

# CLASP

## Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project Fifth Annual Report 2009



Alan Watson  
Chair of the Trustees

## Contents

Introduction by the Chair of the Trustees - Alan Watson.....	3
Report of Secretary to the Trustees.....	4
Finance Reports.....	5
Archaeological Director's Report 2009 .....	10
Reports from the Organising Committee.....	13
Report from Acting Chair of the Organising Committee.....	13
Report by the Secretary of the Organising Committee .....	14
CLASP AGM Membership Report.....	15
Reports from Participating Organisations.....	16
Blisworth Heritage Society.....	16
Brington History Society .....	17
Bugbrooke History Group.....	17
Daventry Local History Group .....	18
Flore Heritage Society .....	18
Harpole Heritage Group.....	19
Norton, Northampton Portable Antiquities Search Team (NNPAST).....	20
Chairman, NN PAST.....	21
Towcester and District Local History Society .....	21
Weedon Bec History Society.....	22
Whitehall Roman Villa and Landscape Project .....	22



# Fifth Annual Report for the Year Ending 31st August 2009 The Trustees

## Introduction by the Chair of the Trustees – Alan Watson

Another year has passed by and we are still looking for a building that would be suitable to house all our artefacts from our digs, field walking and test pits. To find such a store has now become our prime objective, as the owners of Whitehall, where most of Clasp's artefacts are stored in one of their barns, have put their house up for sale. We could end up with 3 to 4 weeks notice to move out. Dave Hayward, the secretary to the Organising Committee, and Jeremy Calderwood, Trustee, 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..

Once again I would like to put on record my heartfelt thanks to 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

This year we welcome the Blisworth Heritage Society as a member of CLASP. It is pleasing to see that the 10 local groups are still going from strength to strength. I urge you to support their work. A diary of events is to be found in the August newsletter.

As you may remember in 2008 we drew up a "Mission Statement" with a list of "Aims and Objectives". This year we have been looking at a "Strategic Planning Document". We are in the process of taking on board comments from individuals and societies and we will publish this document a.s.a.p..

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 2009

## **Report of Secretary to the Trustees**

### **Who are the Trustees?**

CLASP has eight Trustees who were appointed at the 2008 AGM:

Alan Watson - Chair  
Angela Evans - Treasurer  
Stephen Young - Archaeological Director  
Ruth Downie - Secretary  
Nick Adams  
Jeremy Calderwood  
Sandra Deacon  
Tony Kesten

Their period of office expires at the end of the 2009 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.co.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.

Ruth Downie  
Secretary to the Trustees  
September 2009

## Finance Reports

### CLASP Treasurer's Report AGM 2009

I have tried to make the Accounts summary self explanatory but the £5 under Other in the Payments column was the Prize for the Quiz.

Within the Receipts column you will see Harpole Parish Council has again been very generous with a £1,000 donation for work done in Harpole. Again a very big thank you to Harpole PC.

Regards the last AGM the Raffle raised £41, Donations £17, Book Auction raised £15 and £8 for sale of T shirt.

### Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project

Receipts & Expenditure Account for Year Ending 31 March 2009

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
B/f from 31.03.08	Bank	7,561.03	
Cash in Hand		18.38	
Harpole Parish Council	1,000.00	Field Centre	33.64
History Societies	125.00	Finds Processing	520.00
Other Donations	84.74	LP/ LP - Geophys Survey	1,254.19
Membership fees	295.00	Website	57.03
Pearson re Whitehall	480.00	Pearson re Whitehall	480.00
Bank Interest	49.60	Travel Expenses re AGM	40.00
Profit from AGM	81.00	Office Costs	8.19
Profit from Quiz	33.00	Committee Room Hire	20.00
		Affiliation Fees	63.00
		Insurance (2yrs)	382.33
		Other	5.00
	9,727.75		2,863.38
		Bank Statement	7,226.93
		Cash in Hand	21.71
		Paid not yet on Statement	-384.27
			9,727.75
At the year end then, the Harpole balance		£1 470.06	
Roman Research Trust		£2 500.00	
Countryside Agency		£2 234.44	
Money raised by ourselves		£659.87	
Thus usable funds		£6 864.37	

(Item 'Pearson re Whitehall' above represents a donation to CLASP for Whitehall Villa funds.)

