



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Registered Charity No. 268516

Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester, GCVO

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 2nd November 2021

Via Zoom at 7pm

The meeting was chaired by Mike Curtis. Total attendance of 24 people.

1) **Apologies for absence were received from members:** No apologies

2) **Minutes of the last AGM, Monday 18th January 2021**

Accepted by the members at the AGM.

3) **Report of the Secretary and Journal Editor**

This report was sent to members on 1st November by email. At the AGM Andy Chapman summarised the main points of the report for the meeting. Three face-to-face societies meetings have taken place. There was a visit to the new Chester Farm in the summer followed by two events in September consisting of a walking tour of Borough Hill, Daventry, led by Chris Chinnock and a visit to new revamped Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. In this year the county council ceased to exist with two new unitary authorities were established.

Recent positive news included the opening of Chester House. NAS donated a full copy of former journals. The next NAS journal is 'in press' and will be 480 pages long. It is likely to be printed early to mid-January. This will be in time for the conference on Feb 26th to be held at the museum. The next journal after this one is taking shape.

Mike Curtis proposed thanks for Andy's work for NAS.

4) **The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts:** These were sent to members on 1st November by email. Andy said we had a healthy bank balance at £32,696.13. Journals have been put on ADS (£2,092.20) and two £500 grants given.

We will be printing 400 copies of the next journal and hope to sell 100 of these copies at £20 each.

5) **Election of Officers and Members of council:**

Secretary: Andy Chapman

Treasurer: Andy Chapman

Meetings/minutes Secretary: Rob Atkins

Membership Secretary: Pat Chapman

NASNEWS editor: vacant

Journal Editor: Andy Chapman

Other members of council:

Existing members: Graham Cadman, Mike Curtis, Brian Giggins, Stephen Hollowell, Sarah Scott and Adam Sutton

Members were asked if they were happy for all to be re-elected as a group. All were accepted by the members attending.

6) Any other business

There was no other business

The AGM was followed by the public lecture: *The Prittlewell 'Prince': a rich Anglo-Saxon burial in the local and wider context*, delivered by Lyn Blackmore of MOLA

Questions were taken after the lecture.

Mike Curtis proposed a vote of thanks for a very interesting and stimulating talk.

Meeting finished c.8.30pm

Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Report of the Secretary, Journal Editor and Treasurer for 2021

Secretary

Despite a second year where our lives have been dominated by Covid-19, NAS did finally manage two face-to-face society meetings in September: with a walking tour of Borough Hill, Daventry, led by Chris Chinnock of MOLA Northampton, who has been a central figure in the survey work carried out there in partnership with CLASP; and a tour of the newly opened galleries at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, where we were shown around by Jane Seddon of the Museum Service.

Going into the New Year, we are arranging a half-day public book launch for the new journal at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, with details to be announced later. By this time our members will have received the new journal, with its current progress detailed below.

Personally, I'm also looking forward to the January release of the 1921 Census, and a final chance to track down relatives (including my parents) on a Census return. The 1931 Census was destroyed in a fire and the 1941 Census was cancelled for obvious reasons, and I'm very unlikely to be around 30 years from now when the 1951 Census is released (which I will make an appearance on by a few months).

Some positive news from the county

We have recently seen the opening of Chester House, which includes the Archaeological Resource Centre (The ARC), and we have to hope that the whole complex will thrive and survive. Earlier this year we provided copies of the journal to fill gaps in the partial collection that they held, so a complete set of paper copies of Northamptonshire Archaeology will be available for reference by visitors to the archive. We would urge all our members to pay a visit to Chester House and spend some money there to help it along.

This year Northamptonshire County Council ceased to exist (which may make my NCC Archaeology hi-viz coat a collector's item?), and it was replaced by West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council. The former Northamptonshire Record Office, including the Historic Environment Record (HER) is now physically part of West Northamptonshire Council but still serves the whole county, under the banner *Northamptonshire Archives*, as a joint service of West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council.

Finally, we must also mention the opening of the revamped and much enlarged Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, and look forward to the remaining space coming into use in future years, including a new History/Archaeology gallery, once there is funding for the next phase of works.

Journal Editor

This time last year I wrote "The aim now is to complete the *Archaeology of Medieval Northampton* volume as soon as possible in the New Year, and it looks like publication may coincide with a return to something more normal in the spring of 2021".

While I didn't make that target (and life clearly didn't return to anything like normal last spring either), I am writing this annual report with the proof pages of the full volume sitting beside me, all 480 pages of it. So I am now in the final round of checking for corrections, with the expectation that the volume will be finalised for printing before the end of the month. It is now likely that we will not receive the printed volume before Christmas, but early in the New Year, and certainly well before the planned public book launch at the end of February, as mentioned above.

