



## LIBRARY NEWS 2025 JULY - SEPTEMBER

### OPENING HOURS

July 9th	1.30 - 3.30
July 26th	10 - 12
August 13	1.30 - 3.30
August 30th	10 - 12
September 10th	1.30 - 3.30
September 27th	10 - 12

### WEBSITE

The newsletter can also be found on the website on the library page along with all the library information and the search facility for the catalogue. All books new to the Library are on the catalogue and suggestions are always welcome.

### A SELECTION of BOOKS NEW to the LIBRARY

**Archaeological report on the Parwich Rings** David Went and Jackie-Ann Judge  
2025 Historic England 77pp.

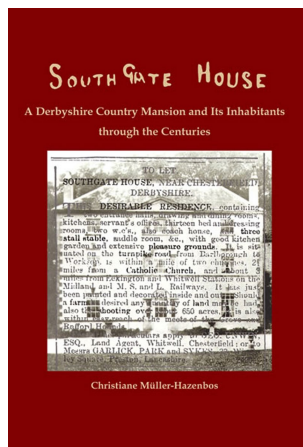
This report came to us from David Went at Historic England

The following is from the authors' introduction.

“The present survey does not attempt to determine the rings' date or function. It records patterns and morphology, and

compares the evidence seen here with suggested parallels elsewhere. Its main purpose is to lay the foundation for further archaeological research which is required if the mystery of the Parwich

Rings is to be satisfactorily resolved.”



**Southgate House** A Derbyshire country Mansion and its inhabitants through the centuries. Christiane Müller-Hazenbos 2014. 298pp

The author, a German Archaeologist and Egyptologist, spent a summer holiday in Rotherham as a teenager and at the end of her pencil drawing classes was presented with a demonstration drawing of the Southgate Stables which belonged to South Gate House near Clowne. Contacting the artist again after many years, her curiosity was fired and this book is a result of her research into Southgate House and Estate. “It was hard to believe that such a fascinating universe was unfolding before my eyes”. This book is very fully researched with an extensive bibliography, online sources and copious footnotes.

**Robert Bakewell.** Britain's Foremost Livestock Breeder Hardcover. The New Dishley Society 2025 366 pp

We have just received a copy of this book, generously donated by the authors and there will be a review in our next newsletter.

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## **One Thing Leads to Another.**

**Anne Allcock**

We have been very grateful to receive from Peter Steer and family Jane Steer's library and papers as a generous donation to the Library. We have been able to add in the region of 40 books and pamphlets to the collection. It is always interesting to go through books - you never know what will turn up. Jane's passion was local history so her library which was very extensive, reflected that. Here is a selection of titles added to the collection which caught the interest.

**Wirksworth Church 1916.** 'Notes on the Parish Church of Wirksworth by the Rev J. Charles Cox corrected and extended from the Second Volume of "Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire" published in 1877 and revised in 1916 by C.E.B. Bowles Esq JP.'

Messrs George Marsden & Son publishers in Wirksworth asked Charles Cox if they could use his notes for the Church Guide. He consented provided he might be allowed to make numerous corrections and additions. The front cover says revised by C.E.B. Bowles but Charles Cox only makes reference to Bowles reading and correcting the proofs so we shall never know who actually did the revising. They were clearly friends. The owner of the guide has written his name on the cover but it is not easy to read which is a pity as they have made one or two annotations in the margins querying or adding to some of the information - one in detail!

Investigation into the name C.E.B. Bowles M.A. F.S.A.- he was Esq.JP on the Wirksworth Church Guide - led me to

our journal where it transpired that he succeeded Charles Cox as Hon .Editor of the DAJ in the early 1900s. Bowles wrote some 25 articles for the journals on a wide variety of topics including his family at Bradshaw Hall near Chapel-en-le-Frith. His full name was Charles Eyre Bradshaw Bowles. There is also a large deposit at DRO connected with this family.

**Derby and District Town Planning Scheme 1929** This may seem somewhat unusual book to be picking up on. It is a bound copy with gold leaf title on the front and also in gold leaf is the signature G(eorge) Trevelyan Lee who was Town Clerk for Derby from 1902 to 1932. The Scheme was first mooted in 1914 before being finally approved by the Minister of Health in 1929. This would have been a major expansion of Derby but unfortunately there are no maps. It does mention however a 'further portion of land between Duffield Road and Kedleston Road.' The book has 53 pages of official planning details and processes and is heavily annotated, presumably by Mr Trevelyan Lee. It is a real insight into the intricacies of town planning which the layperson could probably not even begin to contemplate.

There is a connection between George Trevelyan Lee and C.E.B.Bowles. In 1904 when Mr Trevelyan Lee, as Town Clerk, was moving offices, a large number of brown paper parcels of documents were found, relating to Records of the Corporation of Derby. This resulted in an article by Mr Bowles for DAJ Vol 26 in 1904,- 'The Derby Municipal Muni-ments'. This in turn led to interesting articles in Miscellany in Spring and Autumn on 2019 by Ann Bull and Linda Owen -

‘The Corporation of Derby and the Chamberlains Account Books 12 with bills and receipts in the latter part of the eighteenth century’ and ‘Charities administered by the Corporation of Derby in the latter part of the eighteenth century’ by Ann Bull Part 1 and then Part 2 in Spring 2020. These Miscellany articles were about the papers noted by Bowles in DAJ.

