



### Professor Dame Rosemary Cramp

Rosemary Cramp, who died on 27 April 2023, was a towering figure in Anglo-Saxon archaeology, art history, and education. She also was a great supporter of the Arch & Arch, having joined the Society when she first came to Durham in 1955. She served on the Committee and was our President between 2000

and 2003; a great many members of the Society will remember her fondly.

The list of Rosemary's achievements is a long one. She was instrumental in the founding of the Department of Archaeology at Durham, with Eric Birley, and, in 1971, she became the first woman to be promoted to Professor at the university. She was Head of Department for nearly 20 years, and her promotion of science in archaeology was immensely important for its future. She undertook excavations at the double monastery of Monkwearmouth - Jarrow and at The Hirsell; she founded the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture, and wrote Volume I, County Durham and Northumberland; she worked tirelessly on Bede's World and the Codex Amiatinus; she served on numerous public bodies and learned

societies, including the RCAHMS, the British Museum, Historic England, and the Council for British Archaeology. Rosemary was President of the Society of Antiquaries of London between 2001 and 2004, and was made a Fellow of the British Academy in 2006. She appeared twice in the Honours List, becoming a CBE in 1987 and a Dame in 2011.

Above all, perhaps, she was notable for the time and care she devoted to her students, many of whom went on to distinguished careers in the field. She was generous, and always supremely practical, in her advice to anyone interested in archaeology or the other areas in which she worked. As members of the Arch and Arch, we owe her a considerable debt. She once said, in an interview, "My life wasn't anything planned. It emerged in the shape that it did." Many people, archaeologists or not, are fortunate that it did so.

A favourite memory is of seeing Rosemary at her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday conference in May 2019, in the lecture theatre named after her. After listening to a series of fulsome tributes from fellow scholars, and standing in front of a collection of birthday cakes in the shape of Anglo Saxon sculpture, Rosemary stood up, looked around and drily said "well, it's remarkable to hear all that and not be dead."

Photo provided by Jeff Veitch.

**Richard Annis**

President | Architectural & Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland (AASDN, aka Arch & Arch)



### President's Letter

The Arch and Arch has been in existence for more than 160 years. Over that time, members of the Society have enjoyed lectures, visits, and practical projects on all kinds of historic sites. They have also written many articles, reviews and monographs, so our library is quite a large one. This is not entirely good news: because the Society has no premises, our collection of books, newsletters and back numbers of journals has sat in the offices, garages or spare bedrooms of various Committee members, as well as in borrowed shelf-space at Palace Green Library, for decades.

We sell back numbers at County Durham Archaeology Day and similar events, and we get a trickle of requests each year, many of them asking for a copy of a single article rather than a whole journal or book. We deal with this sort of thing by asking whichever Committee member has the relevant article to make a copy or scan and send it to our Secretary for despatch. While this works, it's slow and inefficient: it's hardly what anyone would call a 21<sup>st</sup> century procedure.



A while ago we decided that this unsatisfactory arrangement needed to be changed. We looked into the costs of renting storage space for the collection, but found that even the cheapest commercial storage unit would cost us over £1000 a year. That is well over ten times more than our likely annual income from sales. Instead, the Committee has decided that we should dispose of most of our back numbers. We plan to have the full series of the Journal professionally scanned, and then to dispose of the surplus paper copies. This will allow us to make the library available as a searchable series of PDFs on our website. It's a tidier, greener, and much more easily managed arrangement than what we have at present, and it will make our collections more accessible and more useable for members and researchers in the future. Full members will still receive the usual print version of Durham Archaeological Journal, which won't be available online immediately: we have no plans to go to digital-only publication.

