



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Registered Charity No. 268516

Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester, GCVO

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 17th October 2022

10 Castilian Terrace Northampton NN1 1LD

at 7pm

The meeting was chaired by Mike Curtis. Total attendance was 16 people.

- 1) **Apologies for absence were received from members:**
Dora Anastasiadou, Gill Johnston, Mark Holmes, Sarah Scott, Carol Simmonds and Martin Tingle
- 2) **Minutes of the last AGM, Tuesday 2nd November 2021:** Accepted by the members at the AGM.
- 3) **Report of the Secretary and Journal Editor:** This report was sent to members on Sunday 16th October by email. At the AGM Andy Chapman summarised the main points of the report for the meeting. Journal 41 was published with 400 printed of which 110 copies remain to be sold. It cost just under £10,000, and in terms of page numbers it had by far the most page numbers of any journal volume yet produced by the society. Andy thanked those people who had expressed kind words for the quality of this journal. The spin-off from this journal included an article in British Archaeology and a forthcoming article in Current Archaeology. There was a half day book launch/party at Northampton Museums and Art Gallery in February, which was packed out. Andy has given a talk on it to the Churches Conservation Trust. This journal is still being sold at Northampton Museums and Art Gallery, Chester House Estate and the Northamptonshire Heritage Hub.

The next NA journal (vol 42) is likely to be ready for type setting in the New Year with publication in the spring. It is another lengthy issue largely comprising articles submitted from commercial archaeology and it is anticipated the publication grants will meet the printing costs.

Apart from the book launch, there was a site visit to Fotheringhay Castle and Church, a site visit to the Warkton Villa excavations and a visit to excavations at St Mary's Street, Northampton and a tour of Northampton Castle. A planned visit to Oundle was postponed because of lack of interest.

Mike Curtis proposed thanks for Andy's work for NAS and this was seconded by Graham Cadman.

- 4) **The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts:** This report was sent to members on Sunday 16th October by email. Andy said we had a healthy bank balance for 2021/2022 at £28,637.10. This is down from the 2020/21 balance of £32,696.13, but this was expected largely because of the journal cost (£8,851.20 + £528.67 postage etc.), which was only partly covered by MOLA articles (£4,225) with no

other commercial units submitting articles. The Society was more than happy for this as the importance of the reappraisal of medieval Northampton etc. far outweighed the drop in the balance. It is anticipated that once the remaining copies are sold the drop will be less than £3,000 and the finances will be over £30,000 by the New Year.

This year saw the society awarding a grant payment of £249.50 to Newcastle University towards the cost of conservation and investigation of the Irchester hoard of bronze bowls. The results of this work were presented at a half-day school at Northampton Museums and Art Gallery in July. NAS provided a further grant to examine mineralise textile remains on these bowls. A grant of £150 was awarded to CLASP towards the purchase of an infra-red camera, to be flown on their drone.

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

All the above positions were proposed by Graham Cadman and seconded by Mike Curtis. Mike asked if anyone present wanted to be the next NASNEWS editor or member on the committee - no takers.

Other members of council:

Existing members: Graham Cadman, Mike Curtis, Ben Donnelly-Symes, Brian Giggins, and Sarah Scott.

At AGM members were asked if they were happy for all to be re-elected as a group (proposed Christine Addison and seconded by Steven Hollowell). All were accepted by the members attending.

Thanks are given to Dr Steven Hollowell who has stood down from the committee after 18 years' service including being a former NAS Chair. Andy and Pat had kindly presented Steven with a bottle of wine from the Earls Barton vineyard on behalf of the society.

6) Any other business

There was no other business

The AGM was followed by the public lecture: *3000 years of life and death at Overstone, Northampton*, delivered by Simon Markus

Questions were taken after the lecture.

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

Meeting finished c8.45pm

Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Report of the Journal Editor, Treasurer and Secretary, for 2022

