



Plymouth Archaeology Society
C/O The Box, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL4 8AJ

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 26 January 2026 at 6:30pm
In Sherwell Church Hall, Plymouth, PL4 8ER

AGENDA

- To receive apologies for absence
- To approve the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 20 January 2025.
- Chair's report
- Treasurer's reports for the financial year October 2024 to September 2025
- To adopt the accounts and thank the auditor Peter Brown
- Winter talks report
- Summer walks report
- The Committee recommends the following motion: that subscriptions should remain unchanged for the forthcoming financial year. These are:
 Ordinary: £20 Family: £30 Student: £10
- The Committee recommends the following motion: that the meetings charge for non-members remains at £4, and that staff and students of the University of Plymouth have free attendance at lectures but need to produce a valid ID
- Election of Officers 2026-27. The following have been nominated to serve in the following offices:
 Chair: Jennifer Carr
 Treasurer: Rosemary Rankin
 Secretary: Andrew Binding
- Election of committee members 2026-27. The following have been nominated to serve on the Committee:
 Elspeth Alpey Anne Kolaszynska-Carr
 Ros Bate Brian Paterson
 Jenny Carr Imogen Paterson
 Fleur Holt Martin Read
- Confirmation of ex-officio members of the Committee in accordance with the Constitution:
 Curator of Archaeology (The Box)
 Historic Environment Officer (Plymouth City Council)
- The Committee recommends the following motion: that the Society adopts an updated Constitution
- Open Forum for members to discuss society matters

Close of Formal Business

Buffet with hot and cold drinks available before the start of formal AGM business

Following the formal meeting, two member's papers will be given:

- Martin Read: 'When is an amphora not an amphora?'
- Ron Smith: 'Smeaton: Not Just the Eddystone Lighthouse'

MINUTES of the AGM of Plymouth Archaeology Society held on Monday January 20th 2025 in room 018 in the Rolle Building University of Plymouth at 18.30.

The meeting was attended by 29 members of the Society.

As a change from the usual post AGM visit to the Positano refreshments were provided at the beginning of the meeting by arrangement with the University caterers. This departure, aimed at helping the members to socialise and get to know each other, seemed to be popular with everyone. The cost was met by the Society.

20.76. APOLOGIES.

The following members sent their apologies: Alyssa and Brian Cush, Sheila Brown, John Rogerson, Patricia Woodmansey, Cynthia

Gaskell-Brown, Andrew Binding, Chris Tullet, Izzy Farley, David Webb, Kim Iben, Peter Holt, William Rankin.

20.77. MINUTES of the AGM held on January 22nd 2024.

These had been circulated. The Chair, Martin Read pointed out one error, viz it had covered his third not fourth year as chair.

Fleur Holt proposed the minutes be accepted, seconded by Robert Rowland. This was carried unanimously.

20.78. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

a. Seccombe Wood Flints. (20.69a) Noted: this had not been discussed.

b. Noted: The new home for the Society's equipment is in the basement of Ron Smith's flat.

20.79. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

a. Martin Read presented his report of the Society's activities in the past year. He had submitted this prior to the meeting so is not summarised here.

20.80. TREASURER'S REPORT.

a. Rosie Rankin submitted her report for the financial year September 2023 to September 2024. She thanked the previous Treasurer Chris Ruse for his many years as Treasurer, congratulating him on his Presidency, and thanked the Auditor Peter Brown.

She raised that although there is a deficit recorded at the end of the year this was mainly due to some outstanding unpaid invoices from the previous accounting year. The Society was able to part subsidise a boat trip to Drake's Island. Although PAS pay for a technician to support us at our winter talks, the Society is grateful to the University who allow us to continue to use a lecture theatre on their premises, and a room for committee meetings, free of charge.

The Society's funds are still in good health but with greatly increased bank charges this year, a watchful eye on our expenditure is needed without affecting the quality of our lectures or summer visits. The reserve funds have not been used since the 1620 Symposium but the Society are hoping to possibly fund more events in the future and to publish results from the Commercial Wharf Rescue Dig.

Adoption of accounts: This was proposed by Ron Smith and seconded by Keith Pollard: There were no votes against so the report was accepted.

20.81. SUBSCRIPTION LEVELS.

a. The secretary apologised for her error in the proposed increase in fees.

b. After discussion it was proposed that the fees for ordinary members be £20 and Family £30. Visitor fees are to remain at £4. These were proposed by Ron Smith and seconded by Ros Bate. This was carried unanimously. Staff and students of Plymouth University have free attendance at lectures but must produce an id.