**Richard Annis**  
President | AASDN



### Archaeology of the River Wear Conference

The Society held a conference on Saturday, 25 March 2023 on the archaeology of the River Wear – exploring the patterns of human activity from prehistoric times to the present day. Rob Young presented on the great sweep of prehistoric evidence for humans in the Wear Valley – from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age. Making use of pollen analysis as well as excavations, Rob pointed to Weardale as a centre for hunting, along with changing patterns of exploitation along the lower reaches of the River Wear towards the coast. David Heslop presented on the Iron Age, arguing for the Wear valley as a centre, rather than the periphery of wider territories to north or south. David Mason (who else) spoke on Roman County Durham, especially the impressive Roman fort at Binchester and its civilian settlement in front of the fort. The Auckland area was clearly an important focus in the centre of the Wear Valley and remained so in the post-Roman period. John Castling presented evidence for Aucklandshire as an estate unit, while Dave Petts noted the significance of the Auckland area as a religious centre in the early Middle Ages, even before the arrival of the bishop's palace. Jamie Armstrong summarised the recent archaeological discoveries at Bishop Auckland Castle, especially Bishop Bek's great two-storey chapel.

Moving into the medieval era, Gary Bankhead shared his fascinating finds from the River Wear itself in Durham City, and Adrian Green spoke about the towns and villages of the county, which underwent a housing revolution in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as the coal field was exploited and farming was transformed by enclosures. Martin Roberts explained the downward mobility of Weardale's gentry houses – grand houses of the Elizabethan and Jacobean era that often had their roofs 'rationalised' to make maintenance easier as they 'slipped down the ladder' socially in later centuries. From the seventeenth century through to the nineteenth century Weardale was an industrial landscape, and Ian Forbes traced the archaeology of lead mining. Moving into the twentieth century, Ronan O'Donnell presented the archaeology of a workers' training camp at Hamsterley, built during the economic depression before World War II. Robin Daniels took us to the mouth of the river to explain the archaeology of the world war defences for thwarting enemy action by sea and air. Caroline Smith brought us up to the present day with a spirit-raising presentation on the 'Bishop Auckland Big Dig', where test pits across the town have transformed young people's appreciation of their community and its heritage.

All speakers are thanked for their excellent presentations and for addressing the conference theme. The idea for the day was to connect the dots between periods of archaeology usually studied in isolation. Certain continuities emerged – notably the significance of Stanhope and Auckland as centres since the last Ice Age. Durham City, Sunderland and today's farming landscape are relatively recent creations by contrast.

Richard Annis shouldered most of the burden of organisation. Our only regret is that the event sold out, and that some members of the Society missed the chance to attend.

Photo credit: Gilbert Mackay.

**Adrian Green**  
Past President | AASDN



### 2023 AASDN Annual General Meeting

Our 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Locomotion Museum in Shildon on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> May. For those who are interested, a bus will be available (£12 per person) from Durham. It will depart from Freeman's Place, opposite the swimming baths, at 9:15 am, and will return from Locomotion at 3:45 pm back to Durham. For those who want refreshments (£6.50 per person), they will be available upon arrival at the meeting.

Although the event is free, you must reserve your spot with our Excursions Officer, Laura Anderson [laura.anderson6531@gmail.com](mailto:laura.anderson6531@gmail.com). Make sure you have reserved and paid for bus/refreshments no later than Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May. This event is for members only.

We will start our day at 10 am at the Brusselton Incline in Shildon DL4 1QD. This incline, described as a "Georgian engineering marvel," was a part of George Stephenson's original route for the Stockton and Darlington Railway. It was built in the 1820s and used a rope-hauled system to transport coal from the South Durham Coalfield, over Brusselton hill, and down to Shildon, where it met the Stockton and Darlington Railway. The incline possibly had the world's first railway signalling system. Although the incline fell out of use in the 1880s due to the construction of a railway tunnel in 1842, we will see the railway landscape, the remains of the steam engine house, and the trackbed, which has been archaeologically excavated. We also will get to view some of the original stone sleeper blocks that have been laid out on site with new rails. Check out <https://brusseltonincline.group> for more information and a short film.



At 11 am, we will gather at Locomotion Museum for a guided tour of the Main Hall. Currently, Stephenson's Rocket of 1829 is on display at Locomotion, on loan from the Science Museum Group. Also on exhibit is No.1 0-4-0 'Locomotion', constructed in 1825 by Robert Stephenson & Co, and used on the opening day of the S&DR on 27 September 1825. This is the first time that both steam locomotives have been displayed together. Visit <https://locomotion.org.uk> for more information.

At 12 pm, there will be a lunch break. Please bring a packed lunch or eat at Café Number One in the museum.