Mrs Laura Sturrock's examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charities Commission. She said the accounting records were fine and that she had all the documents needed to review the accounts.

[illegible]



Community Landscape Archaeology Project Accounts up to 2008/2009 Charity No. 1111667

06/04/2009

Income	Expenditure				Total	Balance
	Total	C'side Agency	Harpole PC	Other Donations Ordinary		
To						
31.03.09 Harpole Heritage	7,000.00		1,000.00		5,529.94	1,470.06
31.03.09 Countryside Agency	18,474.00				16,239.56	2,234.44
31.03.09 Roman Research Trust	6,000.00				3,500.00	2,500.00
31.03.09 Ordinary	7,109.97			†148.34	6,450.10	659.87
Adjustments to	31/03/2009	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	31,719.60	6,864.37
						38,583.97





## Archaeological Director's Report 2009

CLASP has been engaged in a considerable amount of fieldwork over the last year in furthering its aim of characterising the nature of Roman settlement in the locality. The focus of most of the exploratory fieldwork has been in the south of our core area of survey. This has mostly consisted of non-invasive fieldwork on two Roman sites in the parishes of Easton Neston and Tifffield. These settlements in conjunction with another site in Tifffield and other sites in the neighbouring parishes of Gayton, Towcester and Blisworth will help determine whether the southern half of the CLASP survey area, in the hinterland of Towcester (Lactodurum), has a similar or different development pattern to that discovered in the north on the landscape around Whilton Lodge (Bannaventa). However CLASP members have also had opportunities to undertake trial trenching and test pitting on settlements in Harpole and Weedon parishes as well as the continued open area research excavation at Whitehall Farm, Nether Heyford. The latter fieldwork continues to help CLASP to establish a profile of these individual settlements, establish the extent of one of them and learn more about their general development.

The fieldwork at Easton Neston consisted of a fieldwalking and a metal detecting survey of a large concentration of Roman material recorded in the area as far back as 1970. A small reconnaissance on the site had produced a significant amount of pottery over a fairly wide area. Unfortunately in the time available we were only able to survey about two thirds of a hectare out of a potential area of about 5 hectares. A pottery assemblage of approximately 4,000 sherds as well as 129 Roman coins were recovered from the fieldwork. Aerial photographic evidence coverage of the site suggests the possibility of there being two villas in the field. One appears to be a wing corridor villa. It is too early to determine whether both building complexes represent early and late or contemporary buildings developments. Significantly a majority of the coin assemblage is of 4<sup>th</sup> century date with only about 10% of the coins belonging to 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD rulers. Amongst the coins are a number of coins from the House of Theodosius. These represent the last issues of Roman coins to reach Britain and probably indicate economic and commercial activity continuing into the early 5<sup>th</sup> century AD as seen in the coin assemblage for Whitehall Farm.

A similar exploratory fieldwalking survey covering half a hectare was undertaken on a second Roman settlement site in the parish of Tifffield. This appears to be a far larger site than the one examined last year in the same parish and the one at Gayton although it is too early to be specific about the character of either of them. Both settlements will be the subject of further investigation in the coming year. An assemblage of over 1,000 sherds and 27 coins were recovered from the sample area and these are now being processed and analysed. However the coins as at Easton Neston have been conserved and identified by Dr Mark Curteis. A

total of 80 coins have been found on this Tiffield site with about 75% of those that are identifiable minted in the 4<sup>th</sup> century with the remaining 25% of 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD date. There are no coins of the very latest issues of the Roman period possibly suggesting a more substantial decline in economic activity of the site than that at Easton Neston at the end of the Roman period.

