



NASNEWS

Newsletter of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society



Website: www.northants-archaeology.org.uk

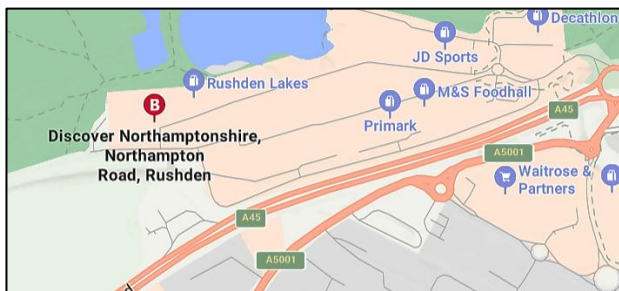
October 2026

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 28 October

(a new venue for us, 25 seats only)

**Rushden Lakes Hub,
Discover Northamptonshire
(close to Cineworld)**



**Gathering from 18.30 for tea &
coffee: AGM begins at 19.00**

Meeting Chair: Mike Curtis

Officers' reports

Statement of accounts

Election of Hon. Officers of council:

Secretary, Journal Editor & Treasurer:

Andy Chapman

Meetings/minutes Secretary: Rob Atkins

Membership Secretary: Pat Chapman

Other members of council:

Mike Curtis (NAS Chair), Graham Cadman,
Sarah Scott, Brian Giggins and David Waller.

New Member: Charlotte Walker

(Nominated by Andy Chapman):

We ask if members are happy for all to be re-elected as a group, and seek a proposer and a seconder, and a vote of members present.

Any other new candidates should notify the Secretary in advance of the meeting, together with the names of two members to nominate and second their application, but they can also be nominated on the night.

The AGM will be followed by our guest speaker:

Dr Heather Keeble

University of Leicester

***Reverend Baker's network: A
collective approach to archaeological
investigations at Roman Irchester
in the nineteenth century***

The Reverend Robert Sibley Baker led archaeological investigations at Irchester in the 1870s which were innovative in many respects. Archival research is revealing the collective and enterprising nature of the investigations. This research is integral to current archaeological investigations at Irchester, the first major excavations to take place within the walled area of the town since 1878.

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.

Many thanks to all those who have already through direct payments to our bank account.

Details available on request to:
nas196674@gmail.com

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 2025-26

Treasurer's Report

A full set of accounts are attached to the end of this NASNEWS, with just the headline figures presented below:

Finances 2025-26	Totals
Total Income	£ 1,722.91
	£ 1,478.77
+ Building Society interest	£ 244.14
Total Expenditure	£ 1,522.82
Profit/loss	£ + 200.09
Finances end of 2025-26	£ 31,642.17

For comparison: Finances 2024-25

Total Income	£ 2,165.22
Total Expenditure	£ 1,833.09
Finances end of 2024-25	£31,442.08