After lunch, at 1 pm, we will convene for a guided walk to the 1880s Sunday School. Along the way, we will observe historic buildings in Shildon's Conservation Area.

Our AGM meeting will begin at 1:45 pm in the Sunday School. At 2:30 pm, there will be an optional tea/coffee/cake available (to be paid for in advance). At 2:50 pm, our President, Richard Annis, will give his address. The event will conclude by 3:30 pm, and the Museum will close at 4 pm. Photo credit: David Dixon / Locomotion Railway Museum, Shildon.



### Excursion: Hylton Castle (10 December 2022)

Instead of the traditional members meeting last December we had a pre-Christmas visit to Hylton Castle in Sunderland. The 14<sup>th</sup> century gatehouse is a Scheduled Monument and grade I listed building. I visited the castle as a child, when it was an English Heritage guardianship site and you paid to go inside. Visitor numbers were not sufficient to keep the castle manned unfortunately, and some years later, it was closed up, with only periodic public access to the interior. The ruin was subject to vandalism and anti-social behaviour and became a blight in the landscape.

Members may remember that Time Team came to Hylton Castle in 1994 and they found evidence that suggested that the Gatehouse formed part of a larger castle complex extending east. Further evaluation was undertaken in 1995 by Tyne and Wear Museums. An earthwork survey that same year identified a possible building platform east of the gatehouse, garden terraces and later garden features. But despite the television coverage the future for Hylton Castle looked bleak.

However, thanks to the valiant campaigning, for 30 years, of a community group called Castle in the Community, the ruined castle has been restored to a fully functional building again,

with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, English Heritage, Sunderland City Council, Historic England and others. The architects for the scheme were Beaumont Brown. The space provides community and educational facilities, flexible event and meeting rooms and a tea room.

The transformation is truly remarkable. An independent three-storey structure with new stairs and a lift was built inside the shell of the gatehouse, in such a way that the original walls were not touched and historic details are still visible. In fact, because you can get close up to the features on the upper floors, they are now more visible.

Before and during the restoration, the medieval building was subject to a programme of excavation and detailed archaeological building recording by Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA). The work was led by Penny Middleton, who was once Arch & Arch's Fieldwork Officer. The installation of scaffolding to build the new roof, enabled the archaeologists to safely record the buttress turrets and bartizans; and the corbels and gargoyles supporting the machicolations on the west façade.

Hylton Castle is notable for its heraldry. These include Sir William Hilton's banner; the curious 'Moses head' of Baron Hylton; the three lions and three fleur-de-lys, which is the Royal Standard of Henry IV; and the white hart which represents Richard II.

After we had explored the Castle, I gave an overview of the historic development of the castle, and the archaeological work that had been carried out, using NAA and Beaumont Brown's reports, historic drawings and map regression.

Hylton Castle was built between 1398 and 1405 by William de Hilton. Sir William died in 1435. Between 1536 and 1559 the Castle was well looked after by Thomas Hilton. The 16<sup>th</sup> century terraced gardens, identified in the earthwork survey of 1995, may have been set out by Thomas, or his nephew, Sir William Hilton (died 1600). In 1641, Sir Henry Hilton died and entrusted Hylton for 99 years 'to the Lord Mayor and four senior Aldermen of the City of London'. The family began a legal case, which was only resolved in 1660, when Charles II was restored and Hylton passed to Captain John Hilton. He died in 1670 and another Henry Hilton (1637-1712) took over the estate and began to modify and rebuild the Castle. Henry built the North Range in English Baroque



style between 1670 and 1703. Between 1728 and 1737, he added the South Range. The last Hilton at Hylton Castle was Sir John Hilton (MP for Carlisle) who died in 1746.

The Castle then passed to John Hilton's nephew Richard Musgrave of Hayton Castle in Cumbria. In 1763, the Estate was sold to Mary Bowes of Gibside, who rented it out. Between 1763 and 1785 a single-storey 'Picturesque Gothic' extension and a porch was added. But by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Hylton Castle was in disrepair.