20.82. WINTER TALKS REPORT.

a. Martin Read summarised the series which had been very varied but some were too short and he felt they should last an hour.

Noted. Jo Towler asked for more talks covering the Ice Age and Mesolithic periods.

20.83. SUMMER WALKS REPORT.

a. Jenny Carr reported on the successful summer walks programme. She informed the meeting that the programme for the coming summer was almost complete and included a visit to Maiden Castle, a walk guided by Win Scutt and a Dartmoor walk with Lee Bray.

b. A visit to the Chippenham lab to see the work on the Cut Hill Cist finds will be arranged and members need to book by February 6th to get a place on the coach.

c. Elspeth Alpey was arranging a walk in Saltash for the final walk of this year and a walk covering China Clay Works next year. Details of these walks would be available in February.

20.84. ELECTION of OFFICERS.

a. Chairman: Brian Paterson was proposed by Fleur Holt and seconded by Jenny Carr. He was voted in unanimously.

b. Treasurer: Rosemary Rankin was proposed by Ros Bate and seconded by Fleur Holt.

c. Secretary: Anne K-Carr had indicated that she did not want to stand again but as there were no other nominations she agreed to continue for now.

d. Committee members: Imogen Paterson, Fleur Holt, Elspeth Alpey, Jenny Carr, Martin Read, Joe Towler, and Ros Bate.

e. Field Officer. We do not have a Field Officer at present so we need to ask the membership for a volunteer. However before we do that the job description has to be reviewed by the committee and then published.

20.85. AOB.

a. Jill Chidgey pointed out that the Constitution of the Society needed updating: e.g. altering "Plymouth City Museum" to "The Box". The Chair asked her to bring this matter to the AGM next year.

a. Chris Ruse proposed a vote of thanks to Martin Read for his work as Chair of the Society. It was seconded by Reg Alpey. Nem con.

b. Martin Read had the sad task of reading two obituaries of past members: Morwen Morris, who died in the early summer; and Bob Bruce who had shared his knowledge of Dartmoor on a number of occasions. Both had been on our and other local committees for many years.

c. Jo Towler asked if his father and carer? could attend committee meetings with him. This request was refused by the Hon. Sec.

20.86. MEMBERS' PRESENTATIONS.

a. Ron Smith gave a talk entitled "Wedge Tombs and Rathes (ring forts) in Southern Ireland", focussing on those in the Burren, County Clare where a quarter of Irish wedge tombs are to be found. There was also a portal tomb: Poul nabrone. These monuments dated from the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age, 2,500 to 2000 BCE. His illustrations showed the remarkable density of these tombs. We were able to appreciate the difficulties of access and location: as Ron pointed out that, unlike Dartmoor, there are no footpaths. He encouraged members to visit the area and to contact the museum services who had assisted him.

b. Martin Read then gave a talk entitled "Not just a Glass Bead" which was an update on the Ceramics found on Commercial Wharf. He set the scene with a brief history of the area and its changes around the time. We saw excellent illustrations of the finds and their sources, some from overseas and some relatively local

A group of volunteers continue to meet every week to record and identify the finds and the extent of trade in this country and abroad is unfolding.

Chair's Report

- Welcome and thanks.

I am giving the Chair's report because unfortunately Brian Paterson had to retire from this post as chair owing to illness. He is recovering well and wishes to remain on our committee.

Thank you all for coming tonight, we hope you are enjoying our new look AGM. Julia from Sherwell Church has made us feel very welcome here.

I want to thank all the members of your committee for the enormous amount of time they have given to keep our society running. Thanks too to Ron Smith who kindly looks after all our equipment.

- Changes to the committee and Loss of members since the last AGM.

Looking back on the year since the last AGM, we sadly had to mark the loss of two valuable long term members: Ursula Davey and Shirley Ryan. Fleur Holt became vice chair and replaced Brian in September as chair at committee meetings. Andrew Binding re joined the committee and took over the post of Secretary from Anne Kolaszyinska Carr. She has chosen to remain on the committee.

- Membership

Ros Bate has continued to ably manage all our membership tasks. This October we introduced an online method of joining and renewing membership of our society. Could I encourage everyone to use the BACS method of payment for membership, if you are able to do so? It saves banking costs. We have also introduced a pack for new members. Our total membership is 53 which is the same as last year at this point in the year. Although by May last year membership had risen to 58. We need to work hard to maintain our numbers and to improve them. More members the more things we can do.