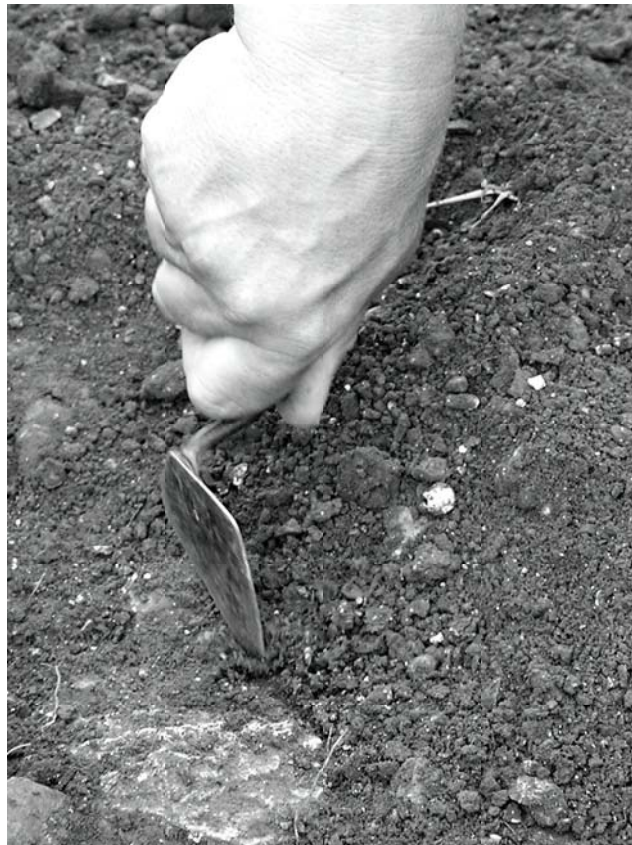
We were able to undertake some further investigative work at Weedon Bec and excavated a series of test pits in the old rectory garden to the west of the London/Birmingham main line railway and the Grand Union Canal. The location of these test pits lies some way to the west of the focal point of the known Roman settlement which is partially covered by the village cemetery. However the full extent of the settlement is unknown and it could have covered a much larger area than presently considered. Unfortunately no structural material or evidence of features were detected although two of the test pits contained un-abraded sherds of Roman pottery which can be construed as indicative of occupational activity in the general area. Only half a dozen sherds were recovered in all but because of their condition I don't think we are looking at a manuring scatter. Hopefully next year we will be able to test pit a few other potential surviving areas to the south of the medieval church which might help us to finally define a western boundary for the Roman settlement that once existed at Weedon and possibly even gain some insight into any connection with the later ecclesiastical use of the area.

We also returned to the large Roman Villa site at Barn Close, Harpole to undertake further excavation of a feature partly examined last year. The rationale was to determine the depth of a stone lined sunken feature its function and degree of archaeological survival. In addition CLASP members were able to undertake a further metal detecting survey of the site that produced another 60 coins and a very fine Roman fibula brooch. The large villa complex at Barn Close or Harpole 2 now has a coin list of over 300 coins and will be very useful in the comparative coin study of the rural settlements and the small town of Bannaventa. The stone lined sunken feature appears to be a cellar associated with the western range of the main villa building. Two coins found amongst the rubble may suggest a late 4<sup>th</sup> century collapse of the building but this cannot be said for certain at this time. The rubble infill of the cellar appears to be the fallen superstructure of the room above and this may well account for the stone finial found last year. Some six courses of stone have been observed in the walls of the cellar but the actual depth remains to be determined although we should expect it to continue downwards for several feet. The feature will be explored next year as part of the ongoing fieldwork into the site.

At Whitehall Farm CLASP members were involved in another season of excavation on the second but earlier bath house complex associated with the villa. The chief discoveries were a semi circular heated extension to the main hypocaust room and the location of another room in the range further to the east which also contained yet another hypocaust. An interesting conundrum is that

this late 3<sup>rd</sup> century bath house is far larger than the 4<sup>th</sup> century one that replaced it. We will need to consider the thinking behind the differences of scale in these specialist buildings as it probably indicates a range of uses for the villa estate. A further 1194 sherds and 13 coins have been retrieved and we now have an assemblage of 541 Roman coins. The Whitehall Farm coin list continues to complement the assemblage from Whilton Lodge (Bannaventa) which now contains 1751 coins. Further fieldwork and particularly geophysical survey on the site of Bannaventa is planned for next year.

Stephen Young  
Archaeological Director  
September 2009



# Reports from the Organising Committee

## Report from Acting Chair of the Organising Committee

This year we have carried on making our voice heard in local planning enquiries, and among the field work there has been a successful dig at Barn Close. These activities are reported elsewhere, so I will use this opportunity to draw attention to the opportunities that remain for people to get involved in governing CLASP. As "Acting Chair" of the Organising Committee I am still confining my committee work to chairing meetings and taking the odd, relatively minor, decisions that need to be taken from time to time as Chair's actions. The hope is still that someone will emerge to take on the substantive role of leading and inspiring the Organising Committee.