A new but short lease of life came in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1804, Simon Temple (colliery owner) rented the estate and began to restore the Castle and the Chapel. The Castle was leased to Thomas Wade (part owner of Hebburn Colliery) in 1813. But by the 1830s, when occupied by a farmer and his family, Hylton Castle was said to be 'a scene of great desolation.' The Castle was rented to John Wood's School between 1841 and 1844. Joseph Swan (developer of the incandescent light bulb) was a pupil of this school. During the 1850s, the Castle was rented to the McLaren family (engineers from Leeds, J & H McLaren).

The biggest changes to the Castle came when the Estate was sold to William Briggs, shipbuilder and merchant (later High Sheriff and JP) in 1864. Between 1869 and 1900, William Briggs demolished both of the ranges that Henry Hilton had built, although part of the North Range was retained as a single storey outshot. The hooded door, which gave access to the north range, and which is visible on the 1728 engraving by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, was moved to the Hylton Ferry Public House (now the Golden Lion Inn) in South Hylton, where it still stands.

William Briggs refitted the Gatehouse in the new Gothic Revival style. The Baroque Italianate windows were replaced by cusped lancets in the English Gothic Style. The Gothick portico was replaced with a pointed arched doorway with corbelled balcony. Because a new door panel projected in front of the earlier gateway, the Hylton coat of arms had to be moved to the southern buttress turret. The gate-hall window was replaced by a group of three lancets. Some of the heraldry had to be moved to make way for two new windows at second floor level. The colonette lancet windows were replaced with large, semi-circular bay windows. The pavilions of the eastern extension were remodelled. A small orangery was added. The crenelations on the roof were restored.

In 1904, the Castle was purchased by the Wearmouth Colliery Company, who owned the rights to the coal beneath. During the First World War the Castle became the headquarters of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters Regiment and a training camp for other regiments including the Durham Light Infantry. Wartime photographs show barrack huts on the east terrace to the rear of the Gatehouse.



In 1946, the National Coal Board took over the Castle. When Hylton Castle was designated as a Grade I listed building in 1949 (it had been a Scheduled Monument since 1928), it passed into state guardianship. Works were carried out by the Ministry of Works from 1950 to 1953. From the 1960s to 1980s, the ruin had to be stabilised. All the floors and roof were removed. The eastern extension was demolished. The first and second floor windows and the entrance into the basement were blocked up. Sunderland City Council purchased the property from the NCB in 1973. The Hylton Castle Trust now oversees the operation of the Castle.

Please do visit and support the Castle. You can learn more about its history and the restoration [here](#).

Thanks to Penny Middleton; Northern Archaeological Associates (now Ecus Ltd) and Beaumont Brown Architects for providing me with their reports, which I used for my presentation and this article. Thanks to Clare Dodd (Learning Co-ordinator), Nikki Vokes, and the volunteer guides at Hylton Castle for making our visit a success.

All photos by author, except first group photo taken by Gilbert Mackay.

**Jennifer Morrison**  
Honorary Secretary | AASDN

## From Hornby

### Finding the Chapel.

Back in the 2016 Season at Hornby, following the removal of the Post Medieval Garden Path and its associated drainage, two significant finds were made in quick succession. The first find was a piece of stone ammunition from a type of cannon called a bombard, which had engaged with the front wall of the kitchen. The second find was a carved Nidderdale marble capital with a small section of springing for an arch. The carving generated a significant amount of interest with suggestions from Stuart Harrison the York Archdiocesan Archaeologist of a Late 12<sup>th</sup> century date and a very early 13<sup>th</sup> century date from Prof Lindy Grant from Reading University. Therefore, we should be looking for a chapel in the near vicinity.

Towards the end of the 2016 Season, a stone walled mortar floored structure became apparent intruding into the associated section of the kitchen trench, which was







assumed to be the Chapel; a target to return to in the future.

This season a consistently higher than usual turnout amongst volunteers has meant that it has been possible to return to investigate this structure. A new trench has been opened and much to our surprise and much sooner than expected, the robbed foundations of a substantial stone walled and tile floored structure has appeared at a higher level. Associated pottery gives a Medieval date and we are at an early stage. Watch this space....

### What We can Learn from a Coin

Until recently the coin evidence from the Hornby excavation hasn't held the same promise as the pottery recovered with significant quantities of elite vessels and fabrics through the Medieval period. However, with the recent re-start an interesting coin from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century has come to light. It will be only our third Medieval coin the others being a silver penny of King Henry VII from 1489, and a long cross halfpenny of King Henry III from 1268.



