

# CLASP

## Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project

Registered Charity number 1111667



Tenth Annual Report  
Year ending  
31 August 2014

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## **Report from Chair of Trustees**

### **Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Community Landscape & Archaeology Survey Project.**

#### **Pastures new!**

As you will see from this report and the latest newsletter, this year has seen some members spread their wings to move further away from their immediate local area of study Heyford, (Roman), Barby Hill Fort (Iron Age) and onto (Graeco-Roman) Cyprus. Everyone on the Cyprus trip had a wonderful time, all thanks to Helen and Steve Young.

#### **Organising Committee**

The following Members of the Organising Committee, David Hayward (Chair) and Roger Penny (Secretary) have indicated that they will be standing down from this Committee. We have tried twisting their arms but to no effect.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for all their hard work.

If you are interested in taking over one or other of the roles please contact [Sandydeacon@hotmail.com](mailto:Sandydeacon@hotmail.com)

#### **Trustees**

**Nick Adams has also said that he will not be standing for election. Thank you, Nick, for everything you have done - without you there would not have been the Roman Villa. Many, many thanks, Nick.**

**As I said at the last AGM, I will not be standing for election as Chair but I am willing to stand as a General Committee Member**

**My thanks to everyone who has helped me over the years.**

**THE TRUSTEES RECOMMEND THE REPORT TO YOU ALL.**

**ALAN WATSON  
CHAIR**

## The Director of Archaeology's Report

The current emphasis on the research excavation of the Romano-British villa at Whitehall Farm is continuing to focus on the preparation and publication of the archaeological report and monograph that will interpret the fieldwork undertaken over the last decade. This requires not only the assimilation of the disparate elements of the archaeological record (the digitalization of site plans and sections, cross referencing the extensive photographic record and daybook accounts) but also the analytical synthesis of the artifactual assemblages retrieved during the excavation. Wherever possible volunteers are being encouraged and offered opportunities to be involved in this process to develop their expertise and experience in post excavation archaeology.

New information is becoming available on a fairly regular basis and amongst the many areas of research being currently assessed is a specialist report analysing the worked bone artefacts from several different phases of activity at Whitehall Farm, undertaken by Ashby & Scott (University of York). The worked bone report provides a variety of insights, and highlights several aspects of daily life and social interaction at Whitehall Farm. In general the worked bone and antler artefacts appear to be manufactured on site although on what scale is unclear because the overall assemblage is reasonably small in number. In the assemblage are examples of lathe-turned, sawn and polished bone objects which directly inform our understanding of the techniques and manufacturing practices used at the site and presumably in the local area. It is thought that the items are most likely for direct consumption by the inhabitants of the settlement rather than for trade in the wider economy.

In addition, the bone artefacts were most likely produced using butchering waste derived from other activities associated with the daily routines of the settlement whereas the raw material for antler manufactured artefacts may have more likely been procured through trade, gathering, or hunting from the wider area or economy. The general deposition and distribution of artefact types which are mainly bone hair pins and counters, and the disparities in manufacturing quality of material associated with the different buildings of the site provide some insight into the social world in which the villa's inhabitants lived, and hint at the nature of the activities that took place within the domestic and more public structures of the estate. In particular the spindle shaft and pins are interesting as gendered objects, and denote the use of these facilities by the women of the villa.

The Bath Houses produced items of significantly higher quality than the items from the Proto-Villa and the Main Villa Range. The latter areas were most likely host to domestic and possibly craft activities, while the former were places for socializing and the production of public display. The prominence of bone pins amongst the material assemblages indicates their ubiquitous presence in both public and private contexts, highlighting and hinting qualitative social nuances. The question of artefact status or production quality is also compounded by the wide chronological range associated with deposition and the relative economic position of the inhabitants and of the settlement during the occupation of the Roman period. A relatively unsophisticated building such as the timber proto villa is indicative of a different life style and economic reality than that one might expect to be available to the inhabitants occupying the more substantial villa we find in the later period.

