



# Middle Nene Archaeological Group

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 MINUTES

**Apologies:** John and Kate Hadman, Carole Bancroft-Turner

**1. Minutes of 2024 AGM:**

The minutes were approved: proposed by Geoff Bovingdon and seconded by Gill Johnston.

**2. Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**3. Election of Committee:**

Two new members were elected to the committee: Sarah Botfield and Julie Trolove – proposed by Ashley Mather and seconded by Margi Comeau.

All current committee members were willing to stand for re-election: Proposed by Geoff Bovingdon and seconded by Nigel Burroughs.

**4. Chairman's Report:**

- See attached report.

**5. Treasurer's report 2023/24:**

- See attached report.

**6. Nassington Excavation 2025:**

- This will take place between August 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- The precise area to be excavated is still under discussion, but will be in the area of the Roman Farmstead.
- Application forms will be available on the website shortly.

**7. Any Other Business:**

- Members were reminded that there is a trip to Earls Barton on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm and was followed by a lecture by Dr Adam Sutton of Aurelius Archaeology: Identifying Iron Age Pottery and Why It's So Important.

I'm pleased to report that MidNAG finished the financial year with a healthy bank balance of £6,300.36 which is slightly up on last year by £118.04 . The cost of the 2024 Nassington excavation was mostly offset by the income from the volunteer daily dig fees, donations and new membership subscriptions, despite it being a shorter than normal dig season.

The cost of our usual outgoings including Hall Hire, Speaker fees, CBA membership and insurance is only slightly higher than last year at £895.74. The attendance at our lectures continues to be good by both by members and visitors.

In addition to our current account, we also have a savings account with Nat West, which contains monies relating to the Nancy Ward fund and the remaining Ashton post excavation funds totalling **£3879.54**

With regard to membership, we currently have 129 entries on our database and membership fees will remain at £10 for an individual and £15 for a family.

Chris Stanley  
April 2025

Once again, we've enjoyed a very successful year, with members participating in lectures, visits and various other activities.

Our lecture programme has seen us moving in and out of the Roman period, beginning last September with Stuart Orme telling us about medicine and surgery in the Roman empire, Derek Roberts giving us an update on our excavations at the Roman farmstead at Nassington in January, and, in March, David Ingham considering whether Roman Bedfordshire was an Imperial Estate or the back of beyond. In between these, we moved forwards almost 2000 years for our October lecture when Dr Paul Stamper looked at the changes to the countryside in the Napoleonic era. In February, Dr Sarah Botfield took us back further in time, giving us a fascinating insight into the decoration of prehistoric pottery and we will round off this year's lecture programme with Dr Adam Sutton who is going to talk about Iron Age pottery at the end of this AGM.

We have held several sessions of finds processing and all the finds from our excavations at Barnwell and Nassington are washed, sorted, weighed and counted and ready to be looked at by finds specialists. And we are very grateful to all our members who have come and helped us to achieve this.

We also had our first foray into fieldwalking for many years with a very successful and fun day at Great Gidding in March, in spite of it being bitterly cold. We are hoping to return to the field to do some more in the autumn. So do watch out for details.

At the end of June, we visited the excavations at Chester House, which included a workshop on Roman pottery with Adam and a tour of the county's archaeological resource centre. And in August, we returned to Nassington to hold our own excavation. Due to the wet summer, we had to postpone the start by several days, and also change the location of where we dug. However, this gave us the opportunity to look at some earlier activity, with features from the late Iron Age/early Roman period being explored. Though we were only able to dig for 9 days rather than our usual 15, we still managed to complete all that we set out to do.

Finally, I and the MidNAG committee would like to thank all of you for coming to lectures, trudging over fields, counting pottery sherds and digging in muddy trenches. We couldn't do it without you and we really hope you've enjoyed whatever activities you've been involved with and that you will come back and do it all again with us in the 2025 -26 season.