

President's Letter



Three years passes quickly, even in a pandemic. It has been a real pleasure (and only occasionally a pain) to act as President of the Society. I was glad to follow my friend Andrew Millard and am delighted to be passing on the baton to our current vice presidents, Richard Annis, and then Julie Bidlecombe-Brown (assuming they are able to stand and are duly elected in their turn at the relevant AGMs). Succession planning is key for a Society such as ours, and another woman president is overdue. I for one would also like to see more female authors in the Durham Archaeological Journal. Archaeology surely teaches us that human communi-

ties function best when men and women have an equal voice, and we should be proud of the excellent gender balance in the Society and its committee. There can be no better basis for moving forwards with a commitment to equality and diversity than to learn about the amazing diversity of human cultures in the past. The Society's programming reflects this, with our talks on local and global archaeology and architecture. As Lockdown eases, we can look forwards to more meetings in person and reviving our excursions programme, as well no doubt as continuing to provide lectures online.

Adrian Green

President | Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland (AASDN)

Ayhope Shield: A Lockdown Eulogy



Ayhope Shield, c. 1942, with local gamekeeper Norman Harrison (Christine Ruskin).

It all started with a photograph. The whole Hankey family in the late 1940s, standing in front of their ancestral home, the derelict farmstead at Ayhope Shield, set in a small, lush triangle of green, adrift in the Weardale moorland south of Wolsingham. Amongst the company assembled there, the schoolboy Dennis Jones (later the acclaimed architect). Dennis recently had sent the photograph to Catherine Hankey, daughter of Ruth Watson (of Kepier Hospital). Catherine then sent it to me.

I had known Ayhope Shield, by name only, for many years as an upland outpost of the monastic estates of Durham Cathedral Priory. Architecturally speaking, it would have never amounted to much, a remote farm, part-summer shieling, so my attention was always drawn to the bigger granges, such as those at Beaurepaire or Muggleswick.

Returning to the photograph, I disrespectfully looked over the heads of the Hankey family to the linear range of buildings behind them. I shared the photograph with Ian Forbes (ex-Killhope) and Margaret Maddison, both friends and fellow members of the North East Vernacular Architecture Group, suggesting we might put together a small report on the build-

ing, now lost since final demolition in 1989. Ian recalled working there in the early 1980s when the core of the ruined farmhouse was converted by volunteers for the Mountain Bothy Association. The MBA were contacted and had photos. Christine Ruskin (author of the excellent *The Disappearing Farms of Weardale*, joined in the online investigation.

Through October to Christmas, as the cold and Covid kept us indoors close to our keyboards, the little farmstead fired our collective interest. The list of correspondents grew; archaeologists, historians (family and medieval), from near and far; Professor Ben Dodds (ex-Durham) contributing from sunny Florida. In all over twenty joined in and a short report grew to something approaching 9000 words with Christine providing both our earliest photograph (above), and our last (below).

Quite appropriately, the study now embraces wider historical themes, the dual-site medieval farming practice of transhumance, linking lowland Sacristonheugh with Ayhope Shield as its summer sheiling and stock farm of sheep and cattle. Lidar and air photography revealed evidence of post-medieval rig and furrow, probably late eighteenth-early nineteenth century and most likely established when the high corn prices during the wars with France led to corn being grown even at high



The farm site in 2012. (Christine Ruskin).

altitudes. Documentary evidence (for this townie) described a new vocabulary of sheep – always good to know your hogget from your wither, your gimmer from your keb. The few photos also enabled a tentative plan to be drawn of the eighteenth and nineteenth century farmstead, oral evidence from the MBA adding valuable detail, confirming a number of traditional Weardale features such as a hearth passage entrance and rear wall ladder stairs.

Fuelled by that first Hankey family photograph, our collective enthusiasm for this remote site on open moorland in an open sky, was, I think, heightened by our individual domestic confinements. The email output was intense at times. It just remains...to actually visit the site! A summer picnic for all correspondents is planned, which will include, at long last, a full site inspection, all that is needed to wrap up our report on Ayhope Shield. Paradoxically for a eulogy, it was all great fun.