The fieldwork at Bannaventa continued to concentrate on extensive geophysical survey of the landscape to the north and west of the scheduled monument and the processing and

analysis of the 43,000 shards of Roman pottery recovered from the 2013 field walking. The cleaning, counting, weighing, bagging and recording of the assemblage have taken a significant amount of time and resources but the identification and interpretation of the assemblage is underway. Key developments so far have centred on the Samian and Central Gaulish pottery shard distributions, the location of building related stone scatters and the spreads of small finds. The retrieval of metal working slag illustrates a degree of industrial activity associated with the economy of Bannaventa in its role or rationale as a Posting station and ‘small town’. The slag is suggestive of bronze smelting and smithying and may reflect the production of objects related to personal adornment like brooches or small statutory and votive pieces.

The intensive metal detecting surveys of the central area of Bannaventa have now produced a total of five Iron Age coins which include a gold quarter stater of Cunobelin (20-40 AD), a silver coin of Tasciovanus and three bronze coins of Cunobelin and Addedomaros (c.1-15 BC) which is indicative of the Catuvellaunian geo-political axis espoused for the area. A total of 1124 Roman coins have been retrieved from the same series of surveys. The 2013 fieldwork identified three 1st century coins of Vespasian and Domitian, two 2nd century coins of Antoninus Pius, a hundred 3rd century coins mainly of the Gallic Empire and 221 coins of 4th century date relating to the Houses of Constantine, Valentinian and Theodosius. A rare coin of Jovian (363-4 AD) and another of the British usurper Magnus Maximus (383-388 AD) were also identified in the assemblage.

About 45 hectares of geophysical survey has been completed and many intriguing features, fields and enclosures have been revealed. Although there is no discernible organised and regularized layout the general alignment of remains follows a north west to south east axis. It is also notable that the features identified during the geophysical survey dominate the higher ground of the promontory underlying the site of Bannaventa but abruptly disappear once the slope starts to descend from the higher plateau into the surrounding lower ground. Some of the enclosures indicate occupation but very little archaeological material is readily visible in the plough soil. Nevertheless the geophysical results demonstrate that the archaeological context of Bannaventa is significantly larger than perceived by the scheduled monument.

At a different location very recent geophysical fieldwork undertaken by CLASP has revealed an intriguing possibility of an early military site within our survey area. The existence of such a site and its significance to Roman studies in our locality could be quite contentious and probably controversial because of the wider academic and public interest in the debate about the Boudican revolt and the possible connection with this area of the Midlands in its latter stages. Further work needs to be undertaken to prove the accuracy of this identification before more detailed disclosure of the location can be provided. The ‘fort’ itself is potentially a marching or temporary camp of about 4.5 hectares and may represent an immediate post conquest site in the military dispositions of the Claudian/Neronian period of the mid 1st century AD.

The geophysical survey indicates a double ditched and banked playing card shaped enclosure with a systematic and structured interior layout that might include the geophysical foot print of a ‘Principia’ or headquarters building. Pottery and coins found at the location suggest a continued occupation of the area into the fourth century resulting ultimately in the construction of a farmstead or villa settlement across the southern elements of the site.

A resistivity survey to compliment the initial fluxgate magnetometer data did obtain a clearer understanding of the site and particularly outlined a large central stone structure probably of a later date when the area could have been occupied by a villa complex. A large ancillary area of anomalies and features was also located to the north east of the site during the geophysical survey that appears to contain enclosures and round houses possibly of the Late Iron Age. Undoubtedly, these features demonstrate and underpin a probable early date for the sighting and origins of the site.

During the late spring and early summer the Whitehall Farm volunteers have received training in using MapInfo and Serif software programs in anticipation of the post excavation work which will be essential for the archiving and publication phases of the project. Hopefully this will build on individuals' previous experience and enable more volunteers to take a more active role in this important stage of the work. The complete digitalization of the field work material will provide an accessible format and helpful analytical tool for interpretation as well as a store for the excavation findings.

There are still several areas amongst the material assemblages that need to be investigated in greater detail including the environmental material such as the seeds, although the classification of the glass vessels is moving steadily forward. The bone assemblage also needs to be integrated into the general finds profile for the individual contexts and features to aid our understanding of the depositional process and archaeological linkages across the site. This will not only supplement the general bone analyses but cast further light on the story associated with the many environmental niches underpinning the different elements of the site during its development through the Roman period.

