us to fulfil our aims and objects in the local area by offering support to other museums and local collections. We are able to make small grants for purchases for collections or for items required to promote the museum or collection. Applications should be made to the committee for assessment.

Our Aims and Objects are:-

- To promote awareness of Museums and Collections
- To assist with purchases for Collections
- To encourage interest in Local History

To promote appreciation of the Arts

(Programme available from Angela Adams, 01327 704 928: email: dxadams@mac.com)

Harpole Heritage Group

In September 2010 14 members of Clasp arrived to prepare the site at Barn Close, removing weeds, plastic covering and stones and the very smelly water from the 'hole' left from 2009, some people got very wet and muddy.

The excavation went on for 3 more days and what we thought might be a cellar, is more likely to be a cistern or sump, it had a clay floor, which could have been used for storage of leather. Test pits were also dug revealing a ditch and a field boundary etc, 70 Roman Coins were found by metal detectors from NNPAST and NARC as well as other finds which included a lot of pieces of lead, a brooch, 3 pieces of chain and other items totalling 237 items.

Also found were a quantity of pottery, tile and bones etc, and a number of small shells. These were all taken to 30 Sandy Lane where they were cleaned by 4 members of our group.

On the last day a group of children from Harpole Primary School visited the site, the day had started off sunny, then there was a heavy shower and we all got wet.

Our thanks go to Harpole Parish Council for the grant of £1.000.00 without which we could not carry out this project and to the owner and farmers for letting us onto the land.

Harpole Heritage Group hosted a History Day for Northamptonshire Association for Local History in October 2010. Jeremy Calderwood gave an overview of the "History of Harpole" emphasising the many families who have lived in Harpole over the centuries.

Pat Betts told us about her book "We Will Remember Them" which she had researched and written about the men who gave their lives during both World Wars.

Jennifer Smith talked about the "Harpole Scarecrow Festival" which has been going on for 13 years. Large amounts of money have been raised for village groups from this successful event.

Steve Young gave a presentation on "Archaeology in Harpole" telling us about the two Roman Villas in the parish and the work carried out so far.

85 people enjoyed a delicious lunch and then took a walk around our beautiful village.

Jennifer Smith

History of Tiffield Society

The most significant item is that we now have our own voice recorder and have started interviews. A couple of members have attended magnetometer training courses - many thanks to Fred and we'd like to hire the unit to survey one of the villa sites in the Parish, once Steve Young has confirmed its location.

A full program of talks is underway (details of future events are in the CLASP newsletter) and has been enjoyed but the audience was short of men for Carol's talk on the History & Mystery of Women's Underwear (embarrassment, prurience, or over-exposure ?!). Other highlights were 'The English Civil War in South Northants' and 'Archaeological Facial Reconstruction'.

The HoTS Chairman (Steve Jowers) has unearthed some interesting insights into routes through Tiffield along with potential sites for Saxon meeting places. Lots more information on the Tiffield website : <http://www.tiffieldonline.co.uk/history.html>

Steve Jowers, Chairman

NARC

The last year of the Northamptonshire Artefact Recovery Club has seen the club not only grow in size, but also in reputation as well. Club members have been involved in delivering

- 19 talks to interested groups,
- 8 events involving display and exhibition material
- 4 events in support of Cynthia Spencer Hospice
- and 1 club rally that raised a 3 figure sum for the Air ambulance.

We have

- had 4 guest speakers, including Mr Sam Moorhead of the British Museum. It was good to see many members from other CLASP groups join us for this event.
- received a substantial grant that will help us enhance the quality of our work and reputation.
- supported the ongoing work at Whitehall,
- worked closely with others on the forthcoming Barby Hill project, and raised our profile immensely within the local farming community.

So all in all, it's been a very positive [and very busy] year for the Northamptonshire Artefact Recovery Club, and the next 12 months look just as interesting as we build on our work. We would like to thank CLASP members for their warm welcome and support at the various events this year.

Here's to another successful 12 months.

