



CLASP AGM
Tuesday 12th September 2006
at 7.30pm

Bugbrooke Community Centre, Camp Close
 an ideal opportunity to enjoy talks on the
Romano-British landscape around Wellingborough by
Ian Meadows & Gerry Swallowe on Scientific
approaches to provenancing tile, boxflue & tesserae
AND renew your CLASP membership.

If you are unable to make the A.G.M. then please
send your renewal form enclosed with this newsletter
along with a £5 cheque payable to CLASP to
Julia Johns 7 Eton Close Weedon Bec Daventry
Northants NN7 4PJ contact no 01327 341729 Please
ensure you complete the form with current
email address, mobile number etc.



Colin Evans modelling
 his CLASP T-shirt
 regrettably hat is his own

Navy CLASP T-SHIRTS
will be available for
purchase at the A.G.M.
ONLY £8.00

Available in S,M,L,XL
A must for your
wardrobe



Logo detail
 like header on
 page 1 of
 Newsletter

This newsletter is produced and distributed by the CLASP Organising Committee members . Items for possible inclusion in the next edition should be submitted by 10th December 2006 via email to jane@pigyard.com or phone Jane McCarthy the Editor on 01604 830321 or Kate the Chairman on 07703 548662 . This fourth issue was printed in July 2006.



CLASP
 COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE &
 ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY PROJECT
NEWSLETTER

Website : www.claspweb.org.uk
 Charity No. 1111667



Local Heritage *initiative* **ISSUE 4**

Welcome to our 4th newsletter. We have had a fairly quiet few months since our last newsletter, although behind the scenes we have made good progress with consolidating our standing in the community and achieved recognition as a Group able to provide a useful archaeological service. We have also been awarded two grants to help with reports and have been awarded a grant to fund the second phase of the Local People Local Past project.



As we go to press Whitehall dig has just finished for this year and you will see later in these pages details of opportunities for members to get involved in a geophysics team, field walking, metal detecting surveys and trial trenches. We have managed to include a Saturday for one of these so hopefully this will help our members who have difficulty in attending mid week events.

Our website has also had a makeover - I do hope that where possible you are all keeping up to date with the excellent updates on the Local People - Local Past project.

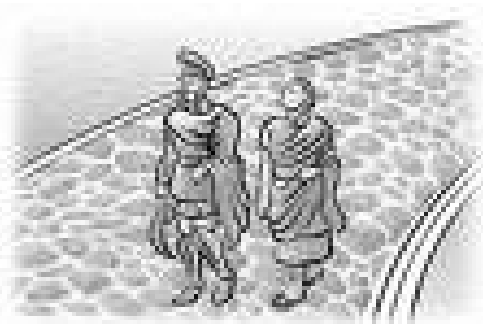
As usual I can't close without saying a big thank you to all our members, as I will keep reminding you, we can't function without you -we need your input for our projects to be successful and our membership fees make a significant contribution to the cost of the projects.

Kate Weaver
Chair - Organising Committee

Once again we would like to thank Dr. Martin Weaver for his generous sponsorship of the CLASP newsletter

The View From the Archaeological Director

The past few months since the last newsletter have been spent in processing the finds found during the previous autumn fieldwork. However on going analysis of the material retrieved has some way to go before we will be able to include the data in the wider landscape survey and settlement characterisation. Some specific work has been commissioned which focuses on the sites of the Roman small town of Bannaventa at Whilton Lodge, the largest villa complex near Barn Close in Harpole and on the site of the Roman villa at Whitehall where this years seventh season of excavation has come to an end.



A geophysical survey of nearly five hectares of Bannaventa, covering the walled area of the town, to the west of the A5 has been undertaken by our colleagues at Northamptonshire Archaeology. The initial results from the magnetometer survey, sponsored by the Roman Research Trust, are outstanding and the general layout of the interior of the later walled area is clearly

revealed. The line of Watling Street is very prominent as are the defensive ditches of the town. There are numerous anomalies covering the interior of the walled area, which are very suggestive of buildings, possibly shops, lining the edge of the great Roman highway. Other identifiable features indicate property boundaries, enclosures and round houses. Further resistivity survey on the densest areas of activity will hopefully reveal the outline plan of the structures along the alignment of Watling Street. There is also clear evidence of a field systems associated with the town.

The Bannaventa coins from our survey are currently being identified by Dr Mark Curteis our resident expert. In addition a further sixty to seventy Roman coins retrieved by members of PAST earlier this year that had been found in a field forming part of the town to the east of the A5 have also been examined. Preliminary discussions with Mark suggest that the Bannaventa coin list has much in common with the one for Whitehall Farm. This demonstrates that we might be able to link the economic profile of the town to



Organising Committee - Secretarial Report

CLASP is progressing well and starting to 'hone the edges'. Various issues to improve our service to members are being taken by your Committee including identifying a need for training, dealt with elsewhere in this newsletter and creating a comprehensive database of landowners and tenant farmers on whose land CLASP operates. Work is being undertaken to create a form of library database of books available for members to utilise.