In July a small scale excavation at Bannaventa (Whilton Lodge) was undertaken to access the level of survival of the archaeological remains in the North Eastern quadrant of the Roman Roadside station. The area had been reported as destroyed in the 1970's when the site had been levelled and the top soil removed but our geophysical survey had indicated that significant parts of the settlement may have survived to some degree. Four test pits centred on identified geophysical anomalies representing features within the walled area and the defensive ditches were chosen for exploration. The aim of the work was to see whether any archaeological stratigraphy remained that would enable a more detailed identification of the features located during the geophysical survey and to provide an assessment of the status of those remains.

Unfortunately the hopes raised by the clarity of the geophysical survey were somewhat dashed as the excavation commenced and it became clear that the area had been affected during the earlier destructive phase of development in the field. Undoubtedly the topsoil had been cleared and the archaeological stratigraphy disturbed however it was evident that any features cut into the subsoil had survived unlike on the western half of the area which had been totally destroyed. A pit and possibly the alignment of the inner defensive ditch were located whilst a heavily eroded 'metalled' surface suggested the probable existence of a highly truncated floor foundation whose overall dimensions were not reconstructable.

I am of the opinion that overall enough archaeology material remains to make further study useful especially because of the survival of features cut into the subsoil which suggest more work would help us to understand something of the area's purpose during the Roman period and possibly to provide useful supplementary dating evidence for the defensive ditches.

Generally there were few finds although two coins of the 3rd and 4th century AD were found along with numerous shards of a large jar buried within a pit cut into the natural subsoil and a fragment of slag suggesting metal working activity which has been postulated elsewhere on the site. A substantial part of the jar had survived and lay in situ within the pit and it appears to date from the mid to late first century. The slag is indicative of an 'industrial' bronze smelting/smithy aspect to the 'settlements' economy, the scale of which is unknown and still to be determined for the Roman period, but still supportive of the notion of production of objects related to personal adornment like brooches or small statutory and votive pieces.

Before the excavation continued geophysical survey was undertaken further to the north of any work previously recorded. The extended survey demonstrated that the hinterland of the settlement covers an even larger tract of land to the north-west than previously recognised. Interestingly this might allow us to link the roadside centre to its nearest neighbouring rural settlements and provide an excellent opportunity to study the archaeological link between the 'urban' and 'rural' aspects of the locality. The total area of features identified through geophysical survey indicating a reconstructable landscape covering possibly as much as two hundred hectares.

At Harpole further fieldwork was undertaken on the large villa site at Barn Close, another scheduled site for which we have had to seek permission to carry out field survey and which like the site at Bannaventa is on the register of sites at risk. It is hoped that the extra fieldwork will supplement the extensive coin list, enlarge the geophysical survey area and support the chronological dating of the site with selective field walking data. The information retrieved will be submitted as a report to English Heritage to help them update their understanding of the site, its present status and future conservation.

The current work has produced over two hundred targets during the metal detecting survey which includes over thirty Roman coins and one of William & Mary dated to 1692. A very finely decorated pin head, fragment of a fibula and a pot mend are illustrative of more exotic finds with nails and indeterminate fragments of lead and bronze amongst the most numerous finds. A limited geophysical survey has identified significant features to the north of the site not previously recorded on an earlier Northamptonshire Archaeology. It is hoped that the resistivity survey if completed towards the south of the site will reveal more about the buildings and structures in the outer courtyard (Villa Rustica).

Unfortunately further work planned for the possible early military site of the Claudian/Neronian period mentioned in the last issue of the newsletter has been delayed until next year when exploratory fieldwork and excavation will fit better with the crop rotation scheme. Nevertheless a resistivity survey to complement the initial fluxgate magnetometer data did obtain a clearer understanding of the site and particularly outlined a large central stone structure probably of a later date when the area could have been occupied by a villa complex. A large ancillary area of anomalies and features was also located to the north east of the site during the geophysical survey that appears to contain enclosures and round houses possibly of the Late Iron Age. Undoubtedly, these features demonstrate and underpin a probable early date for the sighting and origins of the site.

**CLASP Treasurer's Report AGM 2014**

As usual I have tried to make the Accounts summary self explanatory.

Like every other organisation we are looking for extra funds, as so much of our funding is earmarked for specific activities. So if anyone has any good ideas for raising funds we beg you not to be shy in coming forward.