- Activities of the Society : Winter Lectures and Summer Walks

Martin Read with help from Brian Paterson and Imogen Paterson produced an excellent series of lectures last spring and again this autumn. There is a report to follow.

Elsbeth Alphey and Jenny Carr ran a programme of Summer Walks. A report follows.

- Committee Sub Groups

This year we have set up various sub groups to tackle the updating of membership forms, a revised constitution and the organisation of the AGM. We plan to continue the system of sub groups this year.

- Promotion of PAS and Community Activities

In February Brian Paterson and Martin Read met with Luke Pollard MP to discuss proposed planning reforms to try to ensure that archaeology provision is maintained in the planning process.

Rosie Rankin and Imogen Paterson have been very busy on social media platforms promoting our activities and Reg Alphey has maintained our website in spite of some IT problems this year.

We have represented the Society at the following local community events: The Local Studies Day, St Levans Fun Day, The Local History Day and DAS/CAS Symposium. We had representation at P.O.P and Devon History Group Network.

- Educational Opportunities

Rosie Rankin arranged a pottery Workshop lead by Angie Wickenden, where we had hands on experience of using clays similar to those used by ancient potters to try to reproduce their pots. (With varying success!).

The Commercial Wharf pottery identification Group has continued to meet regularly on Thursdays at the Boathouse and welcomes anyone wishing to join us.

Soon after the Cut Hill cist was discovered, a small group of members were invited by Lee Bray to visit the Conservation and Museums Advisory Service at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham, to observe the ongoing examination of the cist.

- The plan for this year.

We hope to improve our publicity of important events and produce more Newsletters.

We shall have the first event of our collaboration with EH to conserve the Upper Plym Valley on May 29th and 30th. led by Win Scutt. Please sign up to support us.

Our studies about Commercial wharf and 17th Century Plymouth will continue and Martin Read hopes to publish a report of all our work so far shortly.

What we can achieve as a society depends on the participation of our members. That can be by supporting our events or by offering help to run events, by joining the committee or by communicating your ideas and thoughts to us. We want to encourage everyone to enjoy our archaeological journey. I am looking forward to an exciting 2026.

Jenny Carr.

PLYMOUTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

AUDIT OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2024/25

1. The audit was completed on 29 December 2025.
2. The cash was counted at the end of the accounting period and found to be correct.
3. All documentation supporting the accounts was presented.
4. The balance sheet shows a deficit of £1217.91. This is the second year running that the accounts have been in deficit and is a trend that is not sustainable.
5. Expenditure of £1287 was made on Events, Catering, a Donation and Intern expenses without any corresponding income. Bank Charges were introduced during the period, and are expected to rise, and postal charges for Newsletters have increased.
6. Virtually all "real" income (£1291) comes from Membership Subscriptions (£1060) which, given the increase of rates for 2025-26 at current membership levels, will only generate an additional £240 and income from Bank Interest is expected to fall.
7. Whilst the balance creditor of £6055.47 remains healthy it is recommended that:
 - a. All events and trips should be at least cost neutral.
 - b. Every effort is made to encourage Members to pay Subscriptions by Standing Order or Bank Transfer and to receive Newsletters by email.



P R BROWN
29 December 2025

PAS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

	2024/25	2023/24
INCOME		
Subscriptions	£ 1,060.00	£ 1,181.00
Visitors	£ 184.00	£ 207.50
Interest	£ 46.41	£ 63.23
Events	£ 350.00	£ 518.00
Donations	£ 5.60	£ 15.29
Misc	£ 182.99	
	<u>£ 1,829.00</u>	<u>£ 1,985.02</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Leader/Speaker Expenses	£ 501.99	£ 763.45
Trips/Events	£ 1,046.88	£ 615.00
Admin - Post, Stationery etc	£ 411.07	£ 217.74
Bank Charges	£ 47.75	
Insurance	£ 171.71	£ 171.71
Sundry expenses	£ 867.51	£ 375.61
	<u>£ 3,046.91</u>	<u>£ 2,143.51</u>
Surplus/Deficit	-£ 1,217.91	-£ 158.49

Movement of Funds

	2024	2023
As at 01 October:		
Current account	£ 2,032.39	£ 2,261.80
Deposit account	£ 5,184.28	£ 5,121.05
Cash	£ 56.71	£ 49.02
	<u>£ 7,273.38</u>	<u>£ 7,431.87</u>

Surplus/Deficit for the year

	2025	2024
As at 30 September:		
Current account	£ 742.87	£ 2,032.39
Deposit account	£ 5,230.69	£ 5,184.28
Cash	£ 81.91	£ 56.71
	<u>£ 6,055.47</u>	<u>£ 7,273.38</u>