Journal Editor

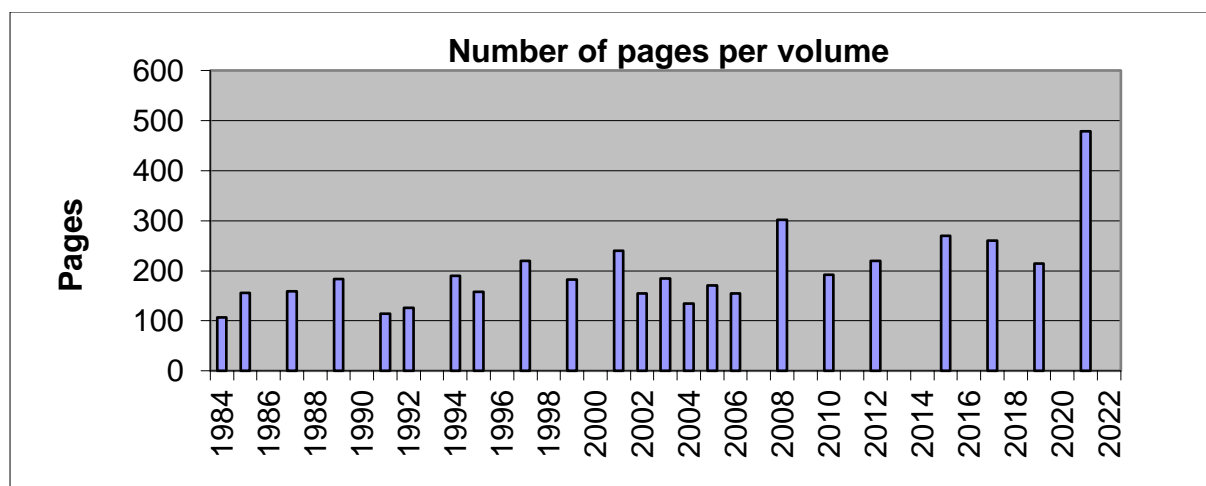
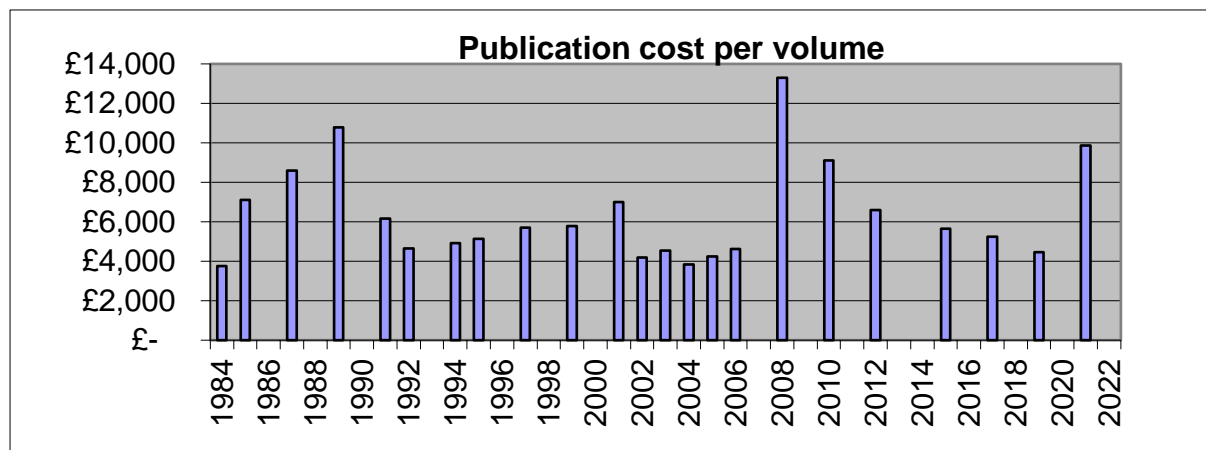
Northamptonshire Archaeology, 41, 2021: The Archaeology of Medieval Northampton

February saw the publication of this long-promised special edition of the journal. In anticipation of interest beyond our members and subscribing institutions, we printed 400 copies. In mid-October, we have around 110 copies remaining. As editor, I would personally like to thank all those within and outside the society who had kind words and praise for the quality of this issue, especially when it came from people who understand just how much work is involved in bringing something like this to fruition.

At just under £10,000.00 for printing costs, it is the third most expensive journal that we have produced (see 1st chart below, costs only available from 1984 onward). However, at 480 pages it is also by far the longest journal (2nd chart below), and at 400 copies it is our longest print run (apart from the standalone volumes: *The Archaeology of Northamptonshire*, 2004, and *Dennis Jackson: A Northamptonshire Archaeologist*, 2010)

Looking at the general cost distribution in more detail, the jump in costs for 2008 marks the change from quarto and black & white to A4 and full colour. In addition, this volume, at around 300 pages, was our second longest. Subsequently, the costs of colour production dropped considerably, to around £20.00 per page, although these journals were also shorter than the 2008 edition.

Apart from the length and the longer print run, the latest edition also saw increases in production costs and the cost of paper, in line with cost increases in just about everything across the UK at the moment.



Journal spin-offs

The October/November issue of the CBA magazine, *British Archaeology*, carries a six-page article by John Williams on the Middle Anglo-Saxon halls.

I have also recently been contacted by the editor of *Current Archaeology*, who grew up in Northamptonshire, and hopefully she will include an overview of the volume in a future issue.

Also, this week I gave a lunchtime Zoom talk to 450 members of the *Churches Conservation Trust*, a spin-off from my two online talks last year to *The Friends of St Peter's Church* on Northampton before and after the Conquest.