**Community Landscape Archaeology Survey Project**

**Receipts & Expenditure Account for Year Ending 31 March 2014**

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
B/f from 31.03.13, Bank	12,472.72		
Pd not on Statement	-7.98		
Cash in Hand	57.37		
	<u>12,522.11</u>	AGM Costs	48.00
Harpole Parish Council	0.00	Harpole spend	116.70
History Societies	140.00	Finds Processing	717.28
Other Donations	100.00	Website	49.52
Membership fees	565.00	Committee Room Hire	35.00
Bank Interest	20.15	Affiliation Fees	59.50
Profit from AGM = T Shirts	64.97	Insurance	529.27
Use of Magnetometer	1,175.00	Other	87.29
		Travel Expenses	35.00
Total Receipts	<u>2,065.12</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>1,677.56</u>
		Bank Statement	12,937.48
		Cash in Hand	22.34
		Paid not yet on Statement	-50.15
	<u>14,587.23</u>		<u>14,587.23</u>

At the year end then, the Harpole balance	£2,834.15
Roman Research Trust	£2,500.00
Lottery Heritage Fund	£4,195.54
Money raised by ourselves	£564.98
Money raised by Magntometer	<u>£2,815.00</u>
Thus usable funds	<u>£12,909.67</u>







Community Landscape Archaeology Project Accounts up to 2013/2014 Charity No. 1111667

		04/04/2014					
Income		Total	C'side Agency	Harpole PC	Other Donations	Expenditure	Balance
To			Agency	Ordinary	Ordinary	To	
31.03.14	Harpole Heritage	10,400.00				31.03.14 Harpole Heritage	2,834.15
31.03.14	Heritage Lottery Fund	23,981.00				31.03.14 Lottery Heritage Fund	4,195.54
31.03.14	Roman Research Trust	6,000.00				31.03.14 Roman Research Trust	2,500.00
31.03.14	Ordinary Magnotometer	20,661.03 2,815.00			2,375.12 2,815.00	31.03.14 Ordinary Magnotometer	904.25 2,475.73
		63,857.03	0.00	0.00	5,190.12		12,909.67
	Adjustments to						63,857.03





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

I report on the accounts of CLASP for the year ended 31 March 2014, which are set out on the attached page.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

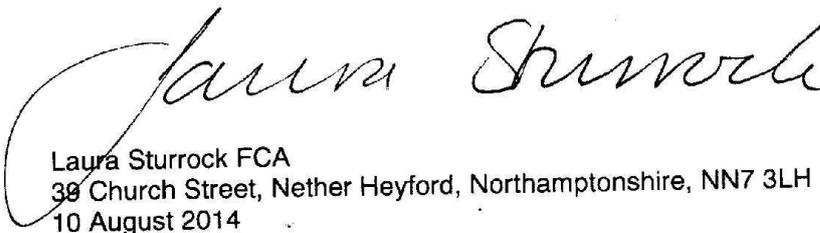
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

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

have not been met; or

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



Laura Sturrock FCA  
39 Church Street, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LH  
10 August 2014

## Membership Report

CLASP has 58 individual members in addition to the member societies.

## Report by Chair of Organising Committee

I consider that the most notable outcome of the past year for this Committee is the finalising of the Strategy Document and the first of its Sub Strategies, namely that to further Research and Planning. Under the auspices of that document the Committee has formally accepted and agreed the first Project, The Hill-fort Mapping Project. This is therefore now a fully adopted and supported project for CLASP. The project is being undertaken to support the National Hillforts Atlas Project being undertaken by Professor Gary Lock at the School of Archaeology at Oxford University. The CLASP project is aiming to investigate and report on all the potential hill-fort sites in Northamptonshire.

Several other CLASP Projects that had commenced before the Strategy Document was agreed are still proceeding and providing useful and exciting results. These are as follows.

The ongoing **Local People-Local Past** Project that is maintaining its research into the Romano-British Landscape of West Northamptonshire. The principal work undertaken by this project over the past year has consisted of an extensive programme of field walking, metal detecting, geophysics and test-pitting at the Romano-British town of Bannaventa.