Membership Subscriptions 2021/2022 Ord 42 Family 17 Stud 2 Ex Officio 2 **Total 62**
 Membership Subscriptions 2022/2023 Ord 46 Family 19 Stud 4 Ex Officio 2 **Total 71**
 Membership Subscriptions 2023/2024 Ord 44 Family 17 Stud 3 Ex Officio 2 **Total 66**
 Membership Subscriptions 2024/2025 Ord 40 Family 30 Stud 2 Ex Officio 2 **Total 72**

Hon Auditor
Date 29-Dec-25



Hon Treasurer

R. Rankin
8th January 2026

FINANCE REPORT FOR PLYMOUTH ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY AGM

held on JANUARY 26th 2026

I would like to express my appreciation to Peter Brown for auditing the PAS accounts once again, and I am pleased that he has agreed to continue serving as our auditor.

Although the auditor's report was somewhat unfavourable, the Society's finances remain robust. As noted in the previous year, PAS held a surplus of funds exceeding the reserves typically required for such an organisation. During the 2024/2025 fiscal year, we utilised a portion of these reserves.

I would like to provide an optimistic assessment and explain the deficit in comparison to the last few years.

General rising costs, payment of previous year's outstanding invoices, and expenses like the cancelled Dorchester coach trip; due to low member interest has increased overall expenditure this year. The buffet organised to promote social interaction among members at the previous AGM was positively received; however, expenses surpassed initial projections due to the need to employ the University's premium catering services. Improved planning has led to better organisation this year.

As you will know, Plymouth Archaeology Society aims to preserve monuments, artefacts, and historical records. After the discovery of the Bronze Age cist on Cut Hill, an appeal raised funds for its conservation. PAS members expressed interest in visiting the conservation labs in Chippenham. The investigation team confirmed the cist was sealed and carefully transported from Dartmoor for detailed excavation, and £300 was donated to support this work.

Looking forward: As a result of recent changes in University of Plymouth administration, our access to dedicated audio-visual technician support has been discontinued. We are lucky to have a qualified university lecturer in our group who can help with this at no cost to the Society.

It is my privilege to serve once again as Treasurer of the Plymouth Archaeology Society. However, I wish to step down from this role at the conclusion of the current financial year. Members who are interested in taking on this position are encouraged to initially serve as an assistant to gain relevant experience before the start of the new PAS financial year on October 1st, 2026.

R Rankin

Hon. Treasurer

Plymouth Archaeology Society

Summer Walks 2025 AGM Report

This year's walks were organised by Elspeth Alphey and Jenny Carr. We are very grateful to all the people who consented to lead the walks and to those of you who came along to enjoy them.

Our first walk was along part of the Upper Plym valley and was led by the very popular Win Scutt. 27 people attended. An offshoot from this walk has been the collaboration with English Heritage to set up the Upper Plym Conservation Project.

The June walk had originally been a coach trip to Dorchester with Dr. Susan Greaney. However a lack of support from members meant it had to be cancelled and the Society lost the coach deposit.

Fortunately Judith Farmer a long time member of the society stepped in and led a walk around Loddiswell and Blackdown Rings. This walk was supported by 12 members.

July's walk was with Andy Crabb and looked at the recent excavations at Bolt Tail. 12 people attended this walk.

In August Martin Lister from Saltash Heritage, took us on a walk around Forder and Anthony Passage. It was a strenuous walk but very worthwhile. The weather had been bad all day but 8 stalwarts attended.

The final walk was around St Levans led by local historian Daniel Tubbs. It was a fascinating walk finishing with a splendid sunset! 17 people attended many of whom were local people.

This year we hope to have 2 Dartmoor walks, a visit to Maker Heights, a walk around Southside St and Castle St on the Barbican and a trip to Okehampton Castle.

We shall try to vary the days and times of our walks to meet the varying needs of members. We are also going to ask people to let us know if they are coming on each walk. You can still attend without booking but it is helpful for planning to know how many people are coming.

I know many of you take photos on the walks, please share these with members by either putting them on our Facebook Page or send them to the webmaster for our website.

We do like to have feedback and suggestions for new walks so just let us know.

Jenny Carr Jan 2026.

THE CONSTITUTION of the PLYMOUTH ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Name:

The name of the society shall be *The Plymouth Archaeology Society*.