We are still looking for someone, or several people, to take over the purely Secretarial work from the current Secretary of the Organising Committee. Dave Hayward is becoming ever more active as leader of CLASP's advocacy activities and it is not surprising that he now wants give priority to this and to research for CLASP. A volunteer (or volunteers) to take over his Secretarial role will be welcomed with open arms and given the support they may need to get started.

Remember that joining and working on the Organising Committee does not entail the onerous legal responsibilities shouldered by the CLASP Charity Trustees - we are humble folk working at the sharp end of archaeology, concerned with the nitty gritty of digging up the past and recording our findings.

Jeremy Cooper  
August 2009

## **Report by the Secretary of the Organising Committee**

During the year we have been sorry to lose our Individual Members Representative Alan Dent on the grounds of ill health, his proactivity will be sorely missed. We also noted the resignation of two Trustees, David Banner and Alan Priestly. The thanks of the Organising Committee for their work is passed to both. Alan Clark and Dr Sarah Sykes are both welcomed to the Committee.

Your Committee has been pleased to welcome Blisworth Heritage Society to Society Membership. Having this group join us is particularly relevant considering the work CLASP is currently undertaking in the Gayton and Tiffield areas.

The past year has seen your Committee facilitate further archaeological investigations at Harpole, Tiffield, Showsley and Weedon. Unfortunately though we were not able to get onto land at Bannaventa owing to crop sowing. This work is all encompassed within the second phase of the Local People - Local Past Project. The revised date for completion of this project is now early 2010. The completion of this project does not mean that this fieldwork will be completed, it will still carry on once Local People - Local Past is finished. The Whitehall Project at Nether Heyford has also completed another extremely successful season both with the annual excavation and open day.

The Public Open Meeting held at Daventry, that took the form of a platform debate, resulted in high standard of debate. Unfortunately the audience numbers were not as high as anticipated considering the topic relating to the proposed large scale developments in the area and the roles and status of the panel members.

Our hoped for direct support from WNDC to establish an archive has not materialised but they have indicated to us certain other funding sources which we intend to pursue. The importance of identification of a new store has been amplified recently with the news that the house at Whitehall on Watling Street is currently up for sale. The current CLASP archive is of course in their outbuildings. Alternative locations are currently being investigated.

During the past year our work with the proposed developments at Daventry has continued. As a result of the developers appealing against the length of time WNDC were taking to arrive at a decision regarding the applications, CLASP has submitted written evidence to the resulting appeals. We are pleased to say that as a result of negotiations with the consultant archaeologists and others for each of the three developers we managed to arrive at Statements of Common Ground for all of the Appeals. This has therefore avoided the need for us to give oral evidence to the Inquiry. Hopefully the results of this will in due course see the involvement of CLASP with fieldwork and other research in some of the potentially rich archaeological sites in the Daventry area.

During the past few weeks we have also attended a meeting of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee when they approved their 'Emergent Joint Core Strategy Document' Your Secretary was given the opportunity to address our concerns to the Committee as was fellow CLASP member Alan Clark. Hopefully our concerns were noted and an opportunity for future engagement has been created. CLASP will also make a full written submission to this consultation.

Details of all these submissions on planning issues are placed on the CLASP website.

I still make the point from previous years that I would like to see more self generated initiatives from member organisations and individual members. As with any organisation it is imperative that activities stem as much from the 'grass roots' as from the 'Committee'.

D. F. Hayward MBE  
Secretary Organising Committee  
July 2009

## **CLASP AGM Membership Report**

CLASP currently has 73 individual members, 17 of whom are new members who have joined the group since September 2008.

