



NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk



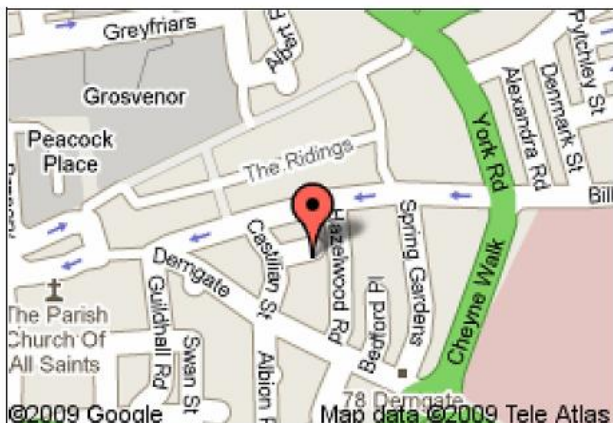
September 2025

Annual General Meeting Tuesday, 28 October

Gathering from 7.00pm
for tea/coffee, biscuits and chat

For this AGM we return to our old 'home', the
Humfrey Rooms of the Northamptonshire
Natural History Society (NNHS) at:

**10 Castilian Terrace
Northampton NN1 1LD**



NAS AGM at 7.30pm

Meeting Chair: Mike Curtis

Officers' reports

Statement of accounts

Election of Hon. Officers and other members
of Council. The following are all willing to stand
for re-election:

Andy Chapman: Secretary, Editor and
Treasurer

Rob Atkins: Meetings Secretary

Pat Chapman: Membership Secretary

Other members of council:

Mike Curtis, Graham Cadman, Brian Giggins
and Sarah Scott.

Anyone wishing to join the committee to help
keep the Society running, and who can bring
in new energy and fresh ideas, please step
forward.

New candidates should notify the Secretary in
advance, together with the names of two
members to nominate and second their
application, or they can be nominated on the
night.

The AGM will be followed by our guest
speaker:

Ellie Cox,

Northants Finds Liaison Officer

Talking about recent outstanding finds.

NAS Accounts 2024-25

A copy of the accounts are attached to this
NAS NEWS. There was no journal to pay for,
so the accounts are fairly straight forward,
with a total income (including interest from
our Savings Account) of £2,165.22, and a total
expenditure of £1,833.09. The expenditure
this year included sums of £192.00 for the
printing of our new membership forms, and
£1,080.00 for the setting up and hosting of
our new website. Despite these two expenses,
there is a small profit at the end of the
financial year, and our balance stands at a very
healthy £31,442.08.

Membership subscriptions

To those who still pay annually by cheque, or
even by cash, this is reminder that
subscriptions are now due, with the majority
coming in through September and October.

The current membership rates are:

Individual: £15.00;

Local Societies: £18.00

Student or retired: £12.00

Family membership: £18.00

This entitles the member to a single copy of
the journal and copies of our newsletter, as
well as supporting the continued existence of
the society and the journal.

NAS Officer's Reports 2024-25

It has been quite a busy year for us in many small ways, if not in the more substantial one of bringing another journal to publication.

Our Chair, Mike Curtis, led on the design and production of a new membership application form, the first one to be printed for a few decades, and now available at various locations.

Mike also led on the more substantial and time-consuming task of bringing together a new website, which has recently gone public after several months in production.

He is, of course, also kept busy with his many other projects, including his radio programme for NLive Radio Northampton, *Now That's What I Call Heritage!* Broadcast weekly on Sunday mornings from 10.00-12.00.



There were two NAS events earlier this year. In May I led a NAS walking tour of the Middle Anglo-Saxon halls and Northampton Castle, and in June we had a tour of the Northamptonshire Archives Service (The Record Office), where we also got a rare view of the Nuclear Bunker underneath, now providing very useful additional storage space.

From my own point of view, it has been difficult to make steady progress on the journal due to lots of smaller projects, some directly NAS and others relating to my past

involvements in commercial field archaeology.