Martin Roberts
AASDN Member

Artisan Gin and Cross Stich

The discovery of particular artefacts relating to the usage of a space within a building being excavated is always a blessing and puts clear flesh on the bones of the story being revealed. So, it is with the site at Hornby Castle and the usage of the Great Tower at the point of its demise in the later 15th Century. Already amongst a largely early pottery assemblage associated with the construction of the building in the early 12th Century, a Raeren stoneware drinking jug base from Northern Germany dating from the late 15th Century has been recovered, quite a rare piece from the site as a whole where most imported pottery originates in the Anglo Norman period.

Three further artefacts provide some idea of elite activity taking place within the building in its dying days. The first is the base of an alembic flask with a hole in the base to allow for the distilled liquid to reverberate recovered from the sand bar along the base of the Tower foundation within the moat. It is a Lincoln ware pot made at Potter Hanworth near Lincoln in the mid 15th Century. However, disappointingly it is clean. A second alembic flask base however also has come to light from within the Tower, which has traces of the distillate inside (Figure. 1). It should, therefore, be possible to analyse the residue to identify what is being made be it perfume, aque vite, or an alchemical experiment. The distillation of aque vite like beer in the sense that we know it today is an import from Flanders and the lands of the Burgundian Dukes in the 15th Century. The highly characteristic beer cisterns have already been found at the site to compare with the Flemish painted panels from mid 15th Century surviving within the adjacent Church.

Also within the assemblage from the

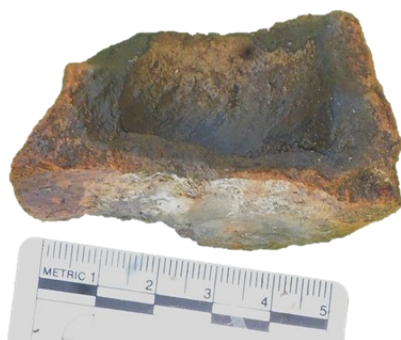


Figure 1. Alembic flask base with traces of the distillate inside.

Great Tower is a gilt bronze sewing thimble of sheet ring form characteristic of London manufacture from the mid 15th Century (Figure 2).

The production of embroidery and tapestry has long been associated with elite feminine environments in the Later Medieval / Early Post Medieval period. Large finely wrought tapestries and hangings some of which survive in the collections of the Burrell Collection and the V and A were also imported from Flanders at this time.



Figure 2. A gilt bronze sewing thimble of sheet ring form characteristic of London manufacture from the mid 15th Century.

It is hoped to be able to fund analysis of the flask contents shortly and an update will follow.

Erik Matthews
AASDN Fieldwork Officer

Were Romans involved in mining near Whitley Castle?



Aerial photograph of Whitley Castle (Epiacum) (John Reid)

The Roman fort at Whitley Castle on Alston Moor commands a vantage point overlooking the surrounding landscape and sits astride the Maiden Way, roughly equidistant between the fort at Carvoran on Hadrian's Wall to the north and Kirkby Thore, on the modern A66 to the south. This implies that the purpose of the fort could have been for the protection and security of lead and silver, which was being mined and processed in the ore-rich north Pennines. We know that the Second Cohort of Nervians had been stationed there, as they had raised a dedication slab (RIB 1202), now long-lost, to the Emperor Caracalla, which dates it to between 213 and 217 AD. The name of this unit also appears on lead-sealings, which mentions 'the mines' (metalla) (RIB 241 I) found at Brough-under-Stainmore near Kirkby Thore.

Archaeological evidence of Roman mine-working, in general, is so scant simply because subsequent activity erases it. The proxy employed has been the analysis of ingots, or 'pigs', of smelted product. Of the 74 recorded in the Roman Inscriptions of Britain 1990 edition, none come from the north Pennines. Furthermore, lead isotope analysis of hundreds of Roman sling bullets found at Burnswark in Dumfriesshire firmly exclude Alston as the lead source. The source was probably from the Mendips or Derbyshire (John Reid, *Current Archaeology* 335, February 2018).

In fact, Peter Jackson of the Nenthead Mine Conservation Society states, categorically, that there is no evidence that the Romans mined lead in the north Pennines. This does not exclude, however, the possibility that they extracted silver from the same ore, galena. Certain veins on and around Alston Moor had returned high silver values and had been worked during the late 17th and early 18th Century and had attracted the attention of the Crown in the late part of the medieval period. The metallurgist RF Tylecote, writing in 1964, pointed out that the process of recovering silver, or cupellation, was the only process known in Britain until 1833. There was nothing technologically beyond Roman miners, therefore, in achieving the same outcomes.



