



# CLASP

## Community Landscape & Archæology Survey Project NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.claspweb.org.uk](http://www.claspweb.org.uk)

Charity No 1111667



Local Heritage initiative September 2015, Issue 22

## **Notice of the Annual General Meeting and Nomination Forms are shown on pages 3-5 inclusive.**

---

### **From Dave Hayward, Chairman of Trustees**

Another six months has passed since our last Newsletter. Hopefully you will see from others contributions that CLASP has had a busy and successful few months with previously unknown archaeological features being found in at least two locations. Other ongoing work has helped reinforce our knowledge of existing sites.

I am very proud to be able to report this level of success, personally I doubt whether this level of success is being repeated elsewhere. I recently attended a conference organised by the CBA that was seeking to encourage groups like ours to engage with their relevant local authorities to attempt to mitigate the effects of government austerity cuts on local heritage. Once again I was very pleased to say that as a result of some tentative and proactive approaches your Trustees are starting to build a positive relationship with our local authority. Hopefully I will be able to report fully on these discussions at the AGM in October.

One word comes out of all this is **PROACTIVE**. This word has been our ethos in all aspects of our work. It is important to remember that nothing comes to you, we have to go out and get it!

*cont page 2*

I hope to see you all at the AGM and Open Meeting at Bugbrooke on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, our guest speaker Emeritus Professor Gary Lock is perhaps the top expert on hill-forts in the country. Please can we have a maximum turn out to hear his and others talks.

---

## **From Rob Close, Chairman of the Organising Committee**

I took over from Dave Hayward as Chairman of the Committee just after the 2014 AGM. I am pleased to report that Jim Aveling (Blisworth Heritage Society) volunteered to become Secretary.

We started the year with a review of the role of the Committee. The members of the Committee confirmed that there were three key roles:

- Plan, arrange and monitor the practical archaeological activities of CLASP.
- Take responsibility for specific activities and projects as delegated to it by the Executive Committee, particularly those contained within the CLASP Strategy Document and its relevant supporting sub-strategies.
- Ensure effective communication between CLASP's official bodies and its member organisations and individual and associate members in support of CLASP's Constitutional Objective "TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECT OF ARCHAEOLOGY, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, IN WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE."

Three main archaeological projects were planned for Summer 2015. Unfortunately, the excavation at Harpole had to be cancelled but hopefully by the time of the October AGM many members would have participated and enjoyed the excavations at Norton and Paulerspury.

Four members of the Committee have been supporting Gren Hatton (Barby) in surveying Hill Forts in Northamptonshire as input into a National Project led by Professor Gary Lock at Oxford University. Attendees at the AGM will have the opportunity to hear about this project from both Professor Lock and Gren.

*cont page 3*

Guidelines have been produced for the retention of artefacts. Whilst it is likely that certain artefacts will always be retained (e.g. small finds, coin and pottery) the decision whether to retain other items will depend on the Objective for the research.

The Committee has considered how CLASP might increase its membership. One proposal is to organise special events at which tutorials or demonstrations might be provided. The Trustees are now considering how to take this forward.

Committee Members are always open to suggestions from both Independent Members and Affiliate members and Societies in relation to activities you might wish to participate in or with respect to communication (e.g. what you would like to hear about, how we communicate to you and you to us).

## **Annual General Meeting**

**7pm, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the Bugbrooke Community  
Centre, Camp Close, Bugbrooke, NN7 3RW**

**All Individual members, society nominated representatives and associate  
members are invited to attend**

### **Agenda**

- 1. Attendance and apologies**
- 2. Adoption of Minutes for AGM 2014**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Welcome by Chair**
- 5. Adoption of Annual report of the Trustees**
- 6. Adoption of triennial elections for Trustees**
- 7. Adoption of triennial elections for Chair, Secretary and  
Treasurer of Trustees**
- 8. Appointment of Trustees**
- 9. Election of Chair of Trustees**
- 10. Election of Secretary of Trustees**
- 11. Election of Treasurer**
- 12. Any other competent business**

*cont page 4*

**Please note that printed copies of the Annual Report will be available at the AGM but electronic copies will be circulated to members before the meeting. Any member, individual or associate who is not on the CLASPWEB mailing group and who wishes to receive a copy of the report please forward your email address to the Secretary as soon as possible. This will also allow you to receive circulated information on CLASPWEB throughout the year.**

Please also note that nominations for appointment to the Trustees and the positions of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer must be received by the Secretary before the commencement of the AGM. Nominations must be signed by a member entitled to vote at the AGM, ie an individual member of CLASP or the nominated representative of a member organisation. It must state the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a Trustee or as an office holder and must be signed by that person to confirm that they are willing to serve.