The new coin is a long cross silver penny of King Henry III from 1218 and the very beginning of his reign. It is very well preserved and has a relatively high silver content not to be approached again until the early 1290s and the reign of his son King Edward I<sup>st</sup>. It also unusually does not display the King's head instead a cross motif is shown.

The coin came from the Exeter mint and was struck by Nicholas the Moneyer. The political situation at the time was especially important, as traders had to have full confidence in the coinage, which dictated the very high bullion content. The King was an 11-year-old minor, and his forces were engaged in recovering the 40% of the country which, until the defeat of the French Dauphin Louis at Lincoln the previous year, had been under enemy control. A group of his late father's supporters led by Faukes De Breaute had fortified themselves in Bedford Castle and were refusing to leave. In order to pacify the country, a reissue of Magna Carta and the Charter of the Forest, which restricted the hated Forest Laws, was being prepared, and copies were to be displayed in key regional cities including Lincoln and Salisbury. It took a further five years for the country to be fully pacified. Hornby at that time had recently been restored to the self-styled Dukes of Brittany, having been briefly in the hands of Robert de Maubegeon, a signatory of Magna Carta.



### An Unexpected Coin

As work has restarted on the excavation of the Medieval and Early Post Medieval vicarage at Hornby, it has become clear that there was an entirely unexpected phase of demolition

during the period of the Commonwealth between 1650 and 1661. In the area of the trench extension to the north of the earlier work, a substantial demolition deposit has been identified, which is yielding only Medieval and Early Post Medieval pottery and small finds, suggesting a phase of total reconstruction sometime before demolition in 1820. This is further supported by the discovery of a significant makeup area of fine compacted sand below the Post Medieval fire place, which was discovered to sit above a Medieval predecessor.

A very interesting and unusual coin has been recovered from the demolition deposit, which when cleaned, was discovered to be none other than a French silver Liard of King Louis XIII from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. There are two possible contexts: one is the possible presence of a French tutor. For example, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Duke of Devonshire employed the philosopher Jean Jacque Rousseau as tutor to his children at Chatsworth in Derbyshire. The other context is a potential connection with the 30 Years War. Although England was officially neutral, various groups travelled from this country to fight on behalf of Sweden, with whom France was allied. Indeed, the arrival of significant number of "radicalised" former mercenaries in this country in the late 1630s/early 1640s was a trigger factor for the Civil War.

**Erik Matthews**  
Fieldwork Officer | AASDN

### There's a tunnel here, you know

Almost every field archaeologist has heard this at some time, especially if they work in towns. An old chap will wander up and, once he's established what's going on, will confidentially reveal that 'an old tunnel' runs from that spot to some other important locality: secret passages linking the vicarage to the town's oldest pub, the church to the river, the castle to the convent. He knows it's there because his dad saw it when he was a lad, or his granny used to play in it in her summer holidays.



*A culvert under Durham's Market Place: or a tunnel, if you're a ferret.*

People who dig holes in the ground very rarely find mysterious tunnels like these. What they do find is drains and culverts, lots and lots of them, often well-built of stone or brick



*Image of Durham Market Place dated 1830. (Image from DUL, ref Gibby B 28)*

or both. Occasionally they are large enough for a person to creep (or even walk) through, but usually that would only be possible if the tunnel-

investigator was a Jack Russell terrier.

Durham's Market Place is said to hide a lot of tunnels. Sadly, in many years of large and small excavations not a single one has ever been found. This is not to say that there are no underground features; there are still many graves in the old burial ground in front of St Nicholas's church, in the area marked by sandstone flag paving. Unexpected finds occasionally appear, too. When the Market Place was reordered a few years ago,



The iron cover in front of the relocated horse. Neptune's plinth, at the left, was re-sited after this picture was taken.

workers lifting the 1970s paving revealed a square iron cover, not far from the right foreleg of the recently re-sited Londonderry statue. Beneath it was a vaulted chamber, more than 4m long and nearly 3m wide, its stone floor over 2.7m below ground level. Its stone walls were stained with tidemarks and streaks of rust from the iron plates that lined the only entrance, a small vertical shaft at the south end. The floor was dry when the chamber was found but a few centimetres of rainwater quickly accumulated after the cover was lifted, so it was obvious that the old chamber was watertight.