Objects:

The object of the Society shall be to promote and encourage conservation of the historic environment in Plymouth and the surrounding areas of South-East Cornwall, the Tamar Valley, the South Hams and Dartmoor.

The aims and actions of the Society:

The aims and actions of the Society shall be for the enjoyment, benefit and education of the public, for archaeological research and for promotion of interest in and preservation of monuments, artefacts and records of the past.

Administration:

The Society shall be administered and managed in accordance with these Rules by members of the Committee

Application of income and capital:

The Committee must apply the income and capital in furthering the objects.

Membership:

Membership of The Society shall be open to all persons interested in furthering its objects who shall pay the subscription appropriate to their class of membership. The Society shall comprise:

- **Ordinary Full Members:** who are entitled to vote at General Meetings, eligible to serve on any committee and to hold office.
- **Joint Full Members:** i.e. two or more members of the same family or household who shall have the privileges of Ordinary Full Members except that no more than two representatives shall be entitled to vote at General meetings.
- **Student Members:** who are students with bona fide student card or members aged under 18, who shall have the privileges of Ordinary Full Members.
- **Institutional Members:** who shall be entitled to nominate a representative who may vote on behalf of the member institution.

Subscriptions:

The annual subscription shall be due on 1st October.

Subscription fee shall be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting. A renewal notice shall be issued to all members a month before it is due.

All subscriptions must be paid before 1st December in the current year.

Members failing to pay within this time will be deemed non-members and shall pay non-member fees for lectures and walks.

Financial Year:

The Financial Year shall be from 1st October to 30th September

Annual General Meeting:

The Society should hold its Annual General Meeting in January of each year or within eight weeks thereafter.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting and request for nominations shall be given to all paid up members in writing not less than 3 weeks before the next Annual General Meeting.

Twenty Full Members personally present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.

Included in the business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- Report from the Chair
- Presentation of the examined Accounts
- Election of Officers
- Establishment of the Annual Subscription Rate

Special General Meetings

Upon receiving a requisition signed by twenty or more Full Members, or at the request of the Committee, the Hon. Secretary shall summon a Special General Meeting, giving twenty-one clear days of the Meeting and of the matters to be discussed thereat. The holding of such a meeting shall be announced within fourteen days of the receipt of such a request. Twenty Full Members personally present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.

Honorary Officers:

The Officers of The Society shall consist of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Minute Secretary, and whatever officers the Committee shall consider from time to time necessary.

Elections:

Nominations for the position of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee members shall be proposed and seconded in writing by Full Members and received by the Secretary not less than seven days before the Annual General Meeting. The Chair shall be elected annually and may be eligible for re-election for a period not exceeding three successive years. The only exception being if no other nominations have been received for the seat of Chair; the current Chair may stand another year if they are willing to carry on.

Committee:

The management and control of The Society shall be in the hands of the Committee consisting of members not exceeding thirteen to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The officer responsible for curating archaeological objects and records in 'The Box' archives and the officer responsible for Heritage in the City Council shall be ex-officio be members of the Committee. The Committee may appoint any member of the Society to fill a casual vacancy and from time to time co-opt not more than two additional members until the next Annual General Meeting.

Reasons for termination of committee member status:

- Persistent absence from Committee meetings without valid prior justification.
- Failure to adequately support the Committee and the Society by not acknowledging or responding to Committee communications and requests, thereby neglecting responsibilities to fellow members and the Society.
- Engagement in actions that may bring the Society into disrepute.

A decision to terminate a Committee member's status may only be made if a quorum is present at a regular or specially convened Committee meeting.

The minutes shall document the number of votes cast for and against the motion, but not the names of individual voters. The number of abstentions shall also be recorded. In the event of a tied vote the Chair shall exercise the casting vote.

Committee Meeting:

A Committee meeting shall be held within twenty-one days following the Annual General Meeting and thereafter at least every three months. The Minute Secretary shall give notice of at least seven days to all Committee members for each meeting. Five Committee Members shall constitute a quorum.

Accounts:

The Treasurer shall circulate the Annual Accounts to members prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Accounts shall be certified by an Auditor appointed annually by the Committee.

The Constitution:

The Constitution of the Society can only be altered at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. The proposed alteration having been noted on the agenda circulated to members. Such alteration must be carried out by two thirds of the members present and voting. Twenty members personally present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum

Winding Up:

Any proposal by the Committee to wind up the Society shall require ratification by an Annual or Special General Meeting at which it shall be determined that in the event of the winding up of the Society the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more groups having objects similar or reasonably similar to those herein before declared as maybe chosen by the Committee.