Our colleagues at Towcester have been working hard with their **Towcester Hinterland Project** that is providing the ability to research and collate information about the numerous sites surrounding the Romano-British town of Lactodorum. This work is providing new insights into the intensity and nature of the Romano-British Landscape in the southern part of the area.

The **Barby Hill Archaeological Project**, albeit not a formal CLASP project, is carrying on with excellent fieldwork on the Iron Age settlement at Barby Hill. This will be reported on in more detail elsewhere in this Report.

Lastly I am still progressing work into the **early governance of nine early hundreds in West Northamptonshire** under the auspices of the Landscapes of Governance Project. This work has somewhat broadened its scope and is now seeking to identify the early origins of governance in the area. This is encompassing research into early communication routes, settlement and trade as it does appear that they were all closely linked to governance. Hopefully when completed this work will provide evidence of the early development of governance through to the more formal but still 'folk' orientated system of the later Anglo-Saxon Period.

Your Committee has agreed that with the grant made by the Friends of Daventry Museum we will purchase two handheld GPS machines to assist CLASP with its fieldwork.

As with all organisations there comes a time when the Committee needs to closely examine itself to ensure that it is being as efficient and effective as possible. To that effect it has been agreed that at its next meeting, the last for the year now being reported on, the Committee will hold a brainstorming session to consider how we need to evolve. The results of this will I am sure, be reported in next year's Annual Report

Earlier this year both the Secretary of this Committee and myself gave formal notice that we wished to stand down from our respective offices. We have made various appeals for successors but to date none have been forthcoming. To say the least this situation causes me some concern as it means the Committee only continues to function because of the goodwill of the current incumbents who have stayed the course to make sure that it carries on. I must therefore make a very serious and strong appeal for two volunteers to stand for these two roles as soon as possible. There is no requirement for candidates to be existing members of the Committee as they can be co-opted to the Committee providing they are full members of CLASP.

D. F. Hayward MBE  
August 2014

## Reports from Member Societies

### Barby Hill Iron Age Settlement- update

Work is still continuing to explore the Iron Age settlement on Barby Hill.

For those who may have missed earlier reports:

- 4 years ago, traces of an Iron Age settlement (approx. 400BC to 50AD) were found when the water reservoir on Barby Hill was extended.
- We formed the Barby Hill Archaeological Project, and with funding from local authorities we have been steadily exploring the site ever since.
- We have carried out field-walking, metal detection and magnetometer surveys, which revealed traces of a huge settlement 400m by 300m, stretching across most of the flat hilltop, with the outlines of scores of Iron Age roundhouses and other features visible below ground.
- We carried out our first excavation in autumn 2013, mapping traces of occupation, and finding about 50 pottery fragments, which confirmed the dating of the site as 400BC to 0BC.

We are carrying out a further 3-month excavation this year, on a roundhouse complex at the edge of a wheatfield. It is tricky work, for several reasons:

- The clay soil is either iron-hard (in dry weather) or liquid mud (in wet weather), so we must lightly water the trenches frequently to control soil workability.
- It's not like a Roman-period dig, where one finds stone, tile and brick – all unaffected by rain. In an Iron Age dig, virtually everything that has survived is made of earth – house foundations, walls, and even the fragile pottery, all were made of local mud.
- Thus it is extremely difficult to detect features – we are looking for tiny differences between almost identical shades of brown!
- Moreover, any traces we find can be destroyed permanently by heavy rainfall – so we must keep the trenches protected by tarpaulins and tents.

As I write, we have opened about 40sq.m. of trenches – and it is already clear that what initially looked like a single huge roundhouse in the geophysics plots is probably parts of several different structures built on this location at different times. Some ring-wall features have been exposed, and the edge of what might turn out to be a pit or post-hole – but the whole of the Iron Age occupation layer is less than 30cm below the soil surface, and despite the clarity of the geophysics results, it is evident that 200 years or more of ploughing has done much to contaminate the evidence.

Because this site is so difficult to interpret – even for the professional archaeologists who act as our advisors



– I decided to try a new technique; in addition to the geophysics and the digging, I am taking soil samples for analysis, in an attempt to study the distribution of really tiny materials such as burned grain, plant seeds, fragments of charcoal, burnt flakes of stone and pottery, etc.