S. Deacon, Secretary to the Trustees  
6 Cyclamen Close  
Northampton  
NN3 3XL  
[sandydeacon@hotmail.com](mailto:sandydeacon@hotmail.com)

---

**Nomination Forms are shown on page 5**

*cont page 5*

# Nomination Form

## TRUSTEES

I (printed) .....

signed .....

propose (printed) .....  
as willing to stand for appointment to the Trustees of CLASP

I (printed) .....  
am willing to stand for appointment as a CLASP Trustee

signed .....

# Nomination Form

## Officers

I (printed) .....

signed .....

propose (printed) .....

as willing to stand for the Office of: .....

I (printed) .....

am willing to stand for the Office of: .....

signed .....





Community  
Landscape  
Archaeology  
Survey  
Project

---

## PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 7th October 2015, 7.30pm  
(following the AGM at 7pm)

---

### National Hillfort Mapping Project

- CLASP's Mapping of Northamptonshire Hillforts  
Gren Hatton
- Mapping Hillforts - Problems and Progress  
Gary Lock, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology  
School of Archaeology, Oxford University

### Update on CLASP fieldwork

Stephen Young  
Archaeological Director for CLASP

---

Admission FREE  
but donations to CLASP  
will be welcome

Bugbrooke Sports and  
Community Centre,  
Camp Close, Bugbrooke,  
Northampton NN7 3RW

*Raffle, tea/coffee, display stands*

---

[www.claspweb.org.uk](http://www.claspweb.org.uk)

## From Steve Young, Archaeological Director

CLASP's summer programme of fieldwork has been subject to a degree of change with certain initiatives delayed whilst another offers an unexpected opportunity. On the negative side the number of excavations planned for the summer was heavily curtailed with two of the three proposed excavations being cancelled at least for this year. The delay is frustrating but circumstances mitigated against work being undertaken in the time scale available. I know this is disappointing but it is only a postponement and we will be able to undertake the fieldwork next year. Those sites affected included the proposed field work on the Romano-British villa in Harpole parish and the potential villa complex and possible Early Roman marching camp in Paulerspury parish. Never-the-less this year's experience highlights amongst other things the changing pace of farming practice and its ability to impact on and truncate the overall time scale available for fieldwork.

Meanwhile the third excavation at Thrupp was successfully undertaken and has provided an additional unexpected chance to continue the investigation across a wider adjacent area later in the summer. This will help us to compare and contrast diverse areas of the site and to appreciate any differences in the level of archaeological survival across the settlement. The excavation site lies to the west of Thrupp Farm near Norton, Northamptonshire and to north of the B3046 Long Buckby to Daventry Road. Our rationale for excavating here reflected three influencing factors: a significant spread of archaeological features identified during a recent extensive geophysical survey in the general area, the nature of the structural evidence revealed in the cable trench rescue excavation located to the east on the southern verge of the B4036 which was excavated before Christmas and the fact that Roman pottery and coins have been found in the field. Hopefully the findings from this fieldwork, at the very least, will help to identify the extent of the Deserted Medieval Village at Thrupp as well as enlighten our understanding of the connection between these remains and the possible earlier Roman settlement upon which they lie.

The exploratory excavation consisted of three trial trenches and a test pit. These were placed strategically across the field with reference to known geophysical anomalies in order to afford the best opportunity to classify and date the remains and to assess the level of archaeological survival. Removal of the

*cont page 8*

over burden revealed the 'natural' was composed of heavy clay which supported very little depth of topsoil indicating a paucity of period based deposition and an almost non-existent archaeological horizon. Indeed two of the trenches exhibited evidence of both mechanical and horse drawn ploughing scraping directly into the underlying clay. This probably accounts for the long term use of the field for pasture since enclosure in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century and the relative short period of arable cultivation at some stage in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and in the 1960s.