Inside the stone chamber.

This was a cistern, built to collect water from the pant, the public water supply near the top of the Market Place. The pant was an ancient feature fed from a natural spring, the Fram Well, on the other side of the River



The entrance shaft, with the photographer's safety line and gas detector. Tidemarks and rusty stains can be seen on the walls.

Wear. The spring is now under the railway, but the relocated well head can still be seen beside the road bridge. The supply began in 1451 when Thomas Billingham, who owned the spring, granted John Laund, Alderman of the Guild of Corpus Christi at St Nicholas's church, the right "to convey the water to the pant, or reservoir, in the market-place, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants, paying for the use thereof to the said Thomas, and his successors, thirteen pence annually, on the feast of St Martin; provided that no water should be drawn from thence to any other part of the city, except to the Grantor's house, in the market-place". A lead pipe was laid to carry the water from the spring



The old Fram Well Head, re-erected near the railway in 1959.

over Framwellgate Bridge and up in an inverted siphon to the Market Place. At least three different buildings covered the pant, the earliest put up before 1729. In 1863 it was replaced with a Gothic structure adorned with lion's-head spouts and gas lamps. The last pant, a large domed rouda, was built in 1900 and removed in 1923.

The lead statue of Neptune given to the city by George Bowes stood on top of each of these. Because the water flowed continuously, a lot ran to waste. The cistern was built to collect water that could be raised with a public pump.



The 18th-century pant, photographed after 1820. The handle of the pump is just visible at the left side.

In February 1854, the Durham Chronicle published a complaint about the quality of the water from the pant. This was a poem called The Durham Pant-Wife's Petition and it was addressed 'To the Corporation'. Just one of its six verses will give an idea of its message:

*Our skins and duds are yellow dyed / With iron, lead and ochre / Besides our nerves are stiff and dried / Just like a kitchen poker / You call yourselves Board of Health, / I dinna want to flatter / There cannot be much health, I think / In pois'nous dirty water.*



An old photo of work in the cellar of no. 12 Elvet Bridge. The door in the background opens into the old vannel, now a tunnel.

Looking at the iron-stained walls under the cistern's entrance, it isn't hard to guess why the Pant-Wife complained.

Many people will know that there is a real tunnel in the centre of Durham. This is on the north side of Elvet Bridge, and it isn't very old. It was created in 1804-5 when the medieval bridge was doubled in width, covering up a vannel that ran in front of the houses that stood just to the north. In the Second World War, part of this tunnel was lined with concrete



to make an air raid shelter. The entrance to the passage is still there, near the door of Jimmy Allen's nightclub; its upper end stops well short of the Market Place, though.

Richard Annis  
President | AASDN

## North East Publications of Interest

### Journal Articles

Brown AG, Fallu D, Cucchiario S, Alonso M, Albert RM, Walsh K, Pears BR, Scaife R, Langdon C, Tarolli P, & Cockroft D (2023) Early to Middle Bronze Age agricultural terraces in north-east England: morphology, dating and cultural implications. *Antiquity*. 6:1-9. <https://doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2023.1.1>.

Carretero LG (2023) *A taste for local food: Analysis of archaeological cereal-based foods from the East of England*. Research Square. <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2669102/v1>.

Collins R & Sands R (2023) Touch wood: luck, protection, power or pleasure? A wooden phallus from Vindolanda Roman fort. *Antiquity*. 97(392):419-435. <https://doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2023.1.1>.

Dolfini A, Scholes SC, Collins J, Hardy S, & Joyce TJ (2023) Testing the efficiency of Bronze Age axes: An interdisciplinary experiment. *Journal of Archaeological Science*. 152:105741. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2023.105741>.

Hackenbroich AS, Taylor G, & Williams R (2023) Digging up Memories—Empowering collections at Vindolanda Museum through virtual exhibits. *Digital Applications in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage*. 29:e00267. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.daach.2023.e00267>.