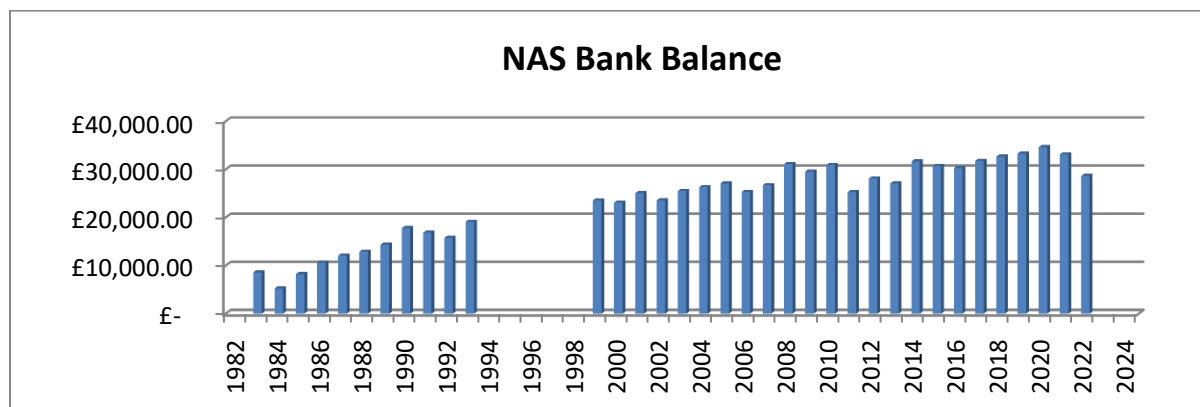
Apart from being available directly from NAS, copies of the journal have also been on sale at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery, the Chester House Estate book corner, and from Northamptonshire Heritage Hub at Jeyes of Earls Barton.

Northamptonshire Archaeology, 42, 2023

The next journal is in editing at the moment and will be another lengthy issue. This time it contains largely articles submitted from commercial archaeology, so it is anticipated that the publication grants will meet the printing costs. This will be a return to a mixed period volume, although one that will be largely dominated by the Iron Age and Roman settlements that form such a large proportion of commercial work on development sites across the Midlands, with little bits of Neolithic and Bronze Age, and a touch of medieval. There is also an article of the non-ferrous metalwork from Hunsbury hillfort, a student thesis now brought up to date for publication. I am afraid that Part 2 of the report on Northampton Castle will be held over for volume 43. We hope to be typesetting in the New Year, with the volume to appear in the spring.

Treasurer

The accounts for 2021-22 are attached to the annual report. They show a deficit over the year of some £4,000.00, largely due to the production costs of the journal. The likelihood of losing money on this production had been anticipated in advance, as a large proportion of the production was not liable for commercial grant support, but it was considered that this was acceptable in producing an important contribution to the understanding of the archaeology of Northampton.



(Note: we do not have copies of the accounts from 1994-1998. If anyone does have them, or accounts for 1982 or earlier, I would be grateful for copies to fill these gaps in our records)

It should also be noted that we have still to recover our share of the book sales through the external outlets, for instance Northampton Museum will shortly be paying us £180.00 for sales to date, and I am in touch with the new bookshop manager to arrange for further copies to go to the museum.

We also have over 100 copies in hand that still have a sales potential, so the publication deficit will be further reduced through the next financial year.

Despite the loss over the year, our finances remain very healthy and should be back above £30,000 by the New Year, and they clearly have the capacity to finance new activities, initiatives and grants, as well as the continuing production of the journal.

Grants

In a previous financial year we had awarded a grant to James Gerrard of Newcastle University towards a programme of works for the conservation and investigation of the Irchester hoard of bronze bowls. This work was delayed by the Covid lockdowns, but was finally completed this year, with a grant payment of £249.50, and with the results presented at a half-day school at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, on 28 July. This work had revealed the presence of small areas of mineralised textiles on some of the bowls, so NAS is providing a further grant towards the investigation of these remains, both as textiles and also whether they contain organic material that could be submitted for radiocarbon dating. We should be publishing an article/note in a future issue of the journal providing a summary of the results of this project.

As a spin-off from the Irchester hoard project, James also became aware of the Stanwick villa hoard found in 1990s, which appears to have vanished without trace. There will be a note from James in the next issue of the journal summing up the little that is known about this hoard, and an appeal for information from anyone who can add to the story.

We have also provided a grant of £150.00 to CLASP towards the purchase of an infra-red camera, to be flown on their drone to extend the range of options available to their ongoing survey programmes, this will appear in the accounts for 2022-23.

Secretary

The new journal was given a launch party at a half-day school at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery towards the end of February, with a packed hall to hear presentations by Andy Chapman, John Williams and Mike Shaw, with copies of the journal on sale.