Ironworking hearths at Thrupp. Photo: Don Martin

Significantly, all of the datable features below the plough horizon that were cut directly into the clay appeared to be Roman in date while none could positively be ascribed to the medieval period. However occupation of the site in the medieval era was suggested by the spread of residual pottery recovered from the plough soil. Any structural evidence for medieval buildings appearing to be extremely ephemeral and probably means what has survived is disturbed and now is dispersed in the plough soil. One should note however the existence of habitable 'crofts' is still indicated by the existence of earthworks associated with observable raised rectangular platforms or closes within the field and the existence of a substantial moat and potential manor site at the extreme edge of the field under investigation. These remains are currently thought to be medieval and should be detectable as well as datable archaeologically in any future excavations.

The main features noted in two of the trenches were ditches whilst the third held two ironworking hearths. Although I have not been able to make a detailed study of the pottery assemblage, both ditches appear to have been 'dug' during the late 2<sup>nd</sup> to late 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD and to have been abandoned by the early to mid 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. This initial assessment might signify that many of the anomalies discovered in the geophysical survey are indeed reflecting an underlying Roman settlement. A consequence of this being that the Deserted

*cont page 9*



Medieval village of Trupp was either significantly smaller than previously believed or that it had a more complex evolutionary development. Interestingly small amounts of slag from iron working were also recovered from the fill of all three trial trenches as well as the core of an iron bloom. Unfortunately, there was no dating evidence associated with the hearths but their significance lies in the fact that they indicate that we may be dealing with an iron working area.



Section across Roman ditch  
photo: Don Martin

Very indistinct elements of a roughly metallated track way were also observed in one trench and the test pit consistent with the thoroughfare identified in the geophysical survey. The track way evidently was the major east/west highway through the Deserted Medieval village. Small spreads of random limestone observed in two of the trial trenches could also

be archaeological in nature and possibly were related to flooring surfaces but they are far too eroded and truncated to confirm such an interpretation.

An assemblage of over 700 shards was recovered from the trial trenches and a range of iron objects including a medieval horse shoe, a knife blade and several nails. Three noteworthy small finds included a late Roman coin which had been pierced for use as an earring probably in the Anglo Saxon period, a 15<sup>th</sup> century copper alloy belt buckle and a curved blade that could be a fragment of a *seax* or Saxon short sword. The blade will be subjected to X ray by Dr Graham Morgan for further investigation and more detailed study.

## From Gren Hutton, Barby Hill Summer 2015

### Barby Hill Iron Age Settlement

Continuing excavation work was carried out during the 2014/15 season, with 3 further trial trenches excavated in Field 02. These revealed exciting evidence of iron-smelting from a series of large hearths grouped together on the

*cont page 10*

hilltop – our first solid evidence that this site had an industrial component in addition to purely domestic occupation and rearing of flocks and herds.

This site continues to grow in significance – so much so that, when Severn Trent Water decided to go ahead with further expansion of their reservoir perched right on the end of the hill, they were formally required by NCC to call in Cotswold Archaeology to carry out extensive detailed excavation within the reservoir compound (see photograph, courtesy of Severn Trent). This has revealed new evidence of deep-ditched enclosures, similar in type to those found on other nearby Iron Age sites.



The rest of the hilltop remains under the archaeological supervision of the Barby Hill Archaeological Project. As part of our work in the last season, we collected and wet-sieved about 500kg of soil samples from around our dig sites ... and we are now ready to start analysing these samples.

Help will be warmly welcomed from any CLASP members interested in

assisting with the analysis of the dry residues of these soil samples – for further details, please contact Gren Hatton at [ghatton@toucansurf.com](mailto:ghatton@toucansurf.com)

### **Iron Age Hillfort Survey Project**

In Autumn 2013, CLASP undertook to assist national teams working to compile an ‘Atlas of British Iron Age Hillforts’ (jointly led by groups at the universities of Oxford and Edinburgh), by carrying out surveys of all known prehistoric hillforts in Northamptonshire. A team of six CLASP members was assembled, co-ordinated for CLASP by Gren Hatton.