Julia Johns  
Membership Secretary  
July 2009

# Reports from Participating Organisations

## **Blisworth Heritage Society**

Blisworth Heritage Society continues to thrive, with a membership of about sixty over the past year. We hold ten meetings each year, and in 2008 we have covered such subjects as:

Abington Park

Country Customs

Delapre Abbey

Author Barbara Hornby talking about our Blisworth historian in "George's War"

Daventry

Irchester and its Country Park

An outing to Delapre Park to see what the local community group, the Friends of Delapre, has achieved

Wartime Memories of local villagers

Christmas afternoon meeting with a film of old Northampton

In 2009 our meetings so far have included:

A presentation by The Northamptonshire Association of Local History Groups

Modern living on a Narrowboat

Local Roman Landscapes

Ridge and Furrow and its effect on people

Restoration of 78 Derngate, the house redesigned in the early 20th century by Rennie Macintosh for Northampton business man Bassett Lowke, and recently renovated by the Friends of 78 Derngate to win a prestigious national award this year.

A group outing to look around 78 Derngate

In the autumn our talks will be on

The history of the Sun Moon and Stars

Memories of Schooldays with audience participation

Dig For Victory - a WW1 DVD about agriculture

Christmas Social with wine and mince pies

Apart from this we have had members joining in the dig for Roman remains on Colin Wake1in's land, in Tiffield, and we have been invited to join in further digs at Alderton Mount, 20th July for 3 weeks, and Whitehall, Farm 15th June-10th July, near Nether Heyford, where they have discovered extensive remains of a Roman Villa, bathhouse, gardens etc. There will be a Whitehall Villa family Open Day on July 12th. We are also invited to help wash Roman pottery finds from Towcester.



We have recently joined CLASP, which links village history groups, and has committee members from English Heritage and the University of Northampton. We may in future be able to get help for Blisworth projects, e.g. Restoration of the old wheels found on the Stoke Rd Allotments, which belong to the Heritage Society and are being stored for us by British Waterways.

Four members of the Society attended a day course on 6th June 2009 at The University of Northampton, on The Victorians, and attended workshops on care of Victorian photographs and documents, Victorian Asylums and their Lunatics, Politics in Victorian Northamptonshire Life and the Victorian Way of Death.

We have participated in local village events such as the Summer Fair held in the Baptist Chapel last year, and will be active at the Gift Aid Garden Party on July 25th this year. We shall be holding a joint meeting with the Blisworth Tapestry Group at their launch of the completed tapestry at the end of February 2010. We are working with the group setting up the new canal partnership to be launched later this year.

We hope in the next year to continue to expand our horizons, and we welcome new members and new ideas.

Dr Sarah Sykes, Chairman  
June 2009

### **Brington History Society**

Brington History Society has over 70 members. The Society meets on the third Monday of each month at The Reading Room, Great Brington. A full programme of meetings covering a wide range of subjects takes place during the winter months together with an outing in the summer.

Andrew Shaw  
July 2009

### **Bugbrooke History Group**

The Group meets every two months and all meetings are open with no membership charge. A photographic history of Bugbrooke was published last year by the Group and it is intended to start work on a second volume. The programme of meetings is varied and often helps to place local history in a national context. Details of future meetings may be found on [www.bugbrookelink.co.uk/history](http://www.bugbrookelink.co.uk/history)

Alan Kent  
September 2009

## **Daventry Local History Group**

Following on from the success of the "Larger than Life" exhibition last October, the display has also been on show in Daventry Library and at other events. The exhibition explored the lives of ten well-known Daventry characters.

Otherwise the year has been a mixture of research evenings and visiting speakers on topics such as Norton Hall, Family History and a CLASP update for the Daventry area. In May we visited Ashby St Ledgers Church for a guided tour.

We are currently researching two topics for our Autumn Exhibition, namely: (1) Non-conformism in Daventry- (2) Workhouse & the Poor Law in Daventry. The exhibition will be in Bishop Crewe House on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Our meetings take place at Bishop Crewe House on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

David Adams  
Treasurer, Daventry Local History Group  
August 2009

## **Flore Heritage Society**

Activities undertaken by CLASP are reported to the members of the Society at their monthly meetings.

Accessions for the past year include a cross section covering subjects from books to people and places. Notable was information on a collection of clocks by the late Richard Amos.

The programme for the year started with a talk on stained glass. This was followed by a talk and details of milestones recorded in this area. A talk on fire marks included those found in this village, and the development of the modern fire service.