Dave at Whitehall Farm

During the past few months CLASP has been increasingly concerned with the effect of the budgetary policies of the new administration at Northamptonshire County Council as they affect Archeology and the Heritage of the County. We are currently consulting with South Northants and Daventry District Councils to establish how they intend to 'pick up the pieces'. We submitted evidence to the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Parliamentary Enquiry into 'Protecting, preserving and making accessible our nation's heritage'. In addition to our initial submission we submitted supplementary evidence emphasising our concerns regarding these County Council cuts. We have also established contact with the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation.

We have applied for further funding from the LHI to cover the next phase of the 'Local People - Local Past' Project and await a decision at the time of writing.

Work on developing proposals for a Repository continues, an architectural report has now been obtained and enquiries into various funding sources are being made,

Last but not least, if you have access to email please join the CLASP Mailing Group to get the latest information. Even if you do not have email personally perhaps somebody close to you does who could take messages on your behalf. Visit the website www.clasp.org.uk to get details on how to join.

Dave Hayward



Kate & Sarah logging all the finds at Whitehall Roman Villa July 2006

Report from Whitehall Roman Villa & Landscape Project

At Whitehall Roman Villa we have had a very interesting time in recent months as we battle with the intricacies of box flue tile patterns and, more recently, the varied shapes of profiles and notches on tegula. At present of course, we are in the middle of our summer excavation

and it already looks as though we will have plenty of finds to process for the rest of this year and next. Please check out our website for updates on this year's exciting finds: www.whitehallvilla.co.uk

Our plans for a return to Warwick have been postponed till next year as we treated ourselves to a Spring trip over 2 days in May when we went to Sutton Hoo and Colchester complete with our traditional well lubricated dinner.

Our annual Talk in Nether Heyford village hall was well attended: we had an excellent talk on our Roman Coins by Dr Mark Curteis as well as an update on our Roman Villa by Steve Young. If we survive the dig we will be back at Whitehall Farm on Tuesday afternoons from 26 September from 1.00 pm onwards - you are welcome to join us if you have a few hours to spare.

Kate Weaver

Whitehall Representative

**Saturday 9th September Noon til 5.00pm
OPEN INVITATION to NORTON PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES
SEARCH TEAM'S 2nd EXHIBITION of archaeological finds**

**Hundreds of artefacts covering 2,000years
& Display of Village Photographs**

Refreshments etc

IN

Norton Village Hall, Near Daventry

the wider circle of local rural settlement. Our test pitting in the copse to the west of the Manshead field proved that occupational activity extended some way from the core of the town although it was difficult to ascertain the nature of that activity. The highlight of this autumn's work will be a fieldwalking survey of Manshead field and further geophysical survey in this important southern extension of the town.



A complete tegula found this year at Whitehall Farm Villa

A similar success story was achieved on the Barn Close villa complex where a secondary geophysical survey using resistivity building on earlier work revealed the outline plan of extensive ranges of buildings which formed part of a double courtyard villa. The remains indicate a series of sophisticated structures on a scale significantly larger than Althorp House its modern equivalent. An interesting comparison between the relative sizes of Barn Close and Whitehall Villa can be attempted by calculating the amount of roof tile analysed. At Whitehall three metric tons of material or 49,000 fragments had been processed during the 'dig' whilst over 50,000 fragments were recovered from Barn Close through fieldwalking alone.

A successful conclusion to the second stage of our Heritage Lottery application Local People: Local Past has provided CLASP with a further £14,000 to develop and continue our survey work. This means that we will be able to undertake a detailed geophysical survey of the large courtyard villa at Sharoah field in the parish of Harlestone and to commission work on other key sites where more work remains to be done.

Finally the continued excavation at Whitehall Farm has enabled the team to investigate a new building possibly associated with the earliest phases of the existing bath house. The earliest sealed contexts dating back to the late 1st century AD underlying the villa complex have also been explored.

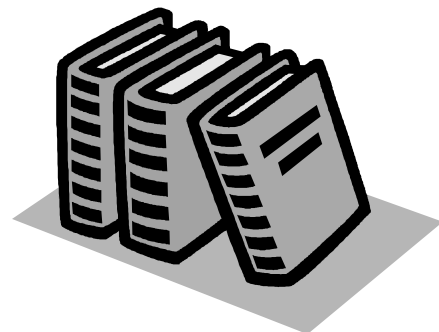
Several projects are being planned for the autumn and I look forward to meeting you again at one of them.