Alan Standish
Chair

NN PAST

During the last year our members have continued to recover a significant number of artefacts and coins from within Norton Parish. As in previous years, the majority of the material relates to the Roman period which continues to add to the very significant archive covering the Roman presence within our parish. Many of the coins we discover are of relatively common 3rd and fourth century origin but even if only numerically, they are nevertheless important additions to our understanding of Bannaventa and the surrounding area.

Among the items found, there are a few which are significant and are worthy of mention here.

A superb example of a silver Siliqua of Flavius Victor, 387-388 AD aroused much interest within the Portable Antiquities Scheme and The British Museum. The coin is in particularly good condition and is recorded with the PAS under reference NARC-E35E47.

Another Roman coin noted by the Portable Antiquities Scheme as being of some significance and designated as of National importance was a Marcus Aurelius commemorative Sestertius, issued by Commodus in AD 180 on a square flan. Again, this coin is in good condition and was recorded by the PAS under reference NARC-1D1571.

A Roman silver finger ring has also been recovered within Norton Parish which is currently going through the processes of the Treasure Act. The shank is faceted on the outside into seven sections which then connects to a pronounced shoulder and platform on which there is a bezel which would have contained a gemstone.

The above items are now included in well over 500 coins and artefacts now listed on the Norton PAST database on the Norton Village website which can be accessed at:
http://www.nortonvillage.org/archaeology_database/default.asp

Mike Goodman
Chairman
NN PAST.
July 2011

Towcester and District Local History Society (TDLHS)

TDLHS have continued to hold monthly meetings, with guest speakers, focusing on historical topics. The meetings have been well supported and the members stimulated with the wide range of subjects covered.

On a social level a recent coach trip to Lincoln was arranged to visit historic places of interest. The party arrived in a haze of black smoke! Thankfully the coach operator sent a replacement coach to ensure our safe return after a full, rewarding and enjoyable day! In June, Roade History Society extended an invitation to the TDLHS for an evening guided walk around their town.

In March 2011, South Northampton Council published the Towcester Master Plan. The plan reflects on the wealth of historic sites and Towcester's considerable conservation area. Future plans to develop the town will be closely monitored by the Society, a vigilant approach adopted.

An application was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund to secure monies for the development of training and communication projects which would have ultimately benefited the wider community. The aim was to demystify and provide an in depth understanding of the landscape of Towcester Water Meadows from prehistoric to modern times, to expand their knowledge of heritage initiatives and captive interest in local history. Despite initial encouragement, the application was declined.

On a positive note a grant from the Vernacular Architecture Group has been awarded to two members to assess the feasibility of dating a selection of timber framed buildings in our small market town and the nearby village of Potterspury using dendrochronology assessment. For further details please refer to the published article in the latest CLASP newsletter.

Steve Young, Archaeological Director, has accepted the interim Lactodorum Hinterland Survey which has now been circulated to the CLASP Organising Committee and lodged at Northamptonshire SMR. It has been suggested that because of our limited resources work in the coming year should focus on known and recently discovered potential settlement sites. A Mapinfo database is currently in development and will include future fieldwork. It is proposed that the sites from the hinterland will be included in LPLP Phase 3.

On Sunday 31st July Towcester Archaeology Day was held in conjunction with the CBA. The event provided a platform to display the wealth of historic artefacts from the local area. The TDLHS display "Pottery Tells the Story of our Past" featured photographs and research documents taking the audience on a journey of discovery from original field-walking, washing and categorising the pottery sherds. Roman, medieval and post-medieval artefacts from Towcester and the surrounding area were on display, many of which could be handled by the visitors. As part of the day, a guided tour of Roman Towcester was organised. In addition the County Finds Liaison Officer was on hand to identify and evaluate finds from the general public. Thanks are extended to NARC for their contribution to the day and for an excellent display.

A wealth of military photography inspired two members of the TDLHS to write a book titled 'All the business of war' (a renowned quote by the Duke of Wellington) reflecting army manoeuvres in 1913. These took place over a period of 5 days in North Bucks/South Northants in September of that year. The possibility of a European war was looming and the manoeuvres were designed to test command and support systems in the field. The exercise proved to be invaluable and played a crucial role in the opening days of the Great War. The book will be published in the autumn.

Georgina Boreham

TDLHS