Meyer A, Mullen A, & Vanhala J (2023) A Scato-sexual Message: the Secundinus Stone with Phallus from Vindolanda. *Britannia*. 54. <https://nottingham-repository.worktribe.com/output/19289562>.

Taylor G, Williams R, Halldórsdóttir HH, Carter A, Birley A, Meyer A, & Orr CH (2023) Archaeological soil from Roman occupational layers can be differentiated by microbial and chemical signatures. *Frontiers in Soil Science*. 3:1129040. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoil.2023.1129040>.

### Books/Book Chapters

Calvert AJ (2023) *Life with Durham Cathedral: A Laboratory of Community, Experience and Building*. Berghahn Books.

Gaunt J, Christie C, & Hatherley C (2023) *Defining Spaces in Iron Age Northumberland: Excavations at Morley Hill and Lower Callerton*. Oxbow Books.

Shucksmith M, Glass J, Chapman P, & Atterton J (2023) "5: The North Tyne valley, Northumberland: a remote area of England". In Shucksmith M, Glass J, Chapman P, & Atterton J (eds.) *Rural Poverty Today*. Bristol, UK: Policy Press. <https://doi.org/10.51952/9781447367147.ch005>. White W (1859) Northumberland, and the Border.

In Walter White's Travel Books. London: Chapman and Hall. [https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Northumberland\\_and\\_the\\_Border/bH-tEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0](https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Northumberland_and_the_Border/bH-tEAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0).

## North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment

The North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF) is part of a series of regional research frameworks promoted by Historic England in partnership with local authorities. It is designed to assist in making informed decisions about future archaeological and historic environment research in North East England, including Northumberland, County Durham, Teesside, and Tyne and Wear. The framework also is intended to provide a structure for developer-funded fieldwork.

NERRF 2 was launched in January 2023 and can be found online [here](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/nerrf). This newly launched framework includes updated period-based resource assessments that represent the current state of knowledge of the historic environment in the North East of England. The research questions are organized by period, which will help researchers, archaeologists, and historians to better understand and explore the rich heritage of the region.

The framework is open for contributions and comments. Registration is required to help ensure contributions are legitimate and useful. Registering is easy and can be done online [here](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/nerrf). Once you have completed the registration process, you will have the opportunity to comment or contribute information on various sections of all the frameworks across the entire network, not just the one you initially registered for. This presents a unique opportunity for you to connect with other researchers, share your insights and engage in meaningful discussions on various research topics. We encourage members to register and contribute to the research framework. Together, we can expand our knowledge and enhance our understanding of the world around us.

## 2023 Members Survey

We would like to express our gratitude to all members who participated in the membership survey in April. The survey included 162 possible responses across four categories: Joint (62 people), Single (77 people), Associate (20 responses), and Honorary (3 people). We received feedback from 65 members, resulting in a 40% response rate. Although the Committee has not yet discussed the responses or taken any related actions, we plan to do so before the AGM and will provide a brief at the AGM as well as a report in the Autumn newsletter. It's encouraging to see that members are overall satisfied, while offering some valuable suggestions to help make our offers more accessible.

### AASDN Research Award

Are you doing research in the North East of England (Durham, Northumberland, or Tyne and Wear) and a paid-up member of the Society?

Then consider putting in a bid for the Society's annual research award (£500 maximum). The 2023 application deadline is **31 December 2022**, but you can apply at any time during the year. Consult [application guidelines](#) for more details or email [Jenny](mailto:jenny@historicsociety.org.uk) with any questions.



## AASDN Committee Members

President: **Richard Annis**<sup>◊</sup>

Past President: **Adrian Green**

Vice President: **Julie Biddlecombe-Brown**<sup>◊</sup>

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Assistant Secretary — Fieldwork: **Erik Matthews**\*

Assistant Secretary — Membership: **Jenny Parker**\*

Assistant Secretary — Webmaster/Social Media: **Gary Bankhead**\*

Excursion Coordinator: **Laura Anderson**<sup>◊</sup>

Minute Taker: **Sheila Hingley**<sup>◊</sup>

Newsletter Editor: **Myra Giesen**<sup>◊</sup>

At Large Committee Member: **John Castling**<sup>◊</sup>

\*annually re-elected, <sup>◊</sup>elected

Committee members' biographies are available [here](#). You can reach committee members by emailing [archandarch.dandn@gmail.com](mailto:archandarch.dandn@gmail.com).