**Stephen Young
Archaeological Director**



CLASP RESOURCE LIBRARY

CLASP is thinking of setting up a resource library. We know just from chatting to each other that many members have books on archaeology, local history and a range of related topics, or have a subscription to a relevant periodical. We'd like to investigate the possibility of running a system through which members would be prepared to lend their publications to others.



We don't have storage premises so we wouldn't be looking to make a book collection. In order to gauge interest, members with anything they would be willing to loan are invited to email me with the title and author and a brief description if the subject matter isn't obvious from the title. I'll compile a list for the members' area of the website. Then borrowers could email me with their requests and I'd put them in touch with the lender. It would be up to the two parties to arrange the loan and return.

It depends on people being willing to lend their books. If you are, please let me know. And we'll see how it works.

Gillian Biddle

GillianBiddle@aol.com

HARPOLE HERITAGE GROUP

Harpole Heritage Group and **CLASP** are grateful to Harpole Parish Council for another grant of £1,000 for archaeology projects in Harpole.

We have been able to carry out geophysical surveys at 'Harpole One' which revealed banks and ditches. At 'Harpole Two' the resistivity survey revealed what appears to be a courtyard style villa with possible audience chamber, plus a number of other buildings. With permission, we hope to have a measured metal detecting survey and more geophysical surveys carried out.

Jennifer Smith
01604 831294

W.E.A (Workers Education Association)

If you are interested in learning more about Archaeology and Roman Northamptonshire then you may wish to join the 10 week courses running this Autumn costing just £36.00 less concessions:

New Techniques in Archaeology

Starting Tuesday 19th September 7.30 - 9.00pm

Byfield School Hall, Bell Lane, Byfield, NN11 6US

Contact Rosemary Johnson 01327 261327

Life in Roman Northamptonshire

Starts Wednesday 20th September 8.00 - 9.30pm

Bliss Charity School, Nether Heyford, NN7 3LL

Contact Ted Garrett 01327 342539

10 week course includes field trip

Life in Roman Northamptonshire

Starts Thursday 21st September 7.45 - 9.15pm

Braunston Junior School, Braunston, NN11

Contact Jackie Green 01788 890145

10 week course includes field trip

Tutor for all of these courses is

Dr Martin Weaver Assoc.MAA, ICON, AEA

WEEDON BEC & BUGBROOKE HISTORY SOCIETY

Need any old photos of Bugbooke or Weedon

Look in your grannies' attic or old suitcases for those wonderful memories of family village life.

Any contributions found will be carefully preserved and returned.

WEEDON : Contact Julia Johns 01327 341729

BUGBROOKE : Contact Alan Kent 01604 830518

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT DIARY DATES CONTACT:

Norton Northampton PAST	Brian Ives	01604 719288
Weedon Bec History Society	Julia Johns	01327 341729
Flore Heritage Society	Alan Priestley	01327 349594
Brington History Society	Andrew Shaw	01604 770668
Harpole Heritage Group	Jennifer Smith	01604 831294
Whitehall Farm Roman Villa & Landscape Project	Kate Weaver	07703 548662
Towcester & District Local History Society	Gina Borham	01327 352687
Www,mkheritage.co.uk/tdlhs		
Bugbrooke History Society	Alan Kent	01604 830518

Wider Archaeological World Website

If you are interested in the wider Archaeological world then a visit to: <http://www.bajr.org/BAJRCalendar/> will keep you up to date on events in Archaeology both within the UK and further afield.

MEDICVS and the Disappearing Dancing Girls

Ruth Downie a **CLASP** member has written a book called 'MEDICVS and the Disappearing Dancing Girls'

Publisher: Michael Joseph Ltd ISBN: 0718149297

Amazon's comment reads "with wonderful comic timing and an irresistible sense of humour, this is a beguiling and unique novel introducing Ruso and Tilla the hottest detective pairing to come out of the Roman Empire.

I have ordered my copy and cannot wait to read it. Ed

Do YOU want to become more involved?

CLASP want to train a team of volunteers to be able to carry out geophysical surveys. This is an opportunity to become involved in the many and varied projects in the area with hands on experience of the equipment used, such as the resistivity meter. Training will be given at Bannaventa in September.

Further details contact Steve Young 01327 340494

Council for Independent Archaeologists Conference

CLASP has been asked to host the bi-annual conference of the Council for Independent Archaeologists which will take place at Bugbrooke Community Centre on 23rd September 10.00 to 5.00pm. The theme of Conference is Community Archaeology. There will be a talk by Neil Faulkner of books & television fame, plus talks by several experienced **CLASP** volunteers. A special price of £20 for **CLASP** members includes lunch and a tour of Whitehall Roman Villa .