Core sample (Damian Rudge)

Mining activity creates pollution and a record of this can be trapped in peat bogs and will leave a record. By taking core samples, which are then analysed, it is possible to reconstruct a picture of metallurgical activity. This we have undertaken approximately 1 kilometre from the fort. These are being analysed by two processes: PXRF and ICP-OES, before a limited number of samples are sent off for radio-carbon dating. Tim Mighall, now at Aberdeen University, employed this research method, using ICP-OES and RCD, near Rookhope nearly twenty years ago. More recently, my supervisor, Lisa-Marie Shillito, has conducted similar research in Poland. We know, therefore, that signatures of metallic trace elements can be correlated into a chronological framework. Hopefully, we should be able to answer the question as to whether the Romans were involved in the mining and processing of lead and silver near Whitley Castle assuming, of course, that my choice of sampling location was propitious.

Damian Rudge

Archaeology MA student at Newcastle University

A Burnt Mound at Hutchinson Spring

A large stone mound NZ 0217124630 was noted during a walk through a section of Barnard Castle Allotment on the fell track from Eggleston to Woolly Hills Farm County Durham. It lay close to a springhead that was marked by a stone-built Spring House purposefully created to trap and distribute clear

spring water in the local area. While the spring-head was identified on an early 19th Century OS map as "Hindon" Spring and illustrated as



square-shaped building, on later 20th Century maps it was re-named "Hutchinson" Spring, possibly after a tenant farmer.

The large mound lay a few metres from the springhead partly covered in reeds, grass, peat and numerous fire-cracked stone. It has the typical "kidney-shaped" profile of burnt mounds which were considered to be part of a ritual sauna in use throughout earlier periods in prehistory. It measured 6.3x4.5m and varies in height from 0.5 to 1.5m. Similar mounds have been identified in other local areas such as Coldwell Springs at Hindon Edge NZ 045239 some two kilometres to the east, and three large burnt mounds identified at Sturdy House Springs Feldom Army Ranges NZ 135051 ([Brown and Brown 2008](#)). In 2007, Northern Archaeological Associates undertook an excavation on one of the Sturdy House mounds and a carbon sample provided a radiocarbon date of 1430-1260BC suggesting use during middle Bronze Age.

Ritual saunas are considered to have had use throughout pre-history as a form of cleansing of both body and mind, they were deliberately detached from main areas of occupation. The length of use of any particular mound is not known but it is estimated that some had regular use over a number of years. One example located within the ravine of Redmire Gill, 800m to the south of Hutchinson Spring had an unenclosed platform settlement of possible Iron Age date (Brown 1998; 2000).

From a number of excavation reports it has been suggested that the saunas were created close to spring risings where a shelter or tepee may have been constructed over a wood or clay-lined pit to hold water in tandem with a fire platform on which stones were heated, the stones were then placed in the water-filled pit to create steam. These stones after having been burnt over many cycles would become fire-cracked and were frequently discarded, thrown in a heap that eventually created a larger mound.



The practice of ritual cleansing was wide-spread. In Lewis and Clark's famous Corps of Discovery expedition in the 19C, similar sites were identified as having been used by North

American Indian tribes and described as 'sweathouses' which were used in an attempt to rid the body of fevers and other ailments ([Brown & Chappell 2012](#)).

Additional Citations

Brown P (1998) Recent Archaeological Investigations within the Egglestone Area. *Journal of the Teesdale Record Society*, 6:12-16.

Brown P (2000) *Carved rocks and cairns at Bracken Heads & Carved rocks in Stobgreen Plantation*, unpublished report.

Paul and Barbara Brown
AASDN members

Teesside University @ Vindolanda

Below are summaries of two projects that were conducted by archaeologists at Teesside University connected to Vindolanda, a Roman auxiliary fort south of Hadrian's Wall. The complex chemical and biological mechanisms at the fort has resulted in excellent preservations of artefacts, including writing tablets, leather shoes, and leather boxing gloves.

3D Imaging and Public Engagement. Our research at Vindolanda has explored a range of 3D imaging applications to support their pursuit for enhanced science communications and museum learning engagement. This has involved the visualisation and analysis of trauma from archery practice in a range of animal crania at the fort ([Williams et al. 2019](#)). It showed variation in projectiles used across the cranial collection, with some showing a mixture of different arrows being used on a single cranium. All crania had a perforation on the occipital bone matching the profile of a lancehead, which has been interpreted to have been made to hold the cranium up for target practice.