It was clear from the outset that this project would include both fieldwork and desktop research, and extensive use has been made of the documentary and digital resources of Northamptonshire HER (including the MapInfo database of known heritage locations and artefacts, and the geological map of Northamptonshire made available in MapInfo-compliant format by the kind offices of NCC). Regular liaison has also been made with MOLA(N) [Museum of

*cont page 11*

London Archaeology (Northampton), formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology] to consult their documentary archives and practical experience. Finally, the ‘Northamptonshire Mapping Project’ by Messrs Foard and Deegan has proved a valuable reference source, as has the ‘Wessex Hillforts Project’ (both sets of project reports have been made freely available via the Internet in digital PDF format).

Having obtained as much background data as possible on the various sites in Northamptonshire and held teach-in sessions with the team members to disseminate this data, initial surveys of the main hillfort sites were carried out by members of the CLASP team during 2014 and 2015. An individual detailed report was submitted for each site – and in some cases, new data was uncovered which allowed partial or even total re-interpretation of previous reports.

A total of 12 Northamptonshire hillfort sites have now been surveyed in detail – the only outstanding task is to survey the major hillfort site at Borough Hill Daventry, which was deliberately saved until last. Copies of each report have been forwarded to the project’s central management at Oxford University, who have been warm in their praise of the high standards to which we are working.

A summary of the work carried out by CLASP on these hillfort surveys will be presented at the CLASP AGM, as a prelude to the main event of the evening – a detailed lecture from Professor Gary Lock of Oxford University (to whom we are reporting on the project) under the heading ‘Mapping Hillforts: Problems and Progress’.

For all further details, contact Gren Hatton at [ghatton@toucansurf.com](mailto:ghatton@toucansurf.com).

---

### **From Jennifer Smith, Harpole Heritage Group**

Harpole Heritage Group is thriving and there is usually a good turnout of members and visitors to the meetings. The speakers have been interesting, although on three occasions, for various reasons, speakers could not come and the secretary had to quickly find others.

We have heard about Landmark in Northamptonshire, the LMS Patriot Project when a number of railway enthusiasts joined us. We enjoyed a WWI Dinner followed by 6 speakers with stories about that terrible war, then we

*cont page 12*

learned about the many iron age coins and other artefacts found from the Hallerton Treasure, we heard of the many buildings built by Alexander Ellis Anderson in Northampton, of which there are a number, the secretary spoke about the Industrial buildings in the village and this was followed by a walk at a later date to look at them. One of our members also spoke about The Friends Ambulances in Ethiopia during WWII.

At our AGM we saw slides of the Lost Buildings in Northamptonshire, which is changing all the time with many houses planned to be built. We have learned about the many prisoners of war who were stationed at Eastcote Camp, Pattishall during WWI.

A decision was made jointly by Harpole Parish Council and the Heritage group to remove the Mosaic Seats which had become unsightly and dangerous over the years, these had been erected as part of a project called The Spirit of the Valley during 2000.

To raise money for our funds we have an Annual Dinner and a Summer Lunch and help cater for the many visitors to Harpole who come to the Annual Scarecrow Festival. We all know that during the week proceeding this event in September, we shall be making many cakes.

We displayed the photographs of all the men from Harpole who lost their lives in the two world wars at the Remembrance Day Service plus photographs of the crew who died in the Wellington Bomber crash on Glassthorpe Hill. Three members of Sgt Sidney Francis Coleman's family had travelled up from Frome to remember him and see his name on the plaque, which the Heritage group had placed on the War Memorial the previous year. A generous donation was given to our funds. Two of our Flight books were also purchased, one was given to the Frome Museum and the other to the Wellington Bomber Museum.

CLASP has been supported over the years by Harpole Parish Council who give a generous grant when we request one. The owners/farmers also welcome us onto their land and are interested to learn what has been found on the Roman sites. The Heritage Group often receive requests for help from people who just contact us, this year one came from USA and another from New Zealand and we always help where we can.