**Tickets for this event are available from Mike Rumbold 01327 340855
The Horseshoes, Main Street, Upper Stowe, Northampton NN7 4SH.**

Training for CLASP Members

CLASP is anxious to ensure we meet our members needs for training and to this end Barbara Evans Rees has devised a questionnaire which you will find enclosed with this newsletter.

It would be a great help to us if you would complete this and return to Barbara as soon as possible and before 31st August. Thank you

Community Archaeology Course

Opportunities in association with University of Northampton.

Starting in October validated to Archaeological Certificate/Degree standard.

Module 1 : Analysing material culture (recognising, recording & interpreting Roman pottery)

Module 2 : Fieldwork techniques & Approaches (The how & why of fieldcraft)

Contact the Archaeological Director Stephen Young for further details 01327 340494

Jeremy Cooper Web Master



Here is a rare photo of the Webmaster for both the **CLASP** and Whitehall Roman Villa websites, he is an unsung hero for all the time, effort and humour interlaced with expert fact that appears on these sites.

Jeremy, thank you for all the hard work.

Visit : www.claspweb.org.uk
and www.whitehallvilla.co.uk

Diary of Events for CLASP Groups from July 2006

This is not a totally comprehensive list, see the contact list for up to date information.

Date	Time	Subject	Village	Group
Thursday 10th August	7.00 8.00 pm	Supper followed by Conservation & Reconstruction by Dr Martin Weaver	Methodist Chapel Harpole	Harpole Heritage Group
Monday 28th to Weds 30th August	9.30 To 4.30	METAL DETECTING Survey at Harpole	Limited places Contact Jennifer Smith 01604 831294	
Early September		FIELD WALKING at Bannaventa & other sites (Gayton)	Contact Beryl & Robin Vowles 01604 646892 Or Margaret McIntosh 01327 340954	
Wednesday 6th September	7.30	AGM of Flore Heritage Society	The Chapel School Room, Flore	Flore Heritage Society
Saturday 9th September	12. To 5.00 pm	2nd exhibition of Archaeological Finds	Norton Village Hall	Norton Portable Antiquities Search team
Tuesday 12th September	7.30 pm	CLASP AGM Speakers Ian Meadow & Gerry Swallowe see back page.	Bugbrooke Community Centre, Camp Close Bugbrooke	CLASP
Wednesday 13th September	7.30 pm	Northamptonshire Early Postal service speaker Derek Smeathers	Bugbrooke Commu- nity Centre, Camp Close Bugbrooke	Bugbrooke History Society
Wednesday 13th September	7.30 pm	Stoke Bruerne Museum & Canal History speaker Brian Collins	Riverside Centre Islington Road Towcester NN12 7AU	Towcester & District Local History Soc.
Thursday 14th September	7.30	Moulton Morris Men by Barry Care	Methodist Chapel, Harpole	Harpole Heritage Group
Monday 18th September	7.30 pm	Talk on 'Doddridge' a well known 18th cen- tury dissenting minister by Malcolm Malsor	Chapel Schoolroom (Park in Church Street and walk to chapel)	Weedon Bec History Society

Date	Time	Subject	Village	Group
Saturday 23rd September	All day	Jubilee Display/ Exhibition of Flore Heritage Society Photos of old Flore	Millennium Village Hall	Flore Heritage Society
End of Sept/ Early Oct	10.00 To 4.00	METAL DETECTING SURVEY at Whitehall Farm	Contact Kate for exact dates nearer the time 07703 548662	
Saturday 7th October	9.00 To 4.15	Romans, Religion & Railways. A day of History in Towcester	Riverside Centre Islington Road Towcester	Towcester & District Local History Soc.
Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th October	9.30 To 4.00	Harpit & Flaxlands at Harpole FIELD WALKING	Interested in helping with field walking. Contact Kate 07703 548662	
Wednesday 11th October	7.30 pm	Selling the M1 & Other Motorways by Maurice Ribbons	Riverside Centre Islington Road Towcester	Towcester & District Local History Soc.
Thursday 12th October	7.30	War Baby by Malcolm Deacon	Methodist Chapel Harpole	Harpole Heritage Group
Monday 16th October	7.30 pm	Delapre Abbey by Colin Spears	The Reading Room Great Brington	Brington History Society
Wednesday 8th November	7.30	Roman Childhood by Dr Janet Huskinson	Riverside Centre Islington Road Towcester	Towcester & District Local History Soc.
Thursday 9th November	7.00 pm	Annual Dinner & Quiz	Methodist Chapel Harpole	Harpole Heritage Group
Monday 27th November	7.30	Musical memories of the 1950's	Chapel Schoolroom (Park in Church St. and walk to chapel)	Weedon Bec History Society
Wednesday 13th December	7.30	Visit from Syresham Singers. Shared supper & raffle	Riverside Centre Islington Road Towcester	Towcester & District Local History Soc.