



# CLASP

## Community Landscape & Archæology Survey Project NEWSLETTER

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

Charity No 1111667



August 2012, Issue 16

**May I remind members of the Annual General Meeting with the Agenda shown below. It will be followed by the public meeting shown on page 2.**

**The CLASP Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7.00 pm and in the Nether Heyford Village Hall.**

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the last AGM, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Acceptance of Annual Report\*
8. Appointment of Trustees\*\*
9. Appointment of Officers: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
10. AOB

\* Printed copies of the Annual Report will be available at the meeting but members wishing to read it beforehand will be able to find it on the CLASP website shortly.

\*\* Please note that nominations for appointment to the Trustees must be

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received by the Acting-Chairman, Nick Adams, before the AGM (Nick Adams, Simons Cottage, Stowehill, Weedon; Nick.Adams@farmline.com)

The nomination must be signed by a member entitled to vote at the AGM, ie a member of CLASP or an organisation approved by the Trustees. It must state the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a Trustee and must be signed by that person to confirm that they are willing to serve.



**CLASP**

Community Landscape & Archaeology Survey Project

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## **PUBLIC MEETING**

Monday 17th September 2012, 7.30pm  
(following the AGM at 7pm)

### **Hundred Meeting Places of West Northamptonshire**

a talk by Dave Hayward of CLASP

*also*

### **Update on CLASP fieldwork**

Stephen Young  
University of Northampton,  
Archaeological Director for CLASP

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Admission FREE  
but donations to CLASP  
will be welcome

Nether Heyford Village Hall  
- on the South side  
of the Green  
NN7 3LE

Raffle, tea/coffee, display stands

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

## **From *Dave Hayward*, your Organising Committee Chairman**

This is my first 'dual headed' submission to the Newsletter since I was appointed Chair of the Organising Committee at its last meeting. I have therefore little to say from the Chair perspective at this stage except that I hope to be able to guide the Committee from strength to strength and ensure the increasing involvement of as many members, both individual and society, in our activities as possible. Don't forget as well that members of societies are Associate Members of CLASP which in its own right provides them with access to CLASP activities except the right to vote. For any organisation to succeed it is vital that its activities encompass as many members as possible and not just a small core of involved people.

From the research perspective, your Organising Committee is still formulating a Research Strategy Document to enable both Individual and Society members to submit their own research proposals to the Organising Committee. This will then ensure that all research undertaken in the name of CLASP is to a common standard and is properly resourced before commencement. The intention is that this Strategy will be an offshoot of an overall CLASP Strategy document that is currently being considered at Trustees. The Research Strategy and the associated pro-forma for completion by the applicant will be available to download from the CLASP website. The intention is that this system will be live from about the date of the AGM and Open Meeting in September.

The current research into the Hundred Meeting Sites of West Northamptonshire will feature as a presentation at the Open Meeting.

The Towcester Hinterland Project is also progressing with its work identifying the significant level of Roman-British activity in those parishes bordering Towcester.

A magnetometer survey at Descote revealed evidence of a structure that requires further investigation to confirm what it is. Place name evidence for Descote may indicate a grange, perhaps with some association with deer but this cannot be confirmed at this stage. Thanks must be given to Fred Kay and David Wilcox respectively for undertaking the survey itself and the subsequent analysis of the data obtained. This just goes to show the wealth of talent that we have in our membership.

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## **From Norman Garnett, Secretary to the Organising Committee**

The major work at Whitehall has finally drawn to a close in what was probably the wettest 'dig' period we have had for many a year. The closing day took place but with rather a sense of nostalgia and loss, giving a period of reflection about what had been achieved over the years and those who contributed, some sadly no longer with us. However it is expected that further, smaller scale exploratory work may take place in the future.

A considerable amount of project work has been undertaken in the past few months for other organisations and the CLASP magnetometer has been put to regular use on projects such as Tiffield, Barby Hill, Bannaventa and with MKHA.