At various interactive workshops at Vindolanda, physical, digital, and 3D-printed artefacts were used to engage audience with the topic of archery. Visitors voted on which medium appealed to them the most, with 59% identifying 3D-printed artefacts as their favourite and most useful for learning, while 21% indicated digital models. These results suggest 3D digital and printing strategy has excellent potential for enhancing the museum learning experience. The digital collection of bones, wood, and metal from Vindolanda is publically available [here](#).

pXRF method development. We also have investigated how to enhance archaeological interpretation through the use of portable X-ray fluorescence (pXRF), a valuable tool for elemental analysis. We systematically explored the influences on pXRF soil analysis to develop a method that provides consistent and comparable samples ([Williams et al. 2020](#)). Overall, this study showed that whilst pXRF can be operated without sample preparation for rapid surveying, improved elemental detection and reliability are achieved when following the recommended preparation procedures: complete drying of soil, homogenizing, sieving to 2 mm, and loading into appropriate vessels.

We currently are developing methods for full routine soil characterisation, and improving the elemental interpretations available through analysis of additional archaeological sites. We also are currently exploring the use of elemental analysis and microbial analysis for characterising the preservation at Vin-

dolanda. Follow the [TUBA \(Teesside University Bioarchaeology\) blog](#) to keep up to date with future developments, and contact us if you would like to get involved or have your sites analysed!

Rhys Williams and Gillian Taylor
Teesside University

Early Neolithic salt production in North-East England

Stephen Sherlock and volunteers have found evidence for salt-working at Street House Farm near Loftus in the Tees Valley. The deeply stratified site revealed the remains of a brine-storage pit; a saltern with at least three associated hearths; and an assemblage of flint and stone tools, ceramic vessel sherds, and briquetage – all key evidence of salt processing. Sherlock's academic publication is available through open-access [here](#).

St James' Heritage & Environment Group

St James' Heritage & Environment Group is a voluntary organisation and registered charity dedicated to exploring and sharing the history of the west end of Newcastle upon Tyne and preserving images and stories from its past. Its area of interest extends from the western edge of the city centre out to Newburn.

The organisation began life in 2009 when several volunteers came together to map the graves in the historic parish graveyard of Benwell, which had been sadly neglected since it was closed for burials in the 1960s. In the course of many months of clearing ivy, weeds, rubbish, and broken glass, the group found that the graveyard told a fascinating story about the transformation of this area. When the graveyard opened in 1832, the largely rural area was home to some of the wealthiest and most powerful families on Tyne-side, and a number of famous names are to be found on its stone memorials.

Among these are the city centre developer Richard

Grainger; the glass manufacturer John Sowerby; and the mining engineer John Buddle. During the latter half of the 19th Century, West Newcastle became one of the foremost industrial areas in the country, with a growing urban population, so the graveyard is also the burial place of thousands of ordinary people who worked in the riverside industries as well as pitmen, farmers, boatmen, shopkeepers, and residents of the workhouse. Many children are buried there too, including the great-granddaughter of the anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce. There are also several Commonwealth War Graves and other family graves commemorating those who died in conflicts during the 20th Century.



St James' graveyard in Benwell, Autumn 2020.

From these beginnings, the Group was set up with a view to improving the graveyard and developing it as a resource for heritage learning, and also carrying out research into local history and disseminating the findings. In normal times, the Group runs a programme of talks, guided walks, and other activities, often using innovative methods of engaging people. The graveyard has been improved as a heritage site through a major restoration project funded by HLF and as a welcoming environment for wildlife and biodiversity by programmes of tree and flower planting. Volunteers continue to maintain the graveyard on a regular basis.

Over the years the Group has produced many [publications and resources](#), including local history books, heritage guides, and films focusing on the history of West Newcastle. During the pandemic a series of heritage guides was developed containing illustrated walk trails around different part of the west end in order to encourage people to get out and about their local area, learning about its history as they go. The usual events have been replaced by [virtual events](#). The Group welcomes visitors to the graveyard, Benwell Lane (NE15 6RR), but in current circumstances it is advisable to make arrangements in advance.