Early in the year Stanwick Lakes put on an exhibition and a week of public talks based on the excavations of the 1980s and also the results of the recent heritage initiatives within the park, to mark the end of a three-year grant cycle. I produced a new talk, looking at the process and progress of excavating West Cotton medieval hamlet, and how it was a family affair as we lived on site through the week in a caravan for the five seasons of excavation. There was also a new talk for Wootton Heritage Organisation on the Wootton Fields Roman villa, a proper rescue excavation from 1999. This brought in an audience of around 70, to learn why they lived somewhere with a Roman-themed name: Villa Way, Chariot Road etc. In June, there was an Anglo-Saxon halls walk for the Friends of St Peter's, and in August yet another new talk, *The Archaeology of Northampton*, for the Civic Society.

However, the major, if intermittent distraction, although also a very welcome one, has been the *A History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects*, with the first meeting in October 2024 and opening at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery on 20 September (tomorrow, as I am writing). Apart from contributing images and text for the exhibition, there has also been additional material for the book, website and App, and in a session with John Griff at The ARC recording three podcasts back-to-back. The satisfying part of this is to see among the finds many old friends that once sat on my desk for reporting and photography.

Now, as we approach autumn and winter, it will be lots of time at the computer editing and writing the next journal, to get it out as early in 2026 as possible.

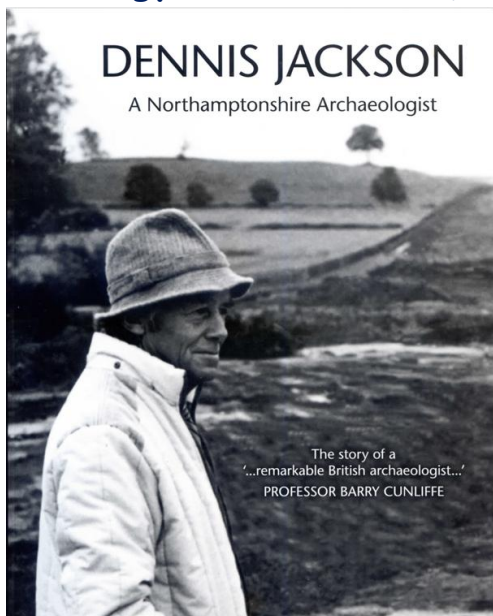
Andy Chapman
Secretary, Editor and Treasurer
19 September 2025

Northamptonshire Archaeology 43, 2025

Editing and writing are in progress, but it will definitely be into 2026 before it is published.

Dennis Jackson:

**A Northamptonshire Archaeologist
online with the
Archaeology Data Service (ADS)**



Dennis Jackson:

**A Northamptonshire Archaeologist
The Story of a 'Remarkable
British Archaeologist'**

Northamptonshire Archaeological Society
(2010) ISBN 9780950715148

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1050887>

Dennis Jackson's autobiography, covering his life and his long career as a field archaeologist from the 1960s to the 1990s, is now available free of charge online with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The book is presented chapter by chapter as a set of PDF downloads. If you are not fortunate enough to have a printed copy, download your free copy now. Our earlier monograph from 2004, *The Archaeology of Northamptonshire*, is also available from ADS, along with all copies of our journal, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, from volume 1, 1974, to volume 40, 2019.

A History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery

Saturday, 20 September -

Sunday, 22 February 2026



In October 2024 we [Northampton Museum] asked individuals, groups and community organisations from across the county to join us as Guest Curators for our exhibition: A History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects, as part of our Arts Council England funded project to explore and share histories from Northamptonshire's past.

Journey through 150 million years of Northamptonshire's past. From prehistoric treasures to modern marvels, 100 remarkable objects reveal the people, events, and industries that shaped the county, each telling a unique story of its cultural, social, and economic heritage.

This exhibition has been shaped by an extraordinary network of 51 guest curators from across the county, each bringing their own expertise and local knowledge to the project.

These dedicated individuals, from [archaeologists] historians and collectors to community groups, have worked alongside the museum team to select objects and craft narratives. Their collaborative efforts ensure this exhibition truly reflects the breadth of Northamptonshire's heritage, guided by those who know their communities best.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a book, a website, an App, and each object will have its own podcast. There will also be further associated displays, *Beyond the 100*, in several libraries and at various heritage sites around the county (see below).

