

**DERBYSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**



ISSUE 96 SUMMER 2023

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Elected members of Council:

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Mr. J. H. d'Arcy, Mrs. D. Grace, Mrs. J. Jackson, Mr. I. H. Mitchell,
Dr. S. I. Mitchell & Ms. R. Sheldon.

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The opinions expressed herein are entirely those of individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Society, its Council or its editor. All contributions submitted under *noms-de-plume* or pseudonomously must be accompanied by a *bona fide* name and address if such are to be accepted for publication.

The Newsletter of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society is normally published twice a year by the Society's editor, Maxwell Craven [qv above] and is printed by John E Wright, printers, 15-17, Brick Street, Derby DE1 1DU, Tel.: 01332 344743.

COVER PICTURE

Our cover this issue, of the frontispiece of the Etwall Hospital, founded by Sir John Porte of Etwall in 1556 to house six poor persons. Sir John's family, originally Chester merchants, had come by the Etwall estate through marriage with the heiress of FitzHerbert of Etwall by the heiress of the Montgomerys of Cubley. He also founded Repton School. His two sons pre-deceased him, but three of his daughters married, Elizabeth to Sir Thomas Gerard of Bryn MP (who inherited Etwall and died in 1601), Dorothy, who married Hon. Sir George Hastings, later 4th Earl of Huntingdon (who inherited Dale Abbey) and Margaret who married Sir Thomas Stanhope of Shelford, Notts. and inherited Cubley.

The three cartouches on the stone frontispiece of the almshouses are those of the later 17th century representatives, left to right: Theophilus Hastings, 7th Earl of Huntingdon (1650-1701), Philip Stanhope, 2nd Earl of Chesterfield (d. 1714) and Sir William Gerard of Bryn, 3rd Bt. (d. 1681). Their posterity continue to be represented as founder's kin on the governing body of the School.

The almshouses were increased to take another six poor people in 1622, but in 1676-1681 were entirely replaced more or less as we see them today, to the design of George Eaton of Etwall (1611-1689) and enlarged by his son, Thomas 'surveyor' in 1695 and again in 1701 when Thomas Eaton added accommodation for an additional four poor people. George Eaton was the artisan-mannerist designer of Derby's Shire Hall 1659-1660, the Chapel at Locko Park and alterations to Tissington Hall. Edward Saunders discovered evidence that he also designed the chapel at Bretby, usually attributed (on no particular grounds) to Inigo Jones.

The gates (see illustration on the next page) were made by Robert Bakewell for Rowland Cotton as part of a screen fronting Etwall Hall and bear his arms. The gates were added when the house was rebuilt by Francis and William Smith of Warwick with Nathaniel Ireson in 1724-1726, the second phase of a complete rebuild begun in 1714-1716.

The gates were presumed lost when the house was demolished in 1955, but re-discovered in the 1970s (I think through the gentle persistence of the late Jack Henderson), after which a local group raised money for their restoration by a smith at Mottram, Cheshire, commissioned by Edward Saunders on their behalf. They were felicitously re-positioned amidst the early 19th century iron railings in front of the almshouses, forming a splendid *cour d'honneur* set piece and unveiled by founder's descendant, the late Barbara Abney-Hastings, (13th) Countess of Loudoun (descended from Dorothy Porte, Countess of Hastings) in 1984. Your editor had the pleasure of advising on the correct restoration of the heraldry.

PS The lists of council members and section offices (see previous page and rear) are always given to me without indications of gender or honorifics – just forename and surname – but this time I have added the elected members of Council, whose names came with initials, gender and some honorifics.

Colleagues and readers might like to take a view on this: I always go by my christian name and surname & suppress gender & honorifics, for instance. What would be the consensus on this? Do let me know.



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

I mentioned in the last Newsletter, that the society's Council of Management was undertaking a review of the way the society operates. An early conclusion from this was that we need to do more to demonstrate the 'public benefit' that justifies our registration as a Charity. You will have seen the result of this in the Annual Report circulated before the Annual General Meeting, which now follows the Charity Commission's recommended format. I found the task of putting this together quite enlightening and encouraging, as it highlights the

breadth and depth of the benefits that we deliver to our members and the public. In the calendar year 2022, there were 19 lectures, 13 visits, and 16 papers published in DAJ and Miscellany – plus the library, a grant from the Pilling fund, and our stewardship of the Morley Park blast furnaces and Cromford bridge chapel.

Another early outcome of this review has been putting together a manual that attempts to itemise everything that the officers and other members do to keep the Society running. This is still very much a work in progress, but already runs to 43 pages. This should be a valuable resource in future when handing over tasks when an officer retires and also highlights some of the areas where we could and should make improvements to our processes.

The Annual General Meeting on 20 May went smoothly with no contested elections, and a fascinating after-meeting talk by Joyce Newton who is a Trustee of the Etwall Almshouses, about the re-instatement of a pair of long-lost sundials that we supported via a grant from the Pilling Bequest.



The AGM also saw the retirement of two long serving members of Council, Keith Reedman and Chris Wardle. Keith had clocked up no less than 49 years on Council and undertook all sorts of roles over that time, while Chris has been Chairman and Editor of archaeology for DAJ, and we are grateful to both of them for everything they have done for the Society. The Editor position remains vacant and is one that we need to fill. Philip Riden continues to do a fantastic job with historical articles and handling all the issues of formatting and printing, but he needs the support of an archaeology specialist to ensure a good balance of topics. The role requires someone with a good knowledge of professional standards for archaeological reports, and awareness of academic and commercial archaeology activity in the County that can be reported.

