



ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OF DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND

The Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland

Registered charity number 227397

Trustees Annual Report

Year ended: 31 December 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity Name: Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland

Registered charity no: 227397

Principal Address: Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland
c/o Department of Archaeology
Durham University
South Road
Durham
DH1 3LE

Society Website: www.aasdn.org.uk

Charity trustees who managed the charity in 2024:

Richard Annis	President
Adrian Green	Past President
Julie Biddlecombe-Brown	Vice President
Jennifer Morrison	Secretary
David Mason	Editor
Jennifer Parker	Membership Secretary
Simon Alderson	Treasurer
Anne Allen	Lecture Organiser
Erik Matthews	Fieldwork Officer
Myra Giesen	Newsletter Editor
Gary Bankhead	Webmaster
Heidi Richards	Excursions
Sheila Hingley	Minute taker
John Castling	
Sarah Price	
Laura Anderson	

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is constituted as a Local Society, whose governing document is the Society Constitution.

The trustees form a committee elected by the Society membership at the AGM in May.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document:

The objects of the Society are to promote the study of archaeology and architecture, especially in the north-east of England. The Society is interested, not only in field monuments and upstanding buildings, but in all matters relating to artefacts, documents and antiquarian thought.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

In accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, the Trustees, (who form the management committee of the Society) organised a programme of events for 2024, with the aim of encouraging as full a participation as possible from its membership and from members of the public.

The Society offers a selection of excursions during the year. Archaeological fieldwork is being carried out at Hornby Castle in North Yorkshire, on most Saturdays from spring until autumn. Excursions and fieldwork are only available to members of the Society.

There was a full programme of lectures. The Society's lectures are free and open to the general public, and they are advertised on the website and through social media.

The committee dealt with enquiries and requests for information from the general public on a wide range of issues relating to the history and archaeology of our region.

The Society publishes Durham Archaeological Journal, free to Ordinary members and available for sale to institutional members and the general public.

Most members receive Newsletters electronically; paper copies are printed for those who do not use email.

The Society aims to cater for all those with an interest in the archaeology and architecture of our area, and to raise awareness of the significance of the rich historic environment of Durham and Northumberland, with a view to safeguarding our unique heritage for future generations.

The Trustees have read and are aware of their responsibilities with regard to Charity

Commission advice on public benefit, and this is reviewed annually.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during 2024:

The Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland has continued to prosper and develop in the last year. Membership numbers have dropped in the last year to around 109, but this may be due to us having to set up a new bank account. Membership is spread across joint, single and associate categories. We have continued to achieve good attendance records at the events we have arranged.

Lectures

The lectures were held at 2.30pm on Saturday afternoons from January to June and from September to December, at Durham University mostly in room ER140 at Elvet Riverside, New Elvet, Durham DH1 3JT. Most attracted audiences of around 40 to 50 attendees.

Saturday 13 January 2024

Dr Jane Harrison, University of Newcastle

A North Northumberland Early Anglo-Saxon high-status site: targeted later by the Viking Great Army?

Saturday 10 February

Richard Annis and Julie Biddlecombe-Brown

Raby Castle

Saturday 9 March

Richard Pears

'Catholic country houses in Durham and Northumberland 1570-1829'

Saturday 13 April

Kate Chapman, ECUS Ltd (formerly NAA)

'Excavation and Building Recording at Egglescliffe Old Hall'

Saturday 8 June

Paul Howlett from York Archaeology

'Micklegate and Guildhall, York – the results from recent excavations by York Archaeology'

Saturday 21 Sept

Natalie Swann, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Services Durham University

'Recent excavations on Durham peninsula and within Durham City'.

Saturday 12 Oct

Jules Brown, Historic Places Adviser, Historic England

‘Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone’

Saturday 9 Nov

Tim Bailey, Principal at xsite architecture and Chair of Northern School of Art

‘Hartlepool Conservation Area’

Saturday 14 Dec

David Mason, Senior Archaeologist, Durham County Council

‘What the Romans did for Durham and Northumberland’

Excursions

Wednesday 5th to Tuesday 11th June **Wales**

Major excursion to South West

David Mason led a week-long trip to Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. Wednesday was taken up by travelling, although the group stopped on the way to see Croome Court, a mid-18th century neo-Palladian mansion near Upton-upon-Severn in South Worcestershire. On Thursday the group visited Pembroke Castle, and had a guided tour of the town. Friday’s visits were to Picton Castle and St. David’s Cathedral. On Sunday the group went to the National Trust’s Stackpole Estate, followed by Carew Castle and Tidal Mill. Monday’s destination was Carmarthen Roman amphitheatre, then Dinefwr Park (the site of two Roman forts and a ruined castle and Newton House). On the way back to Durham on Tuesday 11th, the group visited Hanbury Hall.