Unfortunately, in May a planned visit to Oundle and its museum had to be cancelled due to insufficient interest.

But there was a successful and well attended field trip later in May to Fotheringhay Castle (left), led by Steve Parry of MOLA, with Gill Johnston kindly arranging a visit to the church that included both an illustrated talk and tea.

Most recently, 30 September, we had a 9.00am NAS visit to the final excavation by MOLA in the St Mary Street area of Northampton, east of the castle and immediately west of The Horsemarket, the heart of the early medieval town, prior to new housing development (below left), followed by a visit to Chalk Lane and the car park, to view the site of the Northampton Castle, with views across the station car park, and including the surviving length of the inner bailey bank (below right, left) and the 1960s spoil heap (below right, right).



For the AGM we will welcome Simon Markus from MOLA Northampton to talk about the extensive excavation of Bronze Age monuments and an Anglo-Saxon village and cemetery at the huge Overstone Gate residential development on the eastern side of Northampton.

Other Committee business



We must thank Steven Hollowell (left) who is standing down from the committee after many years of service. To mark the occasion, on Sunday 16 October on a field trip to examine his local Cogenhoe village earthworks, on behalf of the society Andy and Pat Chapman presented him with a bottle of wine from the local Earls Barton vineyard (which faces the excavated Roman vineyard below Wollaston).

The committee also has two new members: Sarah Scott of the University of Leicester, who leads the university archaeological partnership with the Chester House Estate team, and Ben Donnelly-Symes, Archive Curator at the ARC (Archaeological Resource Centre). They join the NAS committee so we can have a closer contact between the society and events at the Chester House Estate.

We must also note the successful first full year for the Chester House Estate, with a full and wide ranging programme of events, and at the ARC archives have been arriving through the year and Ben appears to have a good team of volunteers to take on the monumental task of re-boxing and cataloguing archives, some of which have been in temporary storage for decades. The NAS chair, Mike Curtis, maintains close contact with events at Chester House Estate on behalf of the society, and he also provides a number of lecture courses based there.

Andy and Pat Chapman also maintain their close links with the Stanwick Lakes visitor centre, where Andy has provided guided walks around the former Raunds Area Project sites for many years, and Andy and Pat have assisted with arranging the old and new displays on the mezzanine floor, as well as proof reading the display panels. Stanwick Lakes are also beginning a new initiative to enhance the setting of the single surviving Bronze Age round barrow mound. Clearance of tree cover along the adjacent railway embankment has already helped to improve its visibility and there is much more planned for next year.

At the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum Awards, in October postponed from July, Chester House Estate and Delapre Abbey were winners in a number of categories.

The latest journal was entered for the Best Book award, but this went to Northamptonshire Records Society for their latest publication, *The Best Burglar in the County*, by Neil Lyon, "written to celebrate the centenary of the Northamptonshire Record Society, founded in December 1920 by Joan Wake. She pioneered the idea of preserving records in the county, turning up at the door of pretty much every country house in the 1920s and 1930s, bullying the owners into entrusting their archives into her care, and rarely taking 'No' for an answer."

Andy Chapman, NAS Secretary, Editor and Treasurer (16 October 2022)



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 2022

Accounts 2021-2022

Income

Members subscriptions (107)	£1,283.00
Institutional sales of journal (23)	£ 588.00
Public journal sales (48)	£1,007.00
Old journals sales (4)	£ 20.00
MOLA grant	£4,225.00
Donation	£ 120.00
Museum visit income	£ 32.50
Publishers Licensing Services	£ 65.73

MH Building Society Interest £ 51.22

Total income £7,392.45

Expenditure

Printing journal	£ 9,851.20
Packaging & Misc. expenditure	£ 286.09
Postage (160 copies)	£ 528.67
Grant payment (1x£249.50)	£ 249.50
BALH (includes insurance)	£ 75.00
Northants Heritage Forum	£ 40.00
CBA membership	£ 78.50
Museum visit	£ 72.00
Museum room hire	£ 160.00
AGM lecturer	£ 50.00
Bank charges	£ 60.52

Total expenditure £11,451.48

Balance of Accounts 29/08/2022

HSBC bank account	£ 2,918.46
Market Harborough savings account	£25,718.64

Total Balance 2020-2021 £28,637.10

Summary of Accounts 2020-21

Total Income	£ 1,479.70
Total Expenditure	£ 3,395.16
HSBC bank account	£ 7,164.21
Market Harborough savings account	£25,531.92
Total Balance 2020-21 (£2092.20 ADS, £1000.00 Grants)	£32,696.13
Total Balance 2019-20 (£4,463.31 journal cost, MOLA to NAS £4,736.00)	£34,611.59

Andy Chapman, NAS Hon. Treasurer, 6 September 2022