Judith Green

St James' Heritage & Environment Group

Lockdown Activities

Teesside Archaeological Society (TAS)

During the lockdown, TAS completed both a [website](#) and made all twenty-five of its [annual journal](#), Bulletin, available open-access online. TAS, like everyone, moved to "online" mode for its monthly lectures, with free [virtual memberships](#).

Armchair Archaeology group

I set up and co admin a Facebook group called [Armchair Archaeology group](#) at the start of the pandemic and now it has grown to just over 1,600 members. It is a public group, so of course all are welcome!

It is a group with no specific area of archaeology but we do look to focus days e.g., Shipwrecks or Book Suggestions. We have begun partnering with Wessex Archaeology for a regular #wessexwednesday slot and also have a slot on Friday from History Rich, which is a series of videos looking at Churches and Hidden Treasures so far. We would welcome content from all sources.

The group is a mix of novice (complete Armchair) like me to professional archeologists like Dr David Petts for example of Binchester and Lindisfarne "fame." I have an interest in all things history but it was disabled daughter who got me into archaeology through her love of Romans. In particular, when we moved North six years ago, she was in heaven when we went to Binchester, met and had a tour from David Petts, and then did some pot washing.

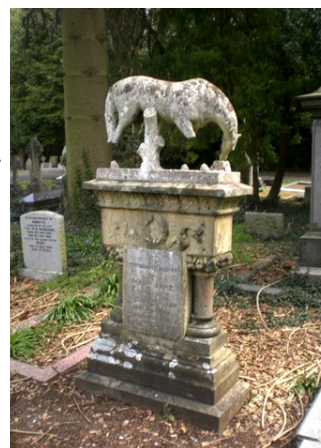
Richard Judd

AADSN member

Reflecting on Cemeteries

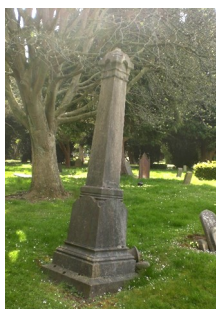
My recent lockdown activities have included wandering around Darlington's three municipal cemeteries with a friend from South Durham U3A's local history group. These sites typically began to appear during the second half of the 19th Century when church graveyards were filling up and interest in public health was growing. I do some homework and carry maps, so people might well think we're from the council! No matter - burial places have so much to offer history buffs, quite apart from being havens for wildlife and contemplation.

Darlington's biggest and most beautiful graveyard is West Cemetery, opened in 1858. It houses many of the town's foremost citizens - solicitors, captains of industry, doctors and owners of grand residences many of which still stand. One of the most noteworthy is George Gordon Hoskins, the Gothic Revival architect who designed amongst other gems the town's public library, its grammar school and also Middlesbrough's town hall. However the best known burial is probably that of Dickens' brother Frederick who died penniless in 1868. The author partly paid for the grave but did not attend the funeral though his eldest son did. My favourite and quirky memorial is that of Mary Jane Allen who perished of bronchitis at 32. She was a bareback rider, married to the owner of the Excelsior circus which happened to be in town. The horse is picking up a rosette.



Next is North Cemetery (1874) where the headstones are more modest and the incidence of untimely death greater because many of those interred here did industrial work - rail, coal, iron - concentrated this side of the town centre. Ordinary labourers might not be able to afford lasting grave markers which explains the apparently empty gaps in the older section; but if an accident occurred there was often a collection.

Such was the sad case for Ralph Cummin and Samuel Wight, schoolboys who fell into the permanent burning cinder heap of the Darlington Iron and Steel Company. Only their fragments were found. I do hope their monument is stable (see image). It can be pretty annoying when markers are flattened for safety purposes with the inscribed side down.



On to East Cemetery, the smallest and least known, opened in 1928. It was here that I fell to thinking about aesthetics and trends in funeral customs. Present-day graves can be very colourful with personalised inscriptions and photos - the latter fashion imported from the continent not so long ago. Even plastic flowers and artificial grass feature. Personally, I'm not a fan but



maybe I expect our burial sites to be sombre, much as people don't realise that churches and cathedrals were pretty colourful in the Middle Ages.

You can google plans to the first two sites but partly owing to exuberant undergrowth, the West Cemetery graves aren't all easily found. Though I like graveyards, I hope to avoid burial myself by going for medical research! Finally, greetings to my co-volunteers from the Wednesday afternoon finds washing sessions at Durham Uni. Hopefully we'll meet again...