Tuesday 6th August **Blyth**

Richard Annis organised a visit to see the 1879 LV50 Lightship at South Harbour, Blyth. We are grateful to the Friends of LV50 for showing us round. This was followed by a stop to see Blyth Battery and the 18th century gate pier to the now lost Link House.

Thursday 10th October **Barter Books, Alnwick**

Heidi Richards organised a tour of the architecture of a former Victorian railway station, now a book shop.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM on Saturday 11th May was held in the Scarborough Room at Lumley Castle in Chester-le-Street. The business meeting was preceded by a guided tour by Heidi Richards (former Events Coordinator at the Castle).

Newsletters

Two newsletters were produced this year, edited by Myra Giesen, celebrating the historic environment of the North-East and beyond.

Journal

Durham Archaeological Journal is an occasional publication, so no journal was published in 2024, however our Editor, David Mason, worked on collating articles for the next volume.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork at Hornby Castle in North Yorkshire continued under the direction of Erik Matthews.

Society Research Award

The 2023 research award of £500 was belatedly granted in April 2024 to Towan Hancock, of Shincliffe Local History Society for scientifically dating timber in the riverbank of the Wear, a remnant of an earlier river crossing at Shincliffe.

The 2024 research award of £500 was granted to Tony Metcalfe of Altogether Archaeology to help fund palaeo-environmental analysis and radiocarbon dating of samples from the prehistoric palisaded enclosure at Gueswick.

Website and Social Media

A new website has been created, and is kept up to date by Gary Bankhead, and our presence on X (formerly Twitter) was used to advertise events and raise the profile of the Society. Members were kept informed of events in the area via regular email circulars.

We remain committed to supporting archaeology within the region, promoting the historic environment and encouraging our members and the general public to engage with the past.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves:

The Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland's policy on reserves is to maintain a sufficient level of reserves to enable all usual operating activities to be maintained whilst taking into account potential contingencies that may arise from time to time. We maintain a reserve of £5000 to cover potential costs that might arise from changes in local or national policies that could affect the work of the Society or the loss of access to University premises and facilities. This policy and the level of reserves are regularly reviewed.

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Richard Annis, President

Date:

10 May 2025

Architectural & Archaeological Society of Durham & Northumberland
Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Income & Expenditure Account

	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
<u>Membership Income</u>				
Subscriptions	£2,283.00		£3,082.50	
Sub Total		£2,283.00		£3,082.50
<u>Other Income</u>				
Sale of Publications	£2,167.24		£3,543.22	
Trips, Events & Fieldwork Income	£3,714.50		£1,983.00	
Legacies	£28,500.00		£0.00	
Bank Interest Received	£0.00		£12.76	
Sub Total		£34,381.74		£5,538.98
Total Income		£36,664.74		£8,621.48
<u>Less: Expenditure</u>				
Meeting & Speakers Expenses	£706.30		£134.30	
Journal & Monograph Publication Costs	£0.00		£3,457.51	
Trips and Events	£0.00		£6,562.57	
Corporate Subscriptions	£0.00		£119.00	
Administrative Expenses	£669.29		£946.22	
Fieldwork Costs	£100.00		£100.00	
Grants	£1,000.00		£500.00	
Total Expenditure		£2,475.59		£11,819.60
(Deficit)/Surplus of Income over Expenditure		£34,189.15		-£3,198.12

Architectural & Archaeological Society of Durham & Northumberland
Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Balance Sheet

	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Year End Bank Balances</u>				
Bank Current Account	£55,778.34		£21,589.19	
Bank Deposit Account	£0.00		£0.00	
	-----		-----	
Total		£55,778.34		£21,589.19
		=====		=====

<u>Consolidated Fund</u>				
Surplus B/fwd	£21,589.19		£24,787.31	
(Deficit)/Surplus for Year	£34,189.15		-£3,198.12	
	-----		-----	
		£55,778.34		£21,589.19
		=====		=====

S Alderson, Hon Treasurer

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Architectural & Archaeological Society of Durham & Northumberland, charity number 227397 (England & Wales)

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31th December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

G. Bell

Mr G Bell
GS Accountants Ltd
Aykley Vale Chambers
Durham Road
County Durham
DH1 5NE

29th April 2025