



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Registered Charity No. 268516

Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester, GCVO

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Thursday, 17th October 2024, 7.00pm Chester House

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Michael Curtis, who welcomed those in attendance. 22 people were present.

1) Apologies for absence:

Christine Addison, Pat Barber, Jenny Burt, Andy Chapman, Pat Chapman, Brian Giggins, Steve Holder, and Steve Parry

2) Minutes of the last AGM, and matters arising:

These were passed with no changes

3) Election of NAS Committee

The meeting was invited, and agreed, to re-appoint members of the 2023-2024 committee: Andy Chapman: Secretary, Editor and Treasurer; Rob Atkins: Meetings Secretary; Pat Chapman: Membership Secretary; and other elected and co-opted members of council: Mike Curtis (Chair), Graham Cadman, Brian Giggins and Sarah Scott.

4) Joining the committee

The Chair of the meeting extended an open invitation to members present to consider joining the committee, explaining that the committee are important to the management of the society and that new members to help with this would be welcome.

5) Secretary's and Editor's report.

Given the absence of Andy Chapman, written reports had been prepared in advance for submission to the meeting, and these were summarized at the meeting. The full reports are presented below.

Secretary

In the early part of the year Northampton Museum and Art Gallery had an exhibition of finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) with four period groups rotating through four local libraries, staying a month at each venue. The prehistoric collection included the terminal of a gold bracelet that NAS had partly funded the purchase of.

In April we had a stall at the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum, Heritage Fair, held on Sunday, 29 April at Wicksteed Park. Despite the heavy rain in the morning, it was well attended by the public, and it also provided a great opportunity to network with other

heritage groups from around the county, including Ben from the ARC (Archaeological Resource Centre) Chester House, and the Stanwick Lakes team.

In May and June we were kept busy distributing the new journal, partly directly but also lots of visits to the Royal Mail depot sending copies off in manageable batches. And thanks to Ben at the ARC who also acted as a distribution depot for those regularly visiting the archive, either as users or as part of the team of volunteers.

In June there was a walking tour of Towcester, led by Brian Giggins, and in July a tour of Irchester Roman Town, during the annual excavations, and also a tour of the ARC.

Meanwhile, also in June, Pat and I were at Stanwick Lakes Iron Age Settlement Open Day, demonstrating the power of the Iron Age rotary quern, which had transformed the milling of grain in the later Middle to Late Iron Age.

And we also hope that coverage in NASNEWS may have taken at least some of you to some of the many other events that we advertise, or to some of the courses and online talks.

We are back at Chester House for the NAS AGM in October. The guest speaker will be Sara Scott, Professor of Archaeology, School of Archaeology and Ancient History University of Leicester.

We have one forthcoming event for early 2025, when I will be providing a walking tour of the early medieval heart of Northampton, around the sites of the Middle Anglo-Saxon halls between the extant church of St Peter and the lost church of St Gregory, and then crossing the road for a tour of Northampton Castle.

The date is still to be arranged but it is likely to be mid-March to early April.

Editor

This year NAS published volume 42 of *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, with a particular focus on Iron Age settlement, and containing seven articles from six commercial contractors, the most we ever had supporting one issue.

Distribution of the issue to members and institutions has been completed, and we have a residue of copies remaining.

It should also be noted that the previous issue, volume 41, *The Archaeology of Medieval Northampton*, is now effectively out of print, as I have one copy remaining from the print run of 400 copies. (Sales of this journal through the last financial year also made a significant contribution to our bank balance). [Subsequently Mike Curtis reported still holding a further six copies of volume 41, so almost but not quite sold out].

We already have some material either in hand or in preparation for the next issue, volume 43. There will be a return to a medieval theme, with articles covering *The Archaeology of Northampton Castle (Part 2)*, *Fotheringhay Castle*, *Badby Monastic Grange*, and *St James's Abbey, Northampton and its cemetery*. However, there should also be some, long overdue, coverage of Roman Towcester.

The provisional target date is for publication either in late 2025 or early 2026.

6) Treasurer's report

The headline figures for the accounts, with our financial year running to the end of August 2024, are as follows:

NAS Account summary 2023-24

Total Income:	£10,295.58
Total Expenditure:	<u>£ 8,982.41</u>
Current balance:	<u>£31,109.95</u>

A full statement of accounts was presented to members in NASNEWS Sep 2024.

Most often, in the years when we publish a journal the society makes a financial loss, with the income from commercial contributors covering either all or much of the cost of publication, but not the full cost of postage and packing, which now amount to some £7.00 per volume.

This financial year has, therefore, been exceptional in that we have published and distributed a journal, and have also made a profit of some £1700.00.

There are, however, a number of other factors that have made a significant contribution to this profit.

Firstly, we have not paid out any grants this year, and we even had a grant of £480.00 returned, as it was not possible to carry out this piece of grant supported research. So that alone accounts for a large part of the profit.

Secondly, the journal also contained seven articles from six different commercial contractors, so a higher proportion of the contents were grant funded than was the case for the previous journal, or is likely to be the case for the next journal as well.

However, this is a very healthy bank balance compared to many similar societies, so we can move forward with both publishing the next journal, and with funds in hand for providing grants and other activities.

7) AGM speaker: Professor Sarah Scott, University of Leicester

Sarah gave a very interesting talk on the importance of outreach in archaeology as well as examining antiquarian excavators and excavations in Northamptonshire (including the main movers). There was study of how and why Ircchester was examined in the 19th century and this included a detailed look at their subsequent publications.

8) Vote of thanks

The Chair thanked Sarah Scott for her talk, and also thanked Ben Donnelly-Symes and Georgina for providing the venue for the AGM and for arranging the catering.

The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.



Northamptonshire Archaeological Society



Registered Charity No. 268516

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Accounts for the financial year 2023-2024 (ending 29 August 2024)

Income

Member subscriptions	£1,510.00
Institution subscriptions	£428.00
Journal sales	£220.50
Donations	£50.00
Journals grant support	£7,163.00
PLS copyright payments	£40.01
Returned grant (Newcastle University)	£480.00

Income sub-total £9,891.51

MH Building Society Interest £404.07

Total income £10,295.58

Expenditure

Postage and packing materials	£786.71
Typesetting and printing journal	£7,810.75
Misc. expenditure (printer ink, printing paper, plug in hard drive)	£91.45
Grant payments	£0.00
NAS memberships (CBA, Northants, Heritage Forum, BALH)	£217.50
Bank charges	£76.00

Total expenditure £8,982.41

Balance of Accounts 2023/24 (29/08/2024)

HSBC bank account	£4,480.42
Market Harborough Building Society savings account (includes £404.07 MHBS interest)	£26,629.53

Bank Balance 2023-2024 £31,109.95

Profit over 2023/24 £1,711.96

Balance of Accounts 2022/23 (29/08/2023) £29,397.99

Total Income £2,867.14

Total Expenditure £2,106.25

Andy Chapman, Hon. Treasurer, Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

5 September 2024

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