A History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects Book: Only £9.99

Take Northamptonshire's history home. This beautifully illustrated book features all 100 exhibition objects with stunning photography and detailed stories, offering an insightful exploration of the county's rich past. A perfect keepsake and enduring reference for anyone interested in Northamptonshire's heritage.

Histories of Northamptonshire Website

Explore Northamptonshire's history online through a timeline spanning from the county's earliest geology to the present day. Each entry features images, stories, and links for further discovery. Scroll through the periods to uncover objects and events, and contribute suggestions for additions to this growing record.

A History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects Podcast Series

Listen to the voices behind the objects in this 100-episode series. Host John Griff speaks with guest curators, historians, and local residents, revealing each object's story.

This 100-episode podcast series will be available on the **museum YouTube channel** from 20 September, along with a special introductory episode,

A History of Northamptonshire App

Turn your phone into a history guide. The Explore Northampton app takes you to the real-world locations linked to each object. Unlock stories, audio guides, and even augmented reality experiences, plus bonus content for completing trails. See, hear, and experience Northamptonshire's heritage like never before.

Beyond the 100:

St Peter's Church, Northampton

On behalf of NAS, there are two objects that contribute to the extended exhibition, *Beyond the 100*: Two roof tiles from St James' Abbey and a carved medieval figure from the deserted medieval hamlet of West Cotton, Raunds.



Two heavy shouldered medieval roof tiles, later reused to form tile-lined tombs in the cemetery at St James' Abbey, Northampton. The abbey, on the site of the former Express Lifts Company, and next door to the Saints Rugby Ground, Franklin Gardens, was trial trenched and excavated 1999-2001. The display also includes a partial tile for handling and a paper copy of a PowerPoint presentation telling the story of the abbey and the excavation.

The Friends of St Peter's have also put together a display of worked building stone, including a second stone from the same decorated late Saxon cross shaft as the larger stone within the *100 Objects* at the museum.



... and Stanwick Lakes,

From West Cotton, Raunds deserted medieval hamlet, there is the medieval figure carved in relief on a block of limestone, nicknamed 'Norman Morris' by the excavation team. It was found standing upright within a stone-lined pit within a three-roomed medieval cottage (right), with a nine-men's morris board scratched on the stone at his feet, which formed part of the base of the pit (bottom).



'Norman' will be on display in the Stanwick Lakes Visitor Centre as part of the heritage display on the mezzanine floor above the cafe



**Chalk Lane Heritage Park,
Northampton**



The works are now clearly nearing completion, with all play equipment in place, and with the finishing touches being made to the surrounding landscaping and footpaths. The information panels are still to be added to the posts that mark the line of the inner bailey bank.

I am not aware of an official opening date being announced, but it cannot be too far off.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Registered Charity No. 268516

Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester, GCVO

Accounts for the financial year 2024-2025 (ending 29 August 2025)

Income

Members subscriptions	£ 1,110.00
Institutional subscriptions	£ 258.00
Journal sales	£ 160.00
Old journal & book sales	£ 179.00
Publishers Licensing Services payments	£ 102.18
Donations	£ 23.00

Income sub-total	£ 1,832.18
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Market Harborough Building Soc Annual Interest	£ 333.04
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Total income	£ 2,165.22
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Expenditure

Misc. expenditure & postage	£ 66.59
Website setup	£ 1,080.00
Membership leaflet	£ 192.00
BALH (includes insurance)	£ 90.00
CBA membership	£ 87.50
Northants Heritage Forum membership	£ 45.00
Grant to Wellingborough Arch & Hist Soc	£ 200.00
Bank charges	£ 72.00

Total expenditure	£ 1,833.09
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Balance of Accounts 2024-25

HSBC bank account	£ 4,479.51
Market Harborough BS savings account	£ 26,962.57

Balance (29 August 2025)	£ 31,442.08
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<u>Balance of Accounts 2023-24</u>	£31,109.95
Income	£10,295.58
Expenditure	£ 8,982.41

Andy Chapman, Hon. Treasurer, Northamptonshire Archaeological Society
10 September 2025

Potterspury Pottery Day

11 October 2025, 11.00-16.00

Potterspury Village Hall: Free entry



Potterspury History Group are delighted to be a contributor to Northampton Museum's History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects Exhibition, which opens on 20 September.