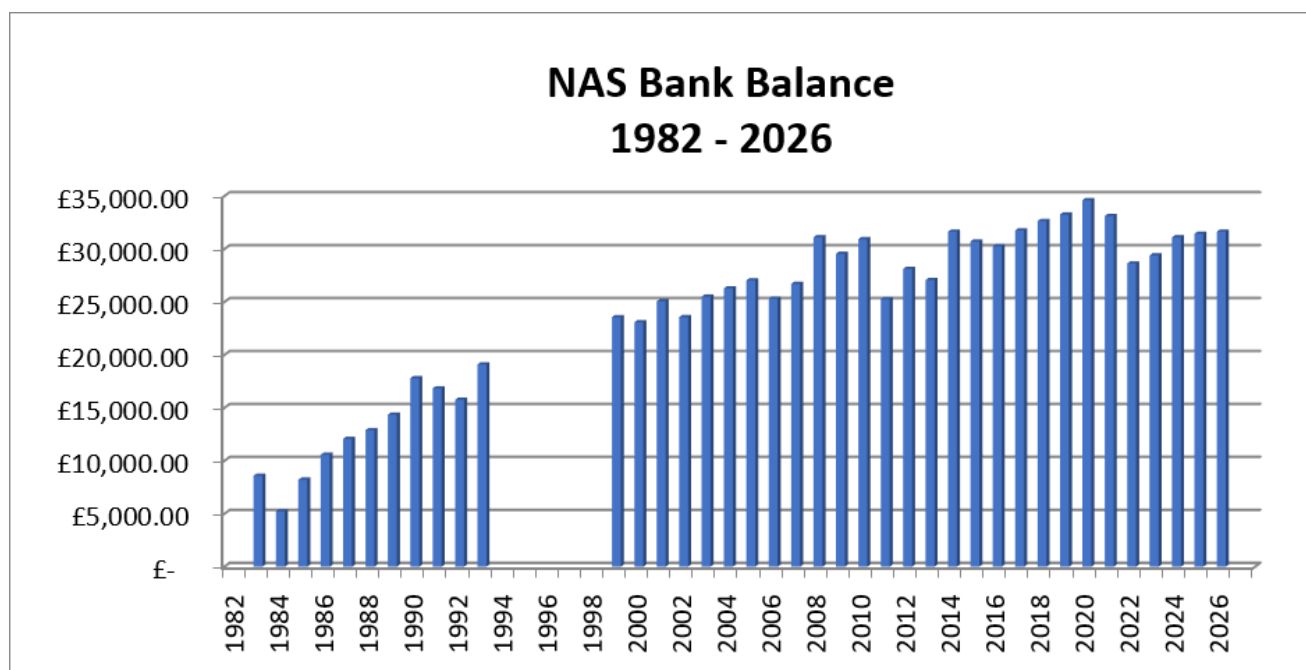
This was another quiet year as again we didn't have the cost of publishing and distributing a journal. Major expenses were for the maintenance of the website, payment for a radiocarbon date on one of the pre-Conquest burials, excavated in 1979, associated with the lost church of St Gregory, Northampton. There was also the cost of putting the Dennis Jackson autobiography online with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

At the bottom of the page, we provide a plot of our bank balance including all the accounts since 1983 that we hold copies of. This illustrates that since 2008 our finances at the end of the financial year have averaged around £30,000, only once dropping to £25,000 and once even approaching £35,000.

Editor's Report

In the first NASNEWS of the year, back in early April, I apologised for having fallen so far behind with bringing the next journal, volume 43, together.

I pointed out that one reason I had fallen behind was that I offered to take on the task of writing an overview on the Prehistoric Archaeology of Northampton for the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD), which was being prepared by the Historic Environment Record (HER), funded by Historic England. I had hugely underestimated how long it would take. By Christmas 2025 I had finished the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early-Middle Bronze Age. And then in the New Year it took just as long to cover the Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age, particularly given the accumulation of so much new data from the many sites that have, and are still being, excavated as part of the current phase of development and expansion around Northampton.



I should have been settling down to writing and editing, but life had something else in store, when in mid-April I had a heart attack and two days later a triple heart bypass at Glenfield Hospital, Leicester.

So, there were other priorities through the spring and early summer, including getting fit enough to make sure we could enjoy our August cruise around Iceland, including the total solar eclipse visible from off the west coast (although we were to be clouded out less than a minute before the beginning of totality). A wonderful country, and standing at the steering oar of a Viking long ship, even if it was in a museum, was a memorable experience.



And finding an iron horse/cow shackle in the National Museum in Reykjavik that matched one excavated from the pre-Castle deposits at Northampton Station in 2013.



What I need going forward is a wet and windy winter to keep me indoors writing and editing. The journal will appear as early in 2027 as I can make it, but this will probably still be late spring to early summer.

Beyond publishing the next journal, another aim is make the last two volumes available online through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), adding to volumes 1-40 that are already available as free downloads.

A History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery
(exhibition closed February 2026)

Still Available:

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 from 2025-26, 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.

Beyond the 100:

St Peter's Church, Northampton and Stanwick Lakes Visitor Centre

On behalf of NAS, there were two objects that contributed 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. Both of these are still on display at these venues, St Peter's Church, Northampton and Stanwick Lakes Visitor Centre.