There has been CLASP involvement at several venues throughout the past few months. This will continue with CLASP to be represented at Archaeology Days in Wellingborough (6th October 2012) and at Milton Keynes (November 2012). In addition, Steve Young will be presenting a talk on CLASP and its works at a seminar in Derby on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

CLASP has also been well represented on local Radio Northampton, with interviews being carried out during the Whitehall project & with Northampton and Daventry newspapers. The Tiffield site was also visited by reporters from the Northampton Chronicle & Echo.

Member groups at the Organisation Committee meetings continue to be well represented. Jeremy Cooper resigned from the post of Chairman of the Organising Committee with this role being taken on by Dave Hayward. Jeremy was invited to continue as a co-opted member as required.

The search for alternative storage facilities for the archive materials continues. Several possibilities have been reviewed but, unfortunately, these have been on the basis of leases renewable after approximately 12 months, which does not offer the long-term facility which we would prefer.

CLASP is still trying to compile a portfolio of volunteers who would be willing to offer their experience and expertise in any subject areas which might be of benefit to fellow CLASP members.

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As the uptake on this has been fairly limited (6 so far), it was perhaps not originally indicated enough that these areas of expertise need not be restricted to purely archaeological subjects but could be expanded to include other areas which may be useful to fellow members. As examples, these could include a knowledge of cataloguing, archiving, technical drawing, surveying, wood-working, book-keeping, etc. In fact, anything which could be of benefit to those in other groups who perhaps might not have the appropriate depth of knowledge.

All in all, CLASP continues to be busy in all its component areas with several projects either in progress or proposed for the future. This is mainly due to the continued commitment by the members which will carry us forward into 2013 and beyond (with apologies to Buzz Lightyear).

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**From *Steve Young, Archaeological Director***

A major element of fieldwork undertaken since the last newsletter has been a concentration of resources on completing extensive geophysical surveys of three selected Romano-British sites that are amongst our current investigative sample of settlements. Our overall aims are to establish a workable and effective approach to field work using CLASP's Bartington magnetometer by furthering our experience and understanding of the technical possibilities as well as to build on our volunteers' capacity to engage in survey activities through the provision of 'real life' training opportunities. The instrument was also utilized in another exploratory project connected with landscape analysis at Newport Pagnell in which CLASP was happy to collaborate because of the financial support received from Milton Keynes for the original purchase of the magnetometer.

The first large scale investigation was on one of the sites that comprise a group of settlements centred on the parish of Tiffield. These settlements are important in that they will help develop our models of understanding concerning the nature of locality and its interface with Romanization and for recognising the archaeological profiles that will support the theoretical arguments subsequently engendered. Our investigation covered an area of five hectare of the complex and its surrounding neighbourhood. Initially the

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fieldwork was designed as a reconnaissance to provide a different geological and natural environment, along with another location in Paulerspury, within which the instrument and our growing level of competence could be tested. However the quality of the results encouraged us to proceed with a much larger and more inclusive study across the full extent of the settlement. These results have enabled us to catch our first archaeological glimpse of the reality of rural settlement in the hinterland of Lactodurum lying to the north of that roadside station and urban centre.

Our geophysical survey reveals a landscape dominated by a complex of buildings, potentially a villa establishment, located within a larger banked and ditched enclosure. These features appear to be lying over an earlier system of enclosures containing roundhouses and field systems. At first sight many of the elements suggest a close affinity to the development of the estates in the hinterland of Bannaventa (Whilton Lodge) the next Roadside Station along Watling Street to the north. Therefore we may be able to prove there are potential similarities in site development and that the character of settlement between the two areas mirror each other to some extent. However a detailed field walking analysis of the Tiffield site beyond the initial three quarter hectare inspection already carried out will have to be undertaken to ascertain more detail.

Meanwhile at Bannaventa (Whilton Locks) a geophysical survey in a field to the north of the scheduled walled area covering about twelve hectares has produced some startling results to match those found previously by us in the NE quadrant of the town which had supposedly been destroyed in the soil stripping of 1970. The interpretative plots indicate extensive settlement, enclosures and field systems laid out between Watling Street and a previously un-located road heading towards the north-west. These findings when combined with those found further east and to the south appear to confirm a possible pre Roman/late Iron Age beginning for the site with a reorganisation of the overall layout in the late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. There is no apparent evidence of an early military facility being present to affect the rationale for development but we should remain cautious with such interpretative pronouncements as more area remains to be surveyed than has been investigated and it is too early to state this fact categorically. The number of round houses identified indicates a significant population or an extended period of habitation or a mixture of both possibilities. In addition the layout of the field systems is reminiscent

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of land tenure known as *strigatio* and *scamnatio* which reflects native organisation rather than an imposed approach like *centuriae* which denotes imperial land holding division of the landscape.