Of course, before this one is completed, the next volume is already taking shape, with a number of articles already submitted, mainly but not exclusively via Rob Atkins at MOLA Northampton. This volume will be more mixed in time and place, but with a focus on Iron Age and Roman settlement, which dominates so much of the local and regional commercial work and, of course, the held over Part 2 of Northampton Castle, which will explore the

archaeological record in greater depth after the broad overview of Part 1. Beyond that we, that is, mainly me and Rob Atkins, have material already in hand (or at least in vision) for a further volume. Beyond that we will see what happens, as commercial archaeology is clearly well into the process of making client reports available online and only, if at all, submitting short summary overviews to the relevant county journals.

There is little doubt that in a few years the journal will, at best, become much slimmer, carrying shorter summaries and links to online publications. On one hand this may serve contemporary needs, but given that our journal, along with other county and national journals, goes to the British Library and the other six UK legal deposit libraries (National Library of Scotland; National Library of Wales; Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford; Cambridge University Library and Trinity College Dublin), as well as the Society of Antiquaries, various universities in Britain and abroad (Including New York Public Library), this gives its contents a longevity in time and space that is still far from certain for material currently available only online.

I would also argue that client reports are typically turned out to a simple formula, often under considerable constraints of time and money, and often with little opportunity to properly integrate the finds/environmental evidence with the site evidence, or to think about the significance of the site. It is often taking a client report forward to paper publication that enables the author to create a more integrated report that brings the strands of evidence together, focussing on the significant and summarising the less significant aspects of the site in question, and even just to correct simple errors that crept through in the client report, where time for proper proof reading is often in short supply (as in the frequent refrain, "we're sending this 60 page report to the client tomorrow, could you have a quick look through it?".)

An alternative view would be that the journal could then contain more considered overviews of periods and individual topics. This would be well worth doing, but I have to ask, who will be out there to produce such overviews, or at least overviews worth having, particularly when we are now seeing a number of university archaeology departments in the process of being closed down, most surprisingly so at Sheffield with the exceptional past record of that department and the archaeologists that emerged from it?

Treasurer

The major expense that appears in the accounts for the past 12 months (September 2020-August 2021) is the £2092.00 paid to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) to put all the past journals online as a freely available resource. There are also the two £500.00 grant payments that had been pending since the previous financial year, with another agreed grant due to be paid this financial year, once declining Covid-19 makes it possible to finally carry out the work.

We therefore had an extra expenditure of £3,092.00 while our bank balance declined by £1,915, indicating that we have more than covered our basic expenses, and retain a very healthy balance of £32,696.13.

There is likely to be a more significant drop in our bank balance over the coming year, given the cost of the special medieval Northampton issue of the journal, which carries fewer articles than usual that will be paid for through commercial archaeology. There is also the cost of printing 400 copies of a 480 page journal, and the proposed book launch at Northampton Museum.

On the other hand, this issue has an ISBN book number to allow sales to the public, which will help to cover the costs, but it is difficult to predict how well it will sell. If we could sell around 100 copies at £20.00, this would bring in a very useful £2,000.00.

However, we clearly do have more than enough in the bank to cover this special edition, while retaining a very healthy bank balance for future years, and an expectation that the cost of the following volume will be fully covered by the payments from commercial archaeology.

Andy Chapman, NAS Secretary, Editor and Treasurer (1 November 2021)



Northamptonshire Archaeological Society



Honorary President: His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester, GCVO

Registered Charity No. 268516

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk

Accounts for financial year ending 29 August 2021

Accounts 2020-2021

Income

Members subscriptions	£1,021.00
Institutional members	£328.00
Publishers Licensing Services payments	£26.02
Book sales	£40.00

Income	£1,415.02
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MH Building Society Interest	£64.68
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Total Income	£1,479.70
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Expenditure

Archaeology Data Service: putting journals online	£2,092.20
Grant payments (2 x £500.00)	£1,000.00
BALH (includes insurance)	£75.00
Northants Heritage Forum	£40.00
CBA membership	£76.50
p&p and misc. expenses	£111.46

Total expenditure	£3,395.16
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Balance of Accounts 29/08/2021

HSBC bank account	£7,164.21
Market Harborough savings account	£25,531.92
(including £64.68 annual interest)	

Total Balance 2020-2021	£32,696.13
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Summary of Accounts 2019-20

Income	£6,819.57
MHBS Building Society Interest	£124.04
Total Expenditure	£5,590.42
HSBC bank account	£9,437.35
Market Harborough savings account	£25,174.24

Total Balance 2019-20	£34,611.59
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Andy Chapman, NAS Hon. Treasurer, 4 October 2021