The talk given on Northampton Architects covered the building of a number of boot and shoe factories around Northampton, one being Barretts, as well as houses, one of which is in Bugbrooke. All these by Alexander Ellis Anderson.

On the archaeology side Martin Weaver spoke on reconstructing and preserving artifacts. This was followed by a talk and slides on the excavations of the Roman remains at Piddington followed by a visit to the excavations and their museum, which drew very favourable comments.

Brian Culling  
August 2009

## **Harpole Heritage Group**

Over three days in September 2008 an excavation was carried out at Harpole Two, Barn Close. Members from CLASP joined us. We all got very wet.

We were looking to see if any mosaic floors were intact, but they had disappeared over the years. We could see where they would have been.

A trench 40 metres long by one metre wide and 30 cms deep was taken out. Evidence of several interior walls were found and one exterior wall one metre across. At the end of the trench appeared a stone wall five courses high which formed a two metre square. We plan to dig again in 2009 and hope to discover what this structure is. Nearby was found part of a column and a piece of worked stone.

We were joined by members of NNPAST who carried out metal detecting and found a further 14 coins, a knife blade, part of a bracelet, a hob nail, several other nails and pieces of metal, and a piece of samian ware. A number of other sherds of pottery were also collected.

Again we received a grant of £1,000.00 from Harpole parish council which we are very grateful for, and we have good relations with the owners and tenants of the Roman sites in Harpole.

We are preparing a small display of roman 'finds' at Harpole primary school. It is taking rather longer to put together than we had hoped but we plan to complete this very soon.

I gave another talk on "Archaeology in Harpole" to Year Four. The children take a great interest in archaeology, which they had been learning about over several weeks.

We will be holding an exhibition on Saturday 10th October 2009 to celebrate ten years. We shall be showing some of the research that has been carried out over those ten years, and members will exhibit some of their own collections.

Jennifer Smith  
Secretary, Harpole Heritage Group  
July 2009

## **Norton, Northampton Portable Antiquities Search Team (NN PAST)**

NN PAST continues to work closely with CLASP in a number of areas.

Once again our members carried out metal detecting surveys in conjunction with archaeologists at Whitehall Roman Villa during July, adding still further to the number of coins and artefacts recovered from this site.

A similar survey was carried out by our members working with the CLASP and the Harpole History Society at Barn Close. A significant number of Roman coins and artefacts were recovered, contributing to the ever increasing archive relating to this site.

Earlier in the year NN PAST were invited to give a presentation to Northants ACRE. This followed NN PAST being awarded funding for a project through ACRE. In order to cement our close ties with CLASP, we invited the CLASP archaeological director, Stephen Young, to support our presentation which was held in Norton Village Hall. The importance of our joint co-operation was very well received by Northants ACRE and their guests who included members of the board responsible for determining the award of future grant funding.

The funding which NN PAST received through ACRE was awarded for a project designed to take a travelling museum into the wider community of Northamptonshire. This has allowed us to properly display our members' finds and also to purchase the necessary equipment enabling us to provide power point presentations. We have now given more than 12 presentations with many more booked through to 2010. These include History and heritage groups, civic societies and women's institutes.

As a direct result of our presentations we have received a number of requests from landowners to carry out metal detecting surveys on their land which will continue through the coming months.

Through discussions involving Stephen Young, Julie Cassidy (Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme) and NN PAST it has been possible to streamline the path for the recording of finds by our members which should benefit all concerned.

Our work within Norton Parish means that we are gaining a special and ever increasing understanding of the archaeological history of the area. Areas of land within the Bannaventa hinterland from where we have recovered coins and artefacts have been brought to the attention of the CLASP Archaeological Director for possible further investigation.

On a lighter note, NN PAST members have helped a number of people in the community to locate a variety of metallic objects including a stop cock, manhole covers, keys to a JCB and a wedding ring which was lost during calving!

We hope that our close working relationship with CLASP will continue to our mutual benefit.

Mike Goodman.  
Chairman, NN PAST  
August 2009.

## **Towcester and District Local History Society**

In November 2008, Vivienne Baker a leading member of our society, passed away. She had been a driving force within the society and a prominent personality in Towcester. She will be sadly missed and in her memory the Vivienne Baker Memorial Prize has been set up in conjunction with the Towcester Church of England School.