The final season of large scale open area excavation was undertaken during June and July on the research excavation of the Roman villa at Whitehall Farm. Excavation on the initial larger bath house for the estate was completed and the area will be covered over and returned to pasture in September. This is not the end of fieldwork at Whitehall farm but it does signal the end of an era in terms of the month long excavation during the summer. Further investigation into the developmental and environmental aspects of the field systems and the location of the estate cemetery or burial plots will be continued as will exploration of the Iron Age antecedents of the settlement as time and opportunity affords. Undoubtedly this will form part of a larger strategic approach to the investigation and interpretation of Romano-British settlement



in the locality for which Whitehall Farm has provided the core research paradigm.

Several late 3<sup>rd</sup> and early 4<sup>th</sup> century coins were retrieved from the suite of rooms and on the archaeological surfaces to the east of the building. A notable inclusion from those found in the building was a possible *follis* of the emperor Maximianus the colleague of Diocletian. Several shards from beakers and cups of Central Gaulish black-slipped ware and Trier black-slipped ware (Moselkeramik) were indicative of the strong economic continental link recorded previously

in fieldwork relating to this late 3<sup>rd</sup> early 4<sup>th</sup> century AD period of occupation. The first written graffiti from the site, a letter R, was also identified on a fragment of the base of a greyware pot. It was probably the first letter of someone's name but unfortunately not enough of a second letter



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survived for us to hazard a guess as to the actual name of an inhabitant of Roman Whitehall. Room 7 contained possibly the most interesting technical find from this year's excavation in that the under floor drainage features of the sunken bath that occupied the space above the hypocaust revealed an inter linked drainage pipe for evacuating the dirty waste water from the building into an external drain between Room 4 and 7. This is a fascinating insight into the complexity of the civil engineering aspects of bath house construction and maintenance.

A further demonstration of the overall complexity of the development of the bath house was the identification of a suite of three rooms from the initial phase of the building upon which Room 2 and 3 were later remodelled and constructed. These earlier rooms were not fully explored as it would have required the destruction of the hypocaust from the later heated rooms to do so and little of the early interiors other than the wall foundations could be seen to have survived archaeologically.



A talk bringing together the findings from the entire thirteen years of the research excavation is planned for November and I hope to see you there!

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### **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE**

**The Deadline for the next issue is Sunday night, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2013.**

Contributions to Tony Johns, 7 Eton Close, Weedon, Northants, NN7 4PJ or by email: [tony@tonyjohs.co.uk](mailto:tony@tonyjohs.co.uk). Please supply any photographs or drawings to accompany articles as separate files. Resolution around 250 - 300 dpi. Tel contact: 01327 341729

### **From *Bill Wiggins, NN Past***

It has been rather quiet recently due to the weather and many fields planted with oil seed rape however NN PAST would like to extend a big thank you to one of Norton's unsung heroes, who wishes to remain anonymous. He or she dug up a very nice copper alloy twisted wire bracelet and kindly left it lying on the surface next to its warren. Thank you Thumper we are indebted to you.

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

Harpole Heritage Group have a new publication "FLIGHT LP826" cost £8.50p per copy. This book has been researched and written by Patricia Betts and tells the story of the Wellington Bomber crash in September 1944 onto Glassthorpe Hill, with the loss of all lives on board. Copies may be obtained from Jennifer Smith telephone 01604 831294.

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### **From *Derek Batten, Friends of Alderton Monuments (FOAM)***

No further archaeological work on site at the Mount has been done but a Ground Probing Radar survey did take place in March 2012. The result of this showed that more building foundations exist beneath the ground. It is now a matter of sourcing income to carry out further excavation work. A musical concert with a Jubilee theme was presented in July by Company M K. Alas a torrential downpour resulted in the cancellation of one performance but the other was successful.