Each sample requires analysis of 40 litres of soil (40-50kg) – a huge quantity, especially since I am aiming to sample each square metre of the trench, ie a total of about 1.5 tonnes of soil samples. Every sample is transported back to Kilsby, and wet-sieved in a special machine kindly lent to us by MOLA Northampton (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology), who also provided training in use of the equipment.



Each 40 litre sample takes 3-4 hours to process (it is labour-intensive), and is then dried in newspaper-lined seed-trays in my greenhouse. After subsequent dry-sieving to sort the residue by size, each sample results in 4 boxes containing many thousands of small stones, pot flakes, ancient cereal grains and seeds, particles of charcoal, pollen grains etc – which will be analysed under the microscope over the autumn and winter, after the dig is over (a further long and very challenging task!).



It's far too early to say what the results of this experiment will be, or even whether it will be successful at all – but that is the nature of archaeology, especially when trying out new methods. At the best, the soil samples may help us to identify the locations of former cooking-hearths and food-preparation areas – and we may also learn

something of the diet and living conditions of those elusive shadowy folk who lived on Barby Hill over 2000 years ago. Adding these scraps of information to the plan-drawings and photographs of any features we uncover in the trenches – wall-foundations, drip gullies, post-holes, pits etc – will, with luck, allow us to add further solid evidence to this fascinating but challenging archaeological project.

Gren Hatton

## **Blisworth Heritage Society**

The Society has enjoyed another varied programme of talks. As a canal village talks about the waterways are always popular, and this season we have heard about the boat building firm of Hayes of Stony and Old Stratford and the practice of narrow boat decoration. John Clare's life story was recounted to us, as was that of Walter Alexander, a Blisworth man who photographed his native village for many years. Our annual trip was to Towcester Museum and it was much enjoyed by all.

Our big project this year has been the production of a village scrapbook to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. This is the result of allowing any villager to produce a page, or pages, about any village topic, covering the last 60 years. This was seen as a natural follow-up to George Freeston's prize winning scrapbook which was produced in 1953. The recent Blisworth Canal Festival saw its first appearance.

James Aveling

## **Brington History Society**

Brington History Society had another full year, with lectures on Tudor Social History, Family History, CLASP Metal Detecting near Church Stowe, Update on Battles of Naseby and Northampton Projects and Boudica, a Social / 'Local Museum' Night and summer trips to Drayton House near Thrapston and the Munnings and Gainsborough Galleries in Essex and Suffolk.

Ian Dexter

## **Bugbrooke History Group**

We have had our usual varied programme for the year ranging from The Gun Powder Plot to The First World War and the Equipment and Life of the Foot Soldier in the Western Front. Our meetings are well attended and we have been pleased to welcome some new and younger members. We do not have a formal membership and all are welcome to attend our meetings at the Community Centre which are advertised in the village Link magazine or on the village website.

Alan Kent Group CLASP Correspondent.

## Harpole Heritage Group



HARPOLE Heritage Group have had several interesting speakers. We have heard about Stowe Gardens, West Northants Navigation of the Canals, Antiques, The Battle of Britain, Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens, Spencer Perceval, Fotheringhay and Mary Queen of Scots, Antique Bottle Bank, The Jurassic Way, Going for a Gong and Pevsner Revisited.

In November 2013 we placed a plaque onto the War Memorial in the churchyard to remember the 7 men who died when their Wellington Bomber crashed in September 1944.

On Monday 4th August 2014 we held a service to mark the start of WW1 around the War Memorial in Harpole churchyard. The service was conducted by the Rev. Stephen French and

attended by about 150 relatives and friends of the 55 Harpole men who gave their lives during that terrible war. Wooden Crosses were placed around the War Memorial, with the names of the men on, by relatives and people who attended the service. A lot of hard work had been put in tracing Family histories, these were displayed in the church together with photographs of the men.



We have raised money for our funds with a Dinner and a Summer Lunch prepared by a few of our ladies. and we were joined by friends. We are a very friendly group and I enjoy being the Secretary and Treasurer.