A fieldwalk at Easton Neston was arranged in conjunction with CLASP members and members of TDLHS. The field activity was most successful, resulting in the collect of in excess of 4,500 pottery sherds. On her first day of fieldwalking committee member Linda Bunny-Martin came across a near-perfect flint arrowhead from the Neolithic period. The group Norton, Northampton PAST also found over 130 coins. Such a rich find has produced the need for a "pot washing" session. Members of the society rallied to the call to complete the overall washing and provide the platform for the archaeological analysis.

As Towcester is designated as a Regional Area for growth there is potential for development of various sites including Sponne School playing fields, the Water Meadow and "Towcester Lanes" which covers most of the conservation area. The society monitors activity ensuring the impact on archaeology features are taken into account. Work has started at the Bury Mount side and at the suggestion of the society, key historic dates will be recorded by using designated plaques. These have been commissioned and mark significant events throughout the history of Towcester.

Scheduled monthly meetings continue to be well supported, providing a platform for some excellent speakers. Shrewsbury was the venue for our annual outing, with additional trips to Rousham House and Gardens, the Rolls Royce Museum and Apethorpe Hall.

Georgina Boreham  
July 2009

## **Weedon Bec History Society**

In the Spring test pits were dug in the grounds of the Old Vicarage and the adjacent former school garden in Lower Weedon. Romano-British unabraded pottery was recovered from two of these pits.

CLASP has received permission from the owner of Weedon Wharf to dig test pits on his land, which is situated between the Old Vicarage and the area of land around the cemetery, which has produced a large amount of Romano-British pottery and on which a geophysical survey was conducted for CLASP. This survey found evidence of ditches, enclosures, etc.

The owner of Weedon Wharf recalls that a dig was carried out some years ago on his land but does not remember who by, but remembers foundations of an earlier building were found. It has not been possible so far to find a report of this earlier excavation.

Julia Johns  
July 2009

## **Whitehall Roman Villa and Landscape Project**

Whitehall group throughout the winter of 2008 and into 2009 completed the processing of the finds from the 2008 dig into their fabric types, and returned these to storage. Scanning of all the drawings onto the computer system has involved checking these, and rotating them with true North and the National Grid. Work on this is ongoing.

Steve Young has been encouraging the Group volunteers to engage in a Post Graduate Module in Community Archaeology set up by the University of Northampton. A potential module of projects was produced. This covered a range of Whitehall finds and materials, with a number of the group looking at Roman brooches, box flues, pottery, seed identification, wall plaster and also small finds of metal, etc.

Over the year the Group made two visits: one was to St Albans where we met with the team of conservators, and our next visit was to Flag Fen and Peterborough Museum with a special interest in Nene Valley pottery and indented beakers.

The Group began to plan for this year's dig to start on 15th of June for four weeks, ending with an open day on the 12th July. This year we had students from Nottingham & Newcastle to increase our number.

Work started by opening up the South end of Bath House 2. This revealed the extended hypocaust with more pilae plinths and a curved end wall with a drain

outlet (wood lined). Ingress of water from the spring line continued to give problems, and a pump was required. Finds from this area included pottery (several parts of one pot did match: this was embellished with a white paste applied to the surface), also glass, bronze and a bone hairpin.

An area around Bath House 1 had section of back filled material removed down to the stone foundations, also the drain was opened up. Up by the stoke hole this area was explored in more detail along with the court yard and old cross yard drain.

The small finds from the whole area were as follows:- 10 items of lead, 14 coins, many from the surrounding area, one coin with the image of Romulus & Remus, 5 items of bronze, plus a ring. Most of the glass finds were small - a total of 11 in all, and a quantity of iron, 25 in all, of which 13 are nails, and 1 ring. Flints - 3 in number, also 2 buttons as well as 2 hair pins.

A good quantity of building material including boxflue, roof tiles both Tegula and Imbrex, also a small group of mosaic and painted wall plaster, along with floor tile, Roman concrete, and also a quantity of animal bones.

The open day on the 12th July was well attended and the weather was kind to us. There was a display of Roman Village and camp life along with the soldiers of Legio XIII in action. People found the overall size and complex nature of the excavation site a big surprise.

Brian Culling  
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