43rd Annual Brixworth Lecture

In conjunction with The Medieval
Research Department of Leicester
University

**Saturday 7 November 2026
at 5.00 pm
in Brixworth Church**

Letter Writing in Medieval Mercia

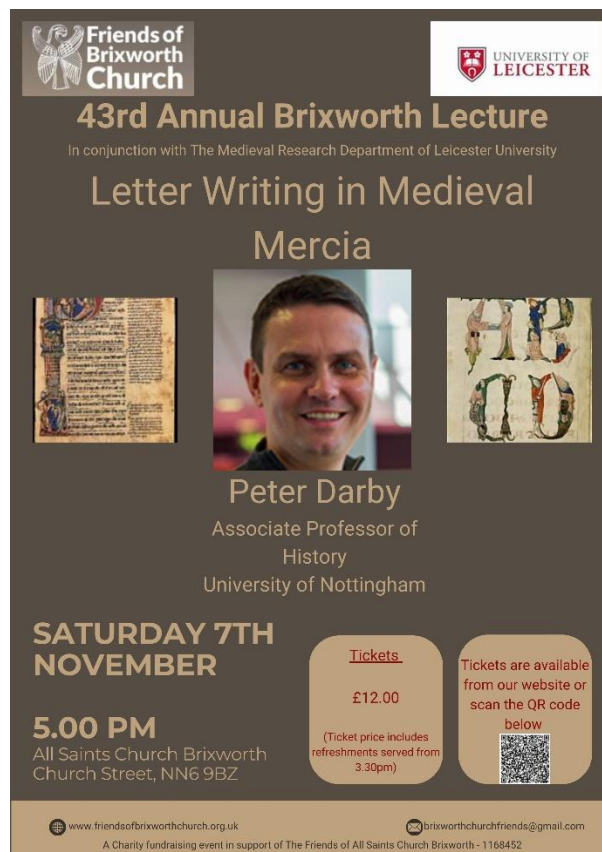
by Peter Darby
Associate Professor of History
University of Nottingham

Tickets £12.00

(includes refreshments served in Village
Hall from 3.30pm)

**Tickets from the Friends of Brixworth
website**

<https://www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk/2026/09/17/brixworth-annual-lecture-2026/>



The poster is for the 43rd Annual Brixworth Lecture, held in conjunction with The Medieval Research Department of Leicester University. The title is 'Letter Writing in Medieval Mercia' by Peter Darby, an Associate Professor of History at the University of Nottingham. The event is on Saturday 7th November at 5.00 PM at All Saints Church, Brixworth. Tickets are £12.00 and include refreshments served from 3.30pm. The poster features the Friends of Brixworth Church logo, the University of Leicester logo, a portrait of Peter Darby, and two images of medieval manuscripts. A QR code is provided for ticket purchase. The bottom of the poster includes the website www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk and the email brixworthchurchfriends@gmail.com, noting it is a charity fundraising event.

LIFE ON THE DALLINGTON BROOK

Archaeological Investigations at Harlestone Park
Northamptonshire 2022–2023

Joanne Barker, Grace Griffith, Abby Antrobus and Dane Wright



Cotswold Archaeology Monograph 25

Life on the Dallington Brook: Archaeological investigations at Harlestone Park, Northamptonshire 2022-2023

By Jo Barker, Grace Giffith, Abby
Antrobus, Dane Wright
Cotswold Archaeology Monograph, 25,
This volume has now been published
and is available online from
Archaeopress Archaeology
Hardback: 360 pages, £35.00

Several monographs published by **MOLA Northampton** on Northants excavations are also still available online through Archaeopress Archaeology.

NASNEWS

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

Andy Chapman (NAS196674@gmail.com)



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Registered Charity No. 268516

Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester, GCVO

Accounts for the financial year 2025-2026 (ending 29 August 2026)

Income	
Members subscriptions	£ 1,200.00
Institutional subscriptions	£ 88.00
Journal & book sales	£ 89.00
Publishers Licensing Services payments	£ 101.77
Income sub-total	£ 1,478.77
Market Harborough Building Soc Annual Interest	£ 244.14
Total income	£ 1,722.91
Expenditure	
Misc. expenditure & postage	£ 124.32
Website	£ 480.00
Dennis Jackson autobiography on Archaeology Data Service	£ 132.00
BALH (includes insurance)	£ 90.00
CBA membership	£ 87.50
Northants Heritage Forum membership	£ 45.00
Grant to Andy Chapman C14 dating Gregory Street, Northampton	£ 414.00
Room Hire 2025 AGM	£ 40.00
Guided tour of Irchester excavations	£ 100.00
Bank charges	£ 10.00
Total expenditure	£ 1,522.82
Profit/loss	£ 200.09
Balance of Accounts 2025-26	
HSBC bank account	£ 4,435.46
Market Harborough Building Society savings account	£ 27,206.71
Balance (29 August 2026)	£ 31, 642.17
Balance of Accounts 2024-2025	
Income	£ 2,165.22
Expenditure	£ 1,833.09

Andy Chapman, Hon. Treasurer, Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

15 September 2026