A pot from Potterspury was an obvious submission: there is only one Potterspury in the entire world and the village name appears to have changed in the 12th century to reflect the thriving pottery trade that existed in the village for more than five centuries.

The Potterspury Pot will be on display in Northampton for six months and on 11 October, we will celebrate our historic trade with an exhibition.

Come and find out how our village got its name and learn about the pottery trade that thrived here from medieval times until the 18th century.

Where were the village pottery kilns?

Is your house near one?

The story of the Potterspury Pot

Collection of Potterspury Ware

Meet the archaeologist - Andy Chapman

Archaeology discovery bench

Exhibition of pottery created by

John Hellins Primary School

42nd Annual Brixworth Lecture

(In conjunction with The Medieval Research Department of Leicester University)

Saturday 1st November 2025, 5.00 pm

(see attached poster)

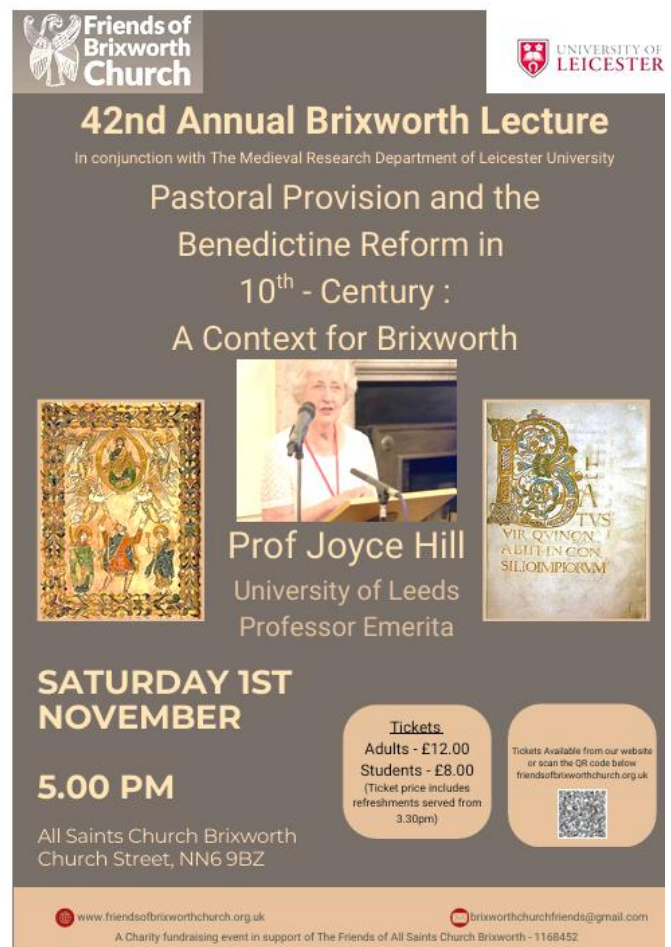
Pastoral Provision and the Benedictine Reform in 10th-century England
by Prof Joyce Hill - University of Leeds
Professor Emerita

Saturday 1st November 2025

For tickets go to the Friends of All Saints Church Brixworth website

Adults: £12.00, Students: £8.00

Ticket price includes refreshments served from 3.30pm in the village hall



Friends of Brixworth Church

42nd Annual Brixworth Lecture
In conjunction with The Medieval Research Department of Leicester University

Pastoral Provision and the Benedictine Reform in 10th - Century : A Context for Brixworth

Prof Joyce Hill
University of Leeds
Professor Emerita

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

5.00 PM

All Saints Church Brixworth
Church Street, NN6 9BZ

Tickets
Adults - £12.00
Students - £8.00
(Ticket price includes refreshments served from 3.30pm)

Tickets Available from our website or scan the QR code below
[friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk](https://www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk)

www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk

brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com

A Charity fundraising event in support of The Friends of All Saints Church Brixworth - 1168452

NASNEWS

Any events or news for the next issue of NASNEWS please forward to either:

Andy Chapman (NAS196674@gmail.com)

or Rob Atkins (robatkins1968@gmail.com)