Volunteers required

CLASP
Community Landscape
& Archaeology Survey Project

Background

CLASP is a community-based archaeology charity with a field centre based in Furnace Lane, Nether Heyford (near Weedon), Southwest Northamptonshire and is entirely run by volunteers. For over 20 years it has carried out archaeological research in its local area of Central Northamptonshire along the A5 corridor and in the water shed of the river Nene. Projects have included the excavation of a Roman Villa, Landscape characterisation through field walking, geophysical and metal detecting surveys (Local People Local Past), the excavation of a Post Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemetery and a large-scale survey of the Roman posting station of Bannaventa and its hinterland. The charity's role is to offer local people opportunities to become involved in all aspects of archaeology, thus using life skills they already have and acquiring new ones in order to explore the heritage of their area.

We need to expand our team of enthusiastic and committed volunteers to fulfil a variety of roles and maintain the charity's development if you are able to give a few hours a week or more:

Volunteer help needed for:

Field work (field walking, excavation, geophysics etc)
Post excavation (processing and recording finds and archiving)
Computer and digital work
Fund raising
Publicity

Although all these areas are vital to our work, we are in particular need of individuals who may have experience in fund raising and would be happy to join an in-house team, people with social media skills to support our on-line presence, and a person familiar with legal matters. There would be opportunities to become a trustee in the future depending on your skills and interest.

More information about volunteering is set out overpage. To follow up please go to our website for further details: www.claspweb.org or email volunteerinfo@claspweb.org.uk

What does a CLASP volunteer do?

Everyone involved with CLASP is a volunteer and member, often joining because of an interest in history but without prior archaeological expertise. Membership costs just £10 per year, and as a member you can participate in a range of activities or just select one or two roles.

- fieldwalking: searching systematically for archaeological evidence on top of the soil;
- small-scale excavation: digging test pits and trenches;
- finds processing: identifying, cleaning, classifying and conserving finds;
- drawing detailed plans of test pits and trenches;
- making photographic records of excavations and finds;
- data-processing: recording 'contexts' and turning surveying and mapping information into charts – this can involve learning to use specialised computer programmes;
- assisting in publishing and disseminating findings;
- adapting or creating publicity materials for displays and open days;
- working on applications for funding;
- supporting our Treasurer:
- running or helping with fundraising activities;
- completing paperwork relating to charity status;
- maintaining equipment and the field centre itself;
- overseeing/running the organisation as a trustee;

The finds processing team meet most weeks on Tuesday afternoons at the Field Centre, Nether Heyford. Fieldwalking and excavations are usually local and take place at various times of the year – volunteers are notified. The timing of other tasks varies, depending on the current fieldwork and those involved in those tasks. Some tasks are occasional such as maintenance of the field centre.

Fund Raisers: CLASP has been very successful in raising funding for specific activities. We cover most of our normal expenditures out of the membership fee and excavation fee. However, we now have the ongoing cost of a field centre, with the need to ramp up our fund-raising activities. A number of Trustees are in a fund-raising group, but we would benefit from anyone experienced in fund raising, including the use of social media.

Trustees: There are currently 8 Trustees, including Chairman, Treasurer and Archaeology Director, who oversee the governance including the finances of CLASP. They have mostly been involved with CLASP since its inception.

Trustees meet about half a dozen times a year. They also take the lead in activities such as fund raising, managing the logistics of the excavation projects, social media etc. We see the need of new enthusiastic and fully committed Trustees capable of bringing in new ideas and widening the expertise. Most Trustees are active in the fieldwork, but this is not a requirement.

If you would like to volunteer or to contact us for detailed information, please email volunteerinfo@claspweb.org.uk and we will put you in touch with the best person to deal with your enquiry.