Linda Chadd
AASDN member

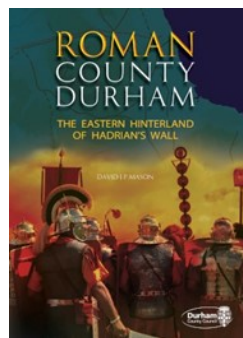
Looking for a new place to call home in Durham or Newcastle.

[Culture Healing Communities](#) (CIC) is a social enterprise in Durham working with community heritage. Due to the high number of people now involved in our projects, the time has come to seek a place to have our cultural centre, as the next stage begins. CIC is looking for a place that was relevant for the community but it has been abandoned, being in need of recovery. It can be a church, a pub, a store, either in Durham or Newcastle. If anyone knows of such place or would like to know more about our work, please email: culturehealingcommunities@outlook.com.

North East 2021 Publications

Books

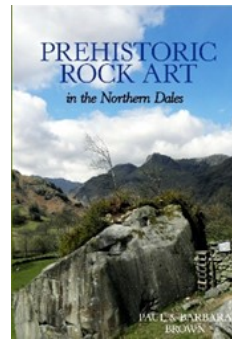
Roman County Durham: The Eastern Hinterland of Hadrian's Wall, written David Mason, Durham County Council's principal archaeologist, covers how the Romans' network of roads, forts and farming communities formed a vital part of the infrastructure that supported the linear frontier and its garrisons as well as exerting a major influence upon the history and development of the county itself. You can order your copy from the Durham County Record Office Online Shop [here](#).



County Durham, part of the Pevsner Buildings of England series, has been updated by Martin Roberts. This exhaustive volume is a comprehensive guide to County Durham's fascinating and diverse architecture. You can order your copy from Yale University Press [here](#).

Martin Roberts will be giving the 2021 Architecture Lecture for the Centre for Visual Arts and Culture. The lecture will also include brief contributions from Simon Bradley, Joint Editor of the Pevsner

Architectural Guides series and Adrian Green, Associate Professor in the Department of History, whose research specialism is the built environment in England and English settlement in North America. The lecture will take place at 16:00 on Tuesday, **18 May 2021** via Zoom Webinar. Register interest [here](#).

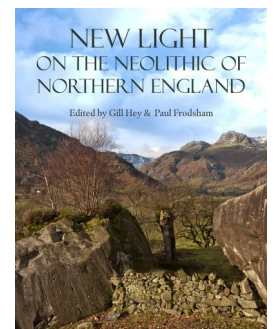


Prehistoric Rock Art in the Northern Dales, by Paul and Barbara Brown, has been revised and updated and reprinted February 2021 by The History Press. Available to order now from all major booksellers. This book presents a wealth of information on the rock art of the dales that straddle the ridges of the Cumbria fells and Northern Pennines. Details of new discoveries

together with an up to date account of the known archaeology of these areas is presented in a comprehensive gazetteer of sites and locations. Hand drawn three-dimensional illustrations highlight major panels in key Northern valleys and Dales that span three counties of North Yorkshire, Durham and Cumbria including Swaledale, Wensleydale and Great Langdale. The positioning of rock art within the prehistoric landscape and its relationship to other archaeological features is clearly discussed, broadening perception of our Neolithic predecessors' life within these celebrated northern dales. The landscape of the Northern Dales and Cumbria is familiar home territory to independent archaeologists Paul and Barbara Brown who have been researching and studying British rock art over three decades contributing a considerable number of new sites for the archaeological record. Their dedication and commitment to the subject has been widely acknowledged by amateur and professional archaeologists.

New Light on the Neolithic of Northern England, edited by Gill Hey and Paul Frodsham (Editor), published by Oxbow Books came out in 2020.

This collection of papers highlight recent commercial, academic, and community archaeology work in Northern England, which have fundamentally changed our perspective on the Neolithic of the area. The key themes include the nature of transition; the need for a much-improved chronological framework; regional variation linked to landscape character; links within northern England and with distant places; the implications of new dating for our understanding of the axe trade; the changing nature of settlement and agriculture; the character of early Neolithic enclosures; and the need to integrate rock art into wider discourse.