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### **From *Alan Kent, Bugbrooke History Group***

Bugbrooke celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a day of events and entertainments which was very successful. The History Group mounted an exhibition covering the Queen's reign and also Royal events before she came to the throne. There were many souvenir programmes, booklets, newspapers and items such as mugs, pottery, coins, stamps and first day of issue envelopes. Many people contributed their memories of the Queen's coronation in writing and with photographs. This included an eighty year old gentleman resident in Bugbrooke who was in the Horse Guards. He escorted a Princess to the Abbey and rode back to the Palace with a Queen.

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## **From *G W Hatton, Barby Hill Archaeological Project***

### **Abstract from the year 1 Report, 2011/2012**

The discovery of Iron Age round-house circles on top of Barby Hill during repairs to a water reservoir suggested that this hilltop once housed what may have been a sizeable community. A major aim of this project was therefore to continue the initial work already done at Barby Hill, to assess and map the full extent of the archaeology on and around the hilltop. A further aim of the project was to involve the local community wherever possible, to encourage local involvement in the work and promote local interest in the community's heritage.

Initial funding was obtained from county level and from the local parish, and a local committee was formed to oversee the work under the direction of a locally-based project manager. Liaisons were set up with Natural England, Northamptonshire HER, Northamptonshire Archaeology and other relevant bodies, and with local landowners.

Work carried out in the initial period covered by this report (May 2011 to end of March 2012) included field-walking, metal detection and geophysics surveys, using volunteers from the local community assisted by experienced volunteers from the organisations CLASP and NARC.

The first stage of work has realised all its preliminary aims. Initial results have established that the Iron Age settlement spread over at least 4 hectares, with no signs yet detected of the limits of occupation, and further evidence has been gathered of ongoing activity on the hill during the Roman period. Information has also been gained on the later development and usage of the hilltop in the early post medieval period. In terms of local involvement, the project has provided training in all the techniques involved (including formal training in operation of a magnetometer), and has produced an efficient team with rapidly increasing competence. A formal structure has been put in place for continued management and fiscal control of the project. Detailed records and a managed project archive have been created, based on approved archaeological standards, and these will be extended as the work proceeds. Finally, members of the local community are taking a direct and prominent role in "owning" the project, and general interest within the wider local community is being fostered by regular reports and talks.

## List of Contacts for CLASP Associations

Organisation	Contact	Tel
Norton, Northampton PAST	Bill Wiggins	01327 843469
Weedon Bec History Society	Julia Johns	01327 341729
Flore Heritage Society	John Smith	01327 340387
Brington History Society	Andrew Shaw	01604 770668
Harpole Heritage Group	Jennifer Smith	01604 831294
Whitehall Farm Roman Villa Landscape Project	Brian Culling	01327 340504
Towcester & District Local History Society	Gina Boreham	01327 352687
Bugbrooke History Society	Alan Kent	01604 830518
Daventry Local History Group	Angela Adams	01327 704928
Blisworth Heritage Society	Jim Aveling	01604 859109
Friends of Alderton Monuments	Derek Batten	01327 811304
History of Tiffield Society	Steve Jowers	01327 350292
Northampton Artefact Recovery Club	Alan Standish	Not available

## Table of Events for CLASP Groups

Date	Time	Event	Location	Group
Meet every 2 months. See <a href="http://www.bugbrookelink.co.uk/history">www.bugbrookelink.co.uk/history</a> or contact Alan Kent, tel: 01604 830518				Bugbrooke History Society
Sept 5	7.45 pm	AGM & a Review of Accessions	Chapel Schoolroom, Chapel Lane	Flore Heritage Society
Sept 5	7.30 pm	Local Papers	Daventry Town Council Offices, 3 New Street	Daventry Local History Group
Sept 12	7.30 pm	Bad Beds & Worse Eating - the History & Archaeology of Stowe New Inn	Riverside Centre, Islington Road	Towcester & District Local History Society

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## Table of Events for CLASP Groups