### **The Church Congress Handbook 1882**

Again this may seem another unusual choice but the 101 pages relating to the Congress which took place in Derby that year and 30 pages of advertising throw up a picture of the Church in the later Victorian period. As you would expect for any conference there is a wealth of information about the 4 days - meetings, biographical sketches of the speakers with some portraits, accommodation, a complete Midland Railway Timetable for trains to and from Derby and the texts of the hymns and prayers to be used. Edward Bradbury, a journalist who also wrote under the pseudonym ‘Strephon’ and who was known for guides such as “*Pilgrimages in the Peak*” and “*The Derbyshire Highlands*” (both of which are in the Library) contributed a 12 page article called ‘A Day in Derby’, designed presumably to attract the visiting clergymen to wander round the town. This caught my eye - “the ancient gates - Irongate, Friargate, Bridgegate and Sadlergate are but names for armed entrances whose masonry is now as dead as a dodo or as fabulous as a phoenix. Each year adds to the destruction of one or more fine old houses that were wont to lend the suggestion of poetry to unromantic rows of bricks and mortar”. This article is in itself is worth a read.

There are also thumbnail sketches of all the churches in Derby. As ever the advertisements reveal as much about the times as does the handbook. Between them they provide another angle on the religious and social position at the time. It would be interesting to compare the topics of the speakers in 1882 with an equivalent conference today.

A couple more books for interest.

**Derby Schools of Art, Science and Technology 1853 - 2003** John Fineran 2006. A wide ranging and detailed history of post-school education in Derby.

**Richard Keene’s Household Almanack and Year-Book of Useful Knowledge 1863 - 1864** A nice example of the Victorian obsession with self-improvement and health remedies by Richard Keene, local photographer and publisher, and reprinted by Derby Local Studies Library in 2004.

I doubt if nowadays we would get away with an article entitled ‘The Advantages of a Good Wife’.

I hope this selection give you a small flavour of Jane’s wide interests. **AA**

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### **Abraham Denston - an update**

An interesting email arrived from New Zealand in the winter regarding the James Gibbs book “Rules for Drawing the Several Parts of Architecture” which is held for us Derby Museum and Art Gallery. On researching their ancestors, a family found reference to the book in the Society Newsletter with mention of Abraham Denston’s signature. It turned out that the husband is a direct descendant of

Abraham Denston. They were coming over to the UK and were keen to see the book. It was all arranged and we had a lovely morning with Hamish, Jessica and Roya Denston. It was a special moment for them to see the signature of an ancestor in a book not far off 300 years old. The family very kindly gave a donation to the Society. Matt Edwards from the Museum was there (Matt has also repaired the book) as was Peter Steer whose late wife Jane had generously donated the book to us.

AA



The Denston Family with Peter Steer  
(With permission)

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## What we do with all our books.

### Richard Finch

Over the years the Society has been very grateful to receive donations and bequests, often substantial collections, that have enhanced the Library. Looking at bookplates that record donations, it's clear that our fine Library collection has to a large extent been built up from generous gifts and bequests.

Donated books that are already in the Library have then been offered to members at sales during Society events and the proceeds devoted to purchasing new

books for the Library. More recently it has become clear that most members already have their own copies of anything interesting that we might have for sale and will often be looking to downsize their own collections rather than buying anything more from our sales. The result has been that on some recent occasions I have been in danger of coming away with more books for sale than I went with.

However it is encouraging that there is a market for second hand local history books among the wider public. At the recent Local History Fair in the Library at Strutts on 28<sup>th</sup> June we took hundreds of books along and had the pleasing result of selling almost half of them and raising over £400. A lot of this success was down to not being too ambitious with pricing. Having established that we had nothing of great scarcity or value we decided that rather than pricing everything individually we simply offered all hardbacks at £3, paperbacks £2, and guide books and leaflets £1 or 50p. You can imagine how many items the gentleman who handed over £75 went away with. It also helped that there was a bigger footfall with so many other societies being there.

If you have interesting books on Derbyshire or local history generally that you are looking to pass on do contact me or Anne our librarian. We are always finding, sometimes surprising, gaps in the Library collection which it is always satisfying to fill. If books are in the Library we may be able to sell them online through websites such as Webuybooks, or alternatively you may wish to see if Scarthin or one of our other local booksellers is interested. Do not expect too much though – the prices on websites



such AbeBooks are often very ambitious. For example new sets of Gladwyn Turbutt's four volume history of Derbyshire were available at a knockdown price of £10 at another stall at the Local History Fair, while they are typically priced on-line at £100 or more.

On the other hand if you are looking for a particular book on Derbyshire it is worth asking if we have a copy. If so we'll be pleased to pass it on at the price indicated above and reduce the stock pile in my garage. Anything which lingers too long gets passed on to the local Oxfam shop.



### A selection of unsold books!

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### JOURNALS RECENTLY ARRIVED

*Post-Medieval Archaeology Vol 58 Parts 2-3 2025*

Post-medieval Fieldwork in Derbyshire  
Former Rolls-Royce Light Alloy foundry Osmaston Road/Russell Street Derby  
King's Clough Farm Glossop  
Kedleston Hall  
Melbourne Sewers Project Melbourne  
Milford Mills Milford

*For further fieldworks see the current issue of DAJ.*

*Archaeologia Cantiana Vol 146 2025*  
*Bakewell and District Historical Society No 52 2025*  
*Bristol & Gloucestershire Arch. Society Vol 142 2024*  
*Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Report No 9 . Cotswold Archaeology Archaeological Investigations to the East of Lydney, Glos.*

### AND FINALLY

Feel free to contact us if you are looking for particular research material. We get emails from researchers far and wide and if we are not able to help we can usually point them in another direction.

We look forward to seeing you at the Library.  
The Library Team