Jennifer Smith - Secretary

## History Of Tiffield Society

HOTS continues to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at ‘The George’ and we are pleased to report that our numbers are increasing. During the past year, activities have included diverse subjects ranging from talks on the history of pub skittles, lacemaking and Bell founding to the Pattishall POW camp as well as a guided walk around Towcester. We have more interesting subjects in the pipeline including a talk on Grafton Regis, a visit to Buckingham Gaol and presentations on WW1 Battlefields, ‘magic lanterns’, and growing up in the 40s and 50s.

At Christmas we held our annual quiz which tested not only the participants’ historical knowledge but also their powers of observation when it comes to our own village. The event was well attended and was great fun.

Our aim is still very much to collect as much information about Tiffield’s history and encourage residents to provide us with their memories, photographs and literature – eventually we would like to publish a village booklet bringing all this information together. Recently one of Tiffield’s longest residents, the Eydens, moved from the village. Before leaving, they very kindly donated a wealth of paperwork to HOTS. We now have the job of sifting through it all, scanning the documents and depositing anything of historical importance with the Northampton Records Office. There have been Eydens in the village for hundreds of years and we are hoping that we will uncover some interesting information from all these old papers.

2014 sees the start of four years of commemorations of World War 1 and we are hoping to be able to organise some events in Tiffield. We are starting by trying to find out more information on those who lost their lives in the Great War and whose names are depicted on a plaque in the Church.

We have a full programme of events for the coming year starting on 9th September with the AGM and a talk on the WW1 battlefields

Sue Blackwell  
Helen Welch  
Secretaries

## Northamptonshire Artefact Recovery Club

Yet again, the past year has been a very busy one indeed for our club members. With many important finds, including several treasure items, recorded with PAS. The club’s 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. Our support of the Barby project continues to produce results. It appears that

the ancient routeways across the region are of significant importance in understanding the landscape and its usage throughout the centuries.

Club members have also been involved in delivering:

- 16 talks to interested groups, with over 1200 people in attendance. [Groups include Probus, Rotary, Inner Wheel, Historical societies, WI's and Hospices].
- An afternoon's talk to the assembled CLASP members, showing maps of findspots and the hidden pathways of medieval and Tudor times,
- 4 events involving display and exhibition material, where many visitors took time to visit our tables,
- A loan of display material to CLASP, for an exhibition at Milton Keynes, and
- 3 events in support of Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

Club members have

- continued to support the work at Whitehall and Bannaventa,
- worked closely with other CLASP groups to assist them in their projects,
- developed links with Brackley Heritage group who are searching for a known civil war skirmish site,
- informed the villagers of Farthingstone of their findings and discoveries from their local fields, through an evening presentation at the village inn,
- participated in the Barby Hill project, and
- have recorded well over 700 finds this year with the PAS scheme.

So yet again it has been a very positive year for the Northamptonshire Artefact Recovery Club, and the next 12 months look just as interesting as we continue to enhance 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.

Alan Standish  
Chair

### **Norton, Northamptonshire, Portable Antiquities Search Team**

The Team has had an interesting and rewarding year.

Our inner core group, researching the village's history, has devoted time and analytical study to the sixteen Nortonian soldiers who died in action, or as a result of service, in the 1914–1918 Great War.

Their names, recorded on our village War Memorials, now have a deeper resonance, as our History Group will show on 10<sup>th</sup> August between 11 am and 4 pm in the Village Hall.

Local documentation and military items of WW1, with which our soldiers would have been familiar, together with examples of the medals awarded to each of our sixteen combatants, will be exhibited at this commemorative event. Truly, “We will remember them”.

Our searchers of top-soil archaeology have, despite a year of vagarious weather patterns and changes in agrarian tillage methods, produced an informative number of excellent artifacts, even meritorious, as in a gold Iron Age coin and a silver legionary-marked Roman denarius.

We have assisted in the C.L.A.S.P. geophysical surveys and an exploratory excavation. Also, in a nearby locality, one of our members assisted an exploration undertaken by the Archaeology Faculty of Leicester University.

To keep abreast of us, do go to the Norton PAST website at:

[http://www.nortonvillage.org/archaeology\\_database/default.asp](http://www.nortonvillage.org/archaeology_database/default.asp) The database, which now contains approaching 800 artifacts and coins, is fully searchable. Detailed information and over 2000 images are available either by entering a keyword, period or Portable Antiquities Scheme (NARC) reference.