## Newsletter Contributions

We are happy to receive news articles and items of interest related to archaeology, architecture, and/or heritage in North East England, encompassing County Durham, Northumberland, and Tyne & Wear. Both members and non-members are welcome to submit items, but please make sure to read our [submission guidelines](#) beforehand. We publish biannual, with submission deadlines falling around: **mid-April** for early May and **mid-October** for early November. Note, you can submit items at any time. Find previous newsletters [here](#).

## Membership

Membership subscription are due **January 1<sup>st</sup>**. Download the [membership application](#) and email it, along with any membership inquiries, to our [Membership Secretary](#) to ensure you receive the journal.

**2023 subscription rates** are: **Ordinary**, includes Journal — £20.00; **Joint** (two people at same address), includes one Journal — £25.00; **Associate** (senior citizens, students, unwaged), Journal not included — £10.00; **Institutional**, includes Journal — £25.00; and **Overseas**, includes Journal — £30.00.

## AASDN Upcoming Events

**13 May 2023** [tours & AGM] **Locomotion, Dale Road Industrial Estate, Shildon DL4 2RE** (10 am to 3.30 pm; members only)

**10 June 2023** [lecture] **Gueswick Hills Project** **Tony Metcalfe** (Altogether Archaeology)

**17 June 2023** [excursion] **Durham University excavations at Auckland Park at Bishop Auckland** — meet **John Castling** (Archaeology Curator, The Auckland Project) & **Chris Gerrard** (Durham University) at the clock tower (entrance to Auckland Castle) on Market Place in Bishop Auckland at 10:30 am for a 2-hour landscape archaeology tour. Wear sensible footwear, as we will be walking or standing for the entire time. Good fitness level required. Students are digging a series of evaluation trenches. No entry to Auckland Castle, but the castle and its café will be open for post-tour visits. Lunch options available in Bishop Auckland. This excursion is for *members only*. Book your place with Excursions Officer, Laura at [laura.anderson6531@gmail.com](mailto:laura.anderson6531@gmail.com), providing your phone number (only for any last-minute changes).

**9 September 2023** [lecture] **'Excavations on Wether Hill, Ingram, Northumberland, 1994-2015' (Iron Age palisaded enclosures and Bronze Age cairn)** **Peter Topping** (Visiting Fellow at Newcastle University)

**23 September 2023** [excursion] **Coldberry Lead Mine, Hudshope Burn, Middleton in Teesdale** with **Erik Matthews** The lead mine, opened in 1825, was the richest and largest in the Teesdale ore field, and was operated by the London Lead Company until 1905, then Weardale Minerals until 1954. It was the final commercially-exploited lead mine in the North Pennines. Erik will guide us to the mine shop, smithy, powder house, levels, shafts, hushing areas, and water management system powered by hydraulic equipment. Due to challenging ground conditions, the trip is only suitable for the physically fit. A minibus will be provided and booking details will be announced later. Optional pub or tea shop lunch will follow the visit. *Members only*.

**14 October 2023** [lecture] **Street House in the Neolithic** **Steve Sherlock**

**11 November 2023** [lecture] **Durham and Northumberland OS Notebooks** **Diana Whaley & Rob Pearson** (Newcastle University)

**9 December 2023** [lecture] **Archaeological Work at Bamburgh Castle** **Graeme Young** (Bamburgh Research Project)

**13 January 2024** [lecture] **A North Northumberland Early Anglo-Saxon high-status site: targeted later by the Viking Great Army?** **Jane Harrison** (Newcastle University)

All lectures are in person at 14:30 at [Elvet Riverside](#) (room ER140), Durham University, DH1 3JT followed by a drink at the County Hotel for those who would like to join in. Additional lectures will be added to our lecture calendar [here](#).

The AASDN committee wants your help to invite more university students to become members for only £10 a year! Student members can access our lectures, excursions, newsletters, and apply for our research award, which provides up to £500 for north-east based research projects, making it perfect for post-graduate projects. If you work or volunteer with architecture or archaeology students, please encourage them to consider joining AASDN and direct them to our [website](#).