---

## From Alan Standish, Northamptonshire Artefact Recovery Club

The past year has been a very busy one indeed for our club members. With many important finds, and several treasure items, recorded with Portable Antiquities Scheme. The clubs work, ethos and reputation continues to attract a lot of interest from other professional bodies.

Our detailed work to the south of Daventry is continuing to create a great deal of interest from a lot of quarters. We continue to work very closely with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and some CLASP groups, in support of their projects.

Members of the group have quite a number of finds going through the treasure process, as well as having the pleasure of discovering quite a few rare finds, eg:

- The first ever button recorded of the Banbury and Bloxham Infantry
- A gold posy ring, complete with a delicate crafted design, with the inscription “No Frind to faith”
- A rare Anglo Saxon coin from the time of OFFA
- Several square headed and clover leaf Saxon brooches
- A Saxon burial – which is in the process of application to excavate the site. [More information will probably be available at the AGM]
- A 6<sup>th</sup> century Merovingen brooch, with no known parallels in the UK but with a similarity to those found on the Austrian/German border

NARC Members are very grateful to have the advice and support of Peter Waddell, Chair of the Northampton Numismatic Society. We place on record our thanks to Peter and his contacts for helping identify the many jetons and coinage that we recover.

Peter has also written a superb book on Northamptonshire Trade tokens and it has proved to be a very valuable resource for us.

*cont page 14*

It has indeed been a very positive year and the next 12 months look just as interesting as we continue to develop our excellent reputation across the region. If your group would like our support, feel free to get in touch through the club website [www.narc.org.uk](http://www.narc.org.uk)

Here's wishing all CLASP groups another successful 12 months in their endeavours.

---

### **From Jim Aveling, Blisworth Heritage Society**

Our mid-seasonal break ended on an ironstone quarrying theme with visits to the Hunsbury Ironstone Trust and Irchester Country Park followed by talks about the museums and the industry. Since our last report the Society has enjoyed a varied programme of talks about canal boat families, Eleanor Crosses, railway reminiscences, the history of the Royal and Derngate theatres, and views of old Northampton. Several meetings have been devoted to purely Blisworth topics and a Blisworth theme will be the subject of two of this Autumn's meetings featuring the life and work of Richard Dunkley and the story of Blisworth men in World War I.

---

### **From Mike Goodman, NN PAST**

**(Norton Northamptonshire Portable Antiquities Search Team)**

The last year has seen no particularly significant finds from Norton parish. Finds have, in any case, been few in number due to the very limited period our members are able to search as a result of modern farming methods. Several acres of arable land which had previously produced some good coins and artefacts have now been turned over to grazing for cattle.

The History Group section of Norton PAST was actively involved in organising an exhibition in Norton village hall to commemorate the start of the First World War. The exhibition, held in August 2014, was focused on the 16 men from Norton parish who made the ultimate sacrifice and who are remembered on the Norton War Memorial. As a result of many hours of research by the History Group members, the displays included a considerable amount of information about each man including photographs, service and

*cont page 15*

family history, medals etc.

It was felt that a permanent record of the event should be created and with the help of a grant from Norton Parish Council, a 52 page commemorative booklet has been published, copies of which have been distributed to every household in Norton parish and presented to family descendants of those lost in action.

---

## **From Gina Boreham, Towcester and District Local History Society**

“When the Zeppelins Came” was the subject set by TDLHS for a fiction writing competition run through the summer term – aimed to bring entries from South Northants children up to the age of 16. The response was excellent with 100 entries that needed a panel of eight judges to tackle. The eventual winner was Lotty Dawson from Paulerspury CE School with Phoebe Anderson from Towcester as runner-up. Four more entries received prizes for being specially commended.

The competition was run as part of the Towcester Area WW1 commemoration programme and the prizes (all book tokens) were sponsored by Milton Keynes Archaeological Association. The awards ceremony was held at the new Towcester Library who had prepared special certificates for every child who took part.

In July the TDLHS scheduled their annual outing and this year the focus was an ancient Roman city and a visit to the estate of Lord Faringdon. Cirencester was the second largest city in Roman Britain and the group had the opportunity to visit the established Corinum Museum, its fine Parish Church or indeed the modern shopping area.