Francis Rodriguez-Veglio  
Secretary

## Towcester & District Local History Society (TDLHS)



The focus for the TDLHS this year has been to participate along with other local leading groups in activities that have commemorated the start of World War 1.

In May a play entitled “Killed, July 17 1916” by the Looking Glass Theatre was staged at St Lawrence Church Towcester. The event was well supported and the play was thought provoking, portraying some strong messages.

*Towcester Roll of Honour, 1914-18*

A date for your diary is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September where a ‘Show & Tell’ day will be held (Chantry House, Towcester 10am – 4pm). WW1 memorabilia, letters, postcards, and medals will be displayed for all to share and record for posterity.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October (7.30pm) will see Towcester Town Hall transformed into a cinema reflecting the Great War era. WW1 related films will be shown.

A concert (WW1 theme) will be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November @ 7.30pm, St Lawrence Church Towcester featuring the Towcester Studio Band and the Towcester Choral Society.

Members continue to support monthly meeting and enjoy a variety of speakers, participating in questions and answers.

A visit to the historic town of Stamford, followed by a tour of Burghley House were the chosen destinations for this year's annual outing in July.

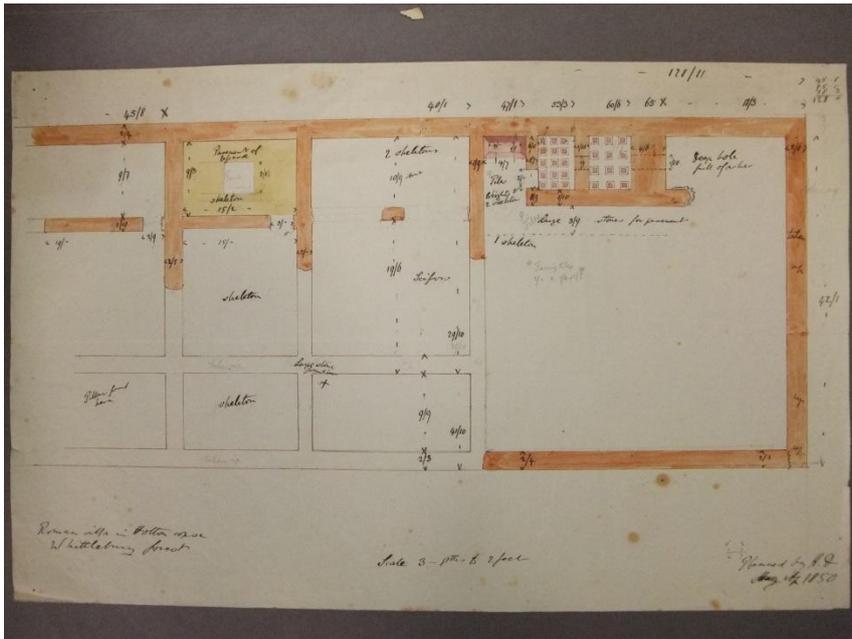
**Lactodorum Hinterland Survey** - During the year we have continued surface finds collections as part of our rural landscape survey. Processing finds, analysing the pottery assemblage, with the help of the Archaeological Director (big thank you Steve). Recording all finds and transferring the information to our database, so that a comparison can be made between the 'south' and the 'north' of CLASP's research area.



**Burcote Wood Farm Project**  
Documenting the small finds has revealed a fascinating collection of unique and rare objects, including an Iron Age inlaid Terret Ring, a mortar made of stalagmite and two iron candlesticks. Over 60 brooches, sickles, knife blades, votive objects and objects in bone, fired clay, bronze, iron, lead and silver have been recorded.

*Example of a photographic recording of small finds from Burcote Wood Farm excavations*

We have also had the privilege of attending two conferences which focussed on developer-funded archaeology and the use of data from 'grey literature'. The first at the University of Reading concentrated on the study of Romano-British Towns, the other at Birmingham was a seminar on Romano-British Rural Settlements.



*Dryden's 1850 drawing of a Roman villa at Whittlebury.*

The speakers highlighted the need to further research the 'grey literature'.

Over the next year, along with documentation and filing our collections we intend to research both published and grey literature from sites along the Watling Street corridor.

*Researching antiquarian excavations: Henry*

Georgina Boreham, TDLHS