Articles/Dissertations

Foster EJ (2021) [From Winter to Winter Again: Burials, Traditions, and Beliefs in Conversion-Period Northumbria](#). PhD Dissertation, Southeastern Louisiana University.

Graafstal EP (2021) [The original plan for Hadrian's Wall: a new purpose for Pons Aelius?](#) *Archaeological Journal*, 178(1):107-45.

Kilburn NN, Gowland RL, Halldórsdóttir HH, Williams R & Thompson TJ (2021) [Assessing pathological conditions in archaeological bone using portable X-ray fluorescence \(pXRF\)](#). *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 37:102980.

Orr CH, Williams R, Halldórsdóttir H, Birley A, Greene E, Nelson A, Ralebitso-Senior TK, Taylor G. [Unique Chemical Parameters and Microbial Activity Lead to Increased Archaeological Preservation within Vindolanda, UK.](#)

Pattison W (2021) [Northern Institute for Craft: Industry and Identity in the North East of England.](#) MA Thesis, Delft University of Technology.

Petts D, O'Donnell R, & Armstrong K (2021) [Material Responses to the Great Depression in Northeast England.](#) *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, 1-29.

Ring P (nd) [Rising Stars: A Creative Partnership Seaton Delaval Hall The National Trust.](#) Northumbria University Architecture Portfolios.

Rogage K, Kirk D, Charlton J, Nally C, Swords J, & Watson R (2021) [Memoriescapes: Designing Situated Narratives of Place through Heritage Collections.](#) *International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*, 13:1-21.

Sherlock SJ (2021) [Early Neolithic salt production at Street House, Loftus, north-east England.](#) *Antiquity*, 1-22.

Swords J, Nally C, Rogage K, Watson R, Charlton J & Kirk D (2021) [Colliding epistemologies, productive tensions and usable pasts in the generation of heritage-led immersive experiences.](#) *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 27(2):186-99.

Thomas R, Bellis L, Gordon R, Holmes M, Johannsen NN, Mahoney M & Smith D (2021) [Refining the methods for identifying draught cattle in the archaeological record: Lessons from the semi-feral herd at Chillingham Park.](#) *International Journal of Paleopathology*, 33:84-93.

Announcements

British Rock Art Group (BRAG)

[BRAG](#) is holding mini-conference on Saturday, **5 June 2021**, 14:00-16:30 in collaboration with Bristol Museums. The theme of the mini-conference is: 'Engaging with British and Irish rock art.' For more information about the mini-conference and how to register look [here](#).



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP) and they are celebrating with a two-day conference. It will be the very first virtual SGRP conference via Zoom hosted by Newcastle University on the **2nd & 3rd July 2021**. The conference is FREE and open to both members and non-members. To see the full programme and book your place at the conference click [here](#).

Middlesbrough Local History Month 2021

Be sure to check out the Middlesbrough local history programme [here](#). It is filled with events for the month of May 2021, including hyperlinks to a plethora of online guides, tours and interviews; virtual and live events; and really interesting

websites. It is an excellent opportunity to explore a local place from the comforts of your own home or possibly venture out into the new normal.

Happy Birthday

AASDN Celebrates its 160th Birthday

It all started back in October 1861 at the annual meeting of the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Architectural Society held in Durham, with a visit to the cathedral. After lunch that day, it was decided to revive the Durham Architectural Society.



AASDN members attending a Summer meeting in 1913 (image courtesy of J Stobbs).

Archaeology was added in to the Society was expanded to include Northumberland (and Tyne and Wear) to become AASDN. For some time now, It has pursued an active programme of lectures, field trips, and publications. Many of its members will refer to it as "Arch & Arch."

A Brief History of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland on its 150th Anniversary 1861–2011 by Janet McDougall (2011) ISBN: 978-0-9510388-7-1, is a brief, but entertaining history of the Society written to mark its 150th Anniversary. It describes the origins of the Society, the personalities that dominated its early years, its activities and involvement in the protection of ancient structures from its beginnings to the present day, and notable milestones passed between 1861 and 2011. It includes five black and white reproductions of old photographs and two colour plates. £2.50 + p&p. For details of how to purchase the 150th Anniversary Book please email: archandarch.dandn@dur.ac.uk.

To aid in the birthday celebrations, we want to highlight special 'Arch & Arch' memories our members have had over the years. Please submit articles and/or memories you wish to share for inclusion in our Birthday Edition newsletter this October. Just email [Myra](#). Maybe it is about your favourite excursion, excavation, or lecture. Then again, maybe you want to tell us about making a new friend or your awoken desire to wash pottery. Please share in the celebration.