Buscot Park, the family home of Lord Faringdon was the next port of call and the house and gardens were enjoyed by all.

Monthly meetings continue to be well attended during which a diverse range of subjects from Sex, Drink & Death in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the Cotwolds

*cont page 16*

Archaeology report on Moat Lane were most engaging and stimulating for all members.

### **Lactodorum Hinterland Survey**

Work to better understand the Romano-British settlements around Towcester and enhance our knowledge of the local rural Roman landscape has continued through surface finds collection at several new sites. To the south of Towcester, near Watling Street (A5), where Northamptonshire Archaeology's 2012 geophysical survey indicated a palimpsest of enclosures, pottery collected indicates occupation in 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Further south, and set back from Watling Street, a site first excavated and published in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Henry Dryden has revealed Roman building material and pottery. Whilst the main aim of our survey is to enable a comparison to be made between Roman settlement in the 'South' and 'North' of CLASP's research area, an offshoot is being pursued at Wood Burcote (part of the Towcester Southern Extension building area), where, field walking has identified two fields with considerable amounts of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> medieval pottery and iron slag.

The ongoing programme to preserve the material from the Burcote Wood Farm 1970s excavation by Roy Turland has continued. An Access database has been created listing all the 800 significant sherds of pottery which have been bagged by area or feature, and are now stored in 16 archive boxes. All the slides and photographs of the excavation are currently being scanned by Don Martin.

In April we attended a seminar on Romano-British Rural Settlements sponsored by the University of Reading, and in February one of our members attended the CBA 'Introduction to Roman Pottery' course at Oxford. The CBA's South Midlands Spring Meeting this year was held in Towcester, again we attended with our Archaeological Director, Steve, with whom we gratefully thank for his advice and support throughout the year.

In response to Planning Consent being given to a site in Water Lane, Towcester, Network Archaeology carried out an Evaluation in July and

*cont page 17*



August. During the excavation, which revealed significant Roman features, we were given permission to collect surface finds of pottery from the spoil heaps resulting from pre-excavation machine stripping. A large amount of pottery, some building material and slag were collected which when processed will allow comparison to be made between the two CLASP fortified towns on Watling Street - Towcester in the south and Bannaventa in the north.

---

### **From Norman Garnett, The Whitehall Group**

2015 has been a fairly quiet year for Whitehall as regards 'trowel on the ground' activities. Several members have participated in archaeological activities in the surrounding areas to some extent or another, together with members from other CLASP groups.

The on-going work at Whitehall continues to comprise the compilation and digitisation of the photographic records of the Whitehall site over the years, the analysis and recording of the glass finds and also the copying and digitisation of the plans and sections.

These activities should keep us going well into the 22<sup>nd</sup> century.....this is not a typo.

Other activities have included a well attended day outing in July to Wroxeter (Virconium) with a tour of the site, organised by Margaret Mackintosh, and a lunch in Much Wenlock, organised by Lesley Allen.

---

**Deadline for the February 2016 Newsletter will be Sunday, January 17, 2016. All photos please at approx 300 dpi and separate from the text with indications of their positions.**

## List of Contacts for CLASP Associations

Organisation	Contact	Tel
Norton, Northampton PAST	Francis Rodriguez	01327 872030
Weedon Bec History Society	Julia Johns	01327 341729
Flore Heritage Society	John Smith	01327 340387
Brington History Society	Ian Dexter	01604 771353
Harpole Heritage Group	Jennifer Smith	01604 831294
Whitehall Farm Roman Villa Landscape Project	Norman Garnett	01604 755479
Towcester & District Local History Society	Gina Boreham	01327 352687
Bugbrooke History Society	Alan Kent	01604 830518
Friends of Daventry Museums	David Adams	01327 605372
Blisworth Heritage Society	Jim Aveling	01604 859109
History of Tiffield Society	Steve Jowers	01327 350292
Northampton Artefact Recovery Club	Alan Standish	Not available
Barby Hill Archaeological Project	Gren Hatton	01788 822411

---