Date	Time	Event	Location	Group
Sept 13	7.30 pm	Canons Ashby & the Drydens	Methodist Chapel, School Lane	Harpole Heritage Group
Sept 14	7.30 pm	Family History	The Abbey, Abbey Street	Friends of Daventry Museums
Sept 17	8.00 pm	The Poet's Wife	The Reading Room, Great Brington	Brington History Society
Sept 24	7.30 pm	In this Week in History	Chapel Schoolroom, New Street	Weedon Bec History Society
Sept 28	7.30 pm	The Industrial History of Northamptonshire	Blisworth Village Hall, Stoke Road	Blisworth Heritage Society
Oct 3	7.45 pm	Droving in the South Midlands	Chapel Schoolroom, Chapel Lane	Flore Heritage Society
Oct 3	7.30 pm	Exhibition Planning: Prominent People	Daventry Town Council Offices, 3 New Street	Daventry Local History Group
Oct 10	7.30 pm	Past, Present & Future of Thatching	Riverside Centre, Islington Road	Towcester & District Local History Society
Oct 11	7.30 pm	Railway Families	Methodist Chapel School Lane	Harpole Heritage Group
Oct 12	7.30 pm	St Crispins	The Abbey, Abbey Street	Friends of Daventry Museums
Oct 15	8.00 pm	The Patishall Murders	The Reading Room, Great Brington	Brington History Society
Oct 26	7.30 pm	Caroline Chisholm	Blisworth Village Hall, Stoke Road	Blisworth Heritage Society
Oct 29	7.30 pm	Victorian Northamptonshire, Inventors & Inventions	Chapel Schoolroom, New Street	Weedon Bec History Society
Nov 7	7.45 pm	Remember, Remember the Fifth of November	Chapel Schoolroom, School Lane	Flore Heritage Society
Nov 7	7.30 pm	The History of Policing in Daventry	Daventry Town Council Offices, 3 New Street	Daventry Local History Group

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## Table of Events for CLASP Groups

Date	Time	Event	Location	Group
Nov 8	7.30 pm	Annual Dinner	TBA	Harpole Heritage Group
Nov 9	7.30 pm	Northamptonshire Inventions & Inventors	The Abbey, Abbey Street	Friends of Daventry Museums
Nov 14	7.30 pm	Every Glass Tells a Story	Riverside Centre, Islington Road	Towcester & District Local History Society
Nov 19	8.00 pm	The Brington Museum of Mystery Objects (members)	The Reading Room, Great Brington	Brington History Society
Nov 23	7.30 pm	A Display of the Jubilee Scrapbook	Blisworth Village Hall, Stoke Road	Blisworth Heritage Society
Nov 26	7.30 pm	Herbert Ponting: Photographer of the Edwardian World & Capt Scott's Last Voyage to the Antarctic	Chapel Schoolroom, New Street	Weedon Bec History Society
Dec 5	7.45 pm	Dinner	The Barn Restaurant, Upper Stowe	Flore Heritage Society
Dec 15	2 - 4 pm	Christmas Social, Mulled Wine with the Rev Andrea Watkins	Blisworth Village Hall, Stoke Road	Blisworth Heritage Society
Jan 9	7.30 pm	The Archer and his Bow	Riverside Centre, Islington Road	Towcester & District Local History Society
Jan 10	7.30 pm	Unmentionables - a History of Underwear	Methodist Chapel, School Lane	Harpole Heritage Group
Jan 28	7.30 pm	Guilty M'lud	Chapel Schoolroom, New Street	Weedon Bec History Society
Feb 6	7.45 pm	A Northamptonshire Hero - William Rhodes-Moorhouse VC	Chapel Schoolroom, School Lane	Flore Heritage Society
Feb 13	7.30 pm	The Killing of Constable Linnell	Riverside Centre, Islington Road	Towcester & District Local History Society
Feb 14	7.30 pm	Elizabeth, A Tudor Housewife	Methodist Chapel, School Lane	Harpole Heritage Group
Mar 6	7.45 pm	Northampton General Infirmary 1744	Chapel Schoolroom, School Lane	Flore Heritage Society