Current AASDN Committee Members

President: **Adrian Green** (2018-2021)
Past President: **Andrew Millard** (2018-2021)
Past President & Journal Editor: **David Mason** (annual re-elected)
Vice President: **Julie Biddlecombe-Brown** (2019-2022)
Vice President: **Richard Annis** (2019-2022)
Honorary Secretary: **Jennifer Morrison** (annual re-elected)
Assistant Secretary (correspondence): **Jo Shoebridge** (annual re-elected)
Honorary Treasurer: **Simon Alderson** (annual re-elected)
Fieldwork Officer: **Erik Matthews** (annual re-elected)
Excursion Coordinator: **Laura Anderson** (co-opted)
Lecture Series Coordinator: **Veronica Freitas** (co-opted)
Membership Secretary: **Jenny Parker** (annual re-elected)
Minute Taker: **Sheila Hingley** (co-opted)
Newsletter Editor: **Myra Giesen** (co-opted) myra.giesen@newcastle.ac.uk
Webmaster/Social Media/Sponsorship: **Gary Bankhead** (annual re-elected)
At Large Committee Members:
Sheila Brown (2018-2021)
Derrick Gwynne (2019-2022)

Committee members' biographies are available [here](#). You can reach committee members by emailing archandarch.dandn@dur.ac.uk.

Membership News

Annual membership subscriptions were due on **January 1st**. You can download the membership application [here](#), or contact our [Membership Secretary](#) with any questions.

Membership levels:

- **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
- **Overseas**, includes Journal — £30.00

Remember to checkout what is happening by visiting the Society's [homepage](#) and our [news](#) page.



Blackfriars in Newcastle upon Tyne, January 2010 (Andrew Curtis / CC BY-SA 2.0)

AASDN AGM

Saturday 15 May 2012, 14:00-15:30 via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 924 6269 7574, Passcode: 051166).

Following AGM Business, **Eric Cambridge** will give a talk on Blackfriars. Eric and Alan Williams are busy writing up the excavations of Blackfriars by former Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist Barbara Harbottle. Our president, Adrian Green, will then give a talk on the post-Dissolution use of the Blackfriars. We hope to host a summer excursion to Blackfriars in August 2021.

2021 AASDN Lectures & Meeting

All scheduled lectures are via Zoom occurring on Saturdays with a start time of 14:30 UK time. Login details will be emailed to members ahead of the meeting. Non-members please email: archandarch.dandn@durham.ac.uk for access. Additional lecture will be added to our lecture calendar [here](#).

24 July **John Castling** (Archaeology and Social History Curator at The Auckland Project) **Rediscovering Auckland Castle: Recent excavations at the Bishop of Durham's Palace**

13 November **Dr Kirsten Hopper** (Durham University) **Kurgans, Churches and Caravanseri: the Lagodekhi Archaeological Survey, Georgia (South Caucasus)**

December members Members Meeting The date, time, and specific format for this meeting has yet to be determined. Like previous years, members will be asked to volunteer to make short presentations. If you want to make a presentations, please email: archandarch.dandn@durham.ac.uk.

Open Online Lectures

Open Lectures and Talks identifies forthcoming live lectures and talks online. You can consult their [main directory](#) for all topics, but a couple of categories you might be interested in include [Architecture & Design](#); [Archaeological Societies](#); [Antiquarian Societies](#), [Anthropology](#), [Antiquarianism](#), [Archaeology](#); and [History of Buildings](#).

Newsletter Contributions

We welcome a range of contributions from articles to announcements relating to architecture and/or archaeology in North-East England. Please target short pieces to be no more than 500 words in length, with only one or possibly two images, if appropriate. Fewer worded items are welcome too. We will include one or two longer feature articles too, so please contact the [editor](#) if you are interested in submitting one of these.

If you want images to be included, then please 1) confirm permission has been given for reproduction, 2) include a caption, and 3) state to whom to give credit for the image. Please send images separately as high resolution files. Send contributions to the [Myra](#) whenever they are ready.

Next deadlines: **BirthDay Edition**
 #34: **15th October** for early November
 #35: **15th April** for early May

You can find previous newsletters [here](#).