For me, one of the highlights of the last six months was the library open afternoon at Strutts in January, with short presentations from members. These were all fascinating (see the report elsewhere in this Newsletter) and combined with the exhibition and opportunity to browse in the library, it made for a most pleasant afternoon. We shall be repeating the formula again next year, so please get thinking about topics that *you* could share with other members when we put out a call in the autumn.

I am coming to the end of my three-year stint as Chairman and, by time you read this Newsletter, the Council of Management will have elected my successor. I'd like to thank everyone who has supported me to maintain the working of the Society through a challenging period and adapting to do things differently where necessary. There are undoubtedly more challenges ahead, in particular financial ones as a result of the relentless increase in costs of all kinds, but I am confident we shall find a way through.

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ARCHAEOLOGY EDITOR REQUIRED

We are looking for a suitable qualified archaeologist to take on the role of Archaeology Editor for the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal. All the formatting and printing of the Journal is managed by the History Editor, Philip Riden.

The role involves:

- * Encouraging commercial, academic and amateur archaeologists to submit papers describing their excavations and research in Derbyshire.
- * Peer review and editing of submitted material in line with professional standards for archaeological reports.

If you feel you could undertake this task, or you know someone who might be suitable (even if they are not currently a member), please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary using the contact details at the front of the Newsletter.

OBITUARY

Tim Schadla-Hall (1947-2023)

Tim was an English archaeologist who gave a talk for the Society in 2004 on Star Carr at the University when the power point failed to work. He was so good we really didn't miss the pictures. He specialised in the study of how the discipline of archaeology interacts with the public. He was affiliated to the Institute of Archaeology at University College London in Bloomsbury, where he worked as a Reader in Public Archaeology. In 1971, Schadla-Hall gained his BA in archaeology from the University of Cambridge, before attaining his MA in 1974. His first book, *Tom Sheppard: Hull's Great Collector*, was published 1989. From 1985 to 1997, Schadla-Hall and Paul Mellars co-directed an excavation of the Mesolithic settlement site of Star Carr in North Yorkshire – hence our Society lecture. It had previously been excavated by Grahame Clark in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Schadla-Hall was editor of the journal *Public Archaeology* and served as a trustee of the veteran support charity Waterloo Uncovered, which conducts an annual excavation on the site of the Battle of Waterloo with veterans and serving personnel.

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John Potts (d. 2023)

We have recently heard from Helen Cobb daughter of John and Thelma Potts. John and Thelma were members of the Society in the '60s and '70s and helped much on excavations until John left the Derby Borough Council Parks Department and moved to be in charge of the Hergest Estate near Kington in Herefordshire. Thelma died in 2021 and John died on 1st of February at Kingsmill Hospital after a very short illness. His funeral was on 8th March at Hereford crematorium and afterwards those attending took cake and refreshments at the tea house in the crematorium grounds.

Ray Marjoram adds:

I have always been of the view that John knew how to handle a spade; a symphony of movement I called it. I tried to capture that in some photographs which I took during one of our excavations which were taken at our Sawley Roman Road excavation just before the reservoir was excavated.

*A symphony of movement:
John Potts in action at
Sawley [Ray Marjoram]*



Roger Dalton (1936-1922)

Dr Roger Dalton who died in March 2022 was a longstanding and active member of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society. After bachelor's and master's degrees in geography and then qualifying as a teacher, Roger taught in secondary schools before joining the staff as a lecturer in teacher education at Bishop Grosseteste College in Lincoln.

In 1971 Roger joined the staff as Head of Geography in Derby at Bishop Lonsdale College of Education. The college merged with Derby College of Technology in the 1980s, and then with Matlock College of Education, both of which had flourishing geography departments. In 1992 the combined colleges became the University of Derby. He continued as Head of the geography department, at the same time as researching for his PhD, until he retired in the 1990s.

Roger became a member of the Local History Section Committee in 1999 and wrote many articles for *Derbyshire Miscellany* mainly on his research into the agricultural history of Derbyshire. In 2004 he received the Local History 2004 Award from The British Association for Local History for his article on *The Derbyshire Farm Labourer in the 1860s* which had been published in *Derbyshire Miscellany* Volume 16, Part 5, Spring 2003. The award was presented at The Imperial War Museum and his article was reprinted in the British Association for Local History's publication *The Local Historian*. Roger also wrote several articles for the Society's *Journal* and gave lectures to the Society on many aspects of Derbyshire's agriculture history.

In 2018 he became a member of the Editorial Panel of *Derbyshire Miscellany* when Jane Steer was editor. She was very grateful for his help in assessing new articles and his detailed proof reading. The present editor, Rebecca Sheldon, has also appreciated Roger's help on the Editorial Panel.

Roger will be greatly missed by the Local History Section Committee for his help and advice over many years.

Joan Davies, Irene Brightmer

Editor's Note: *This obituary was published in Newsletter 94, but contained several errors for which your editor takes full responsibility. To do both subject and contributors justice it was felt essential to put it in again as submitted.*

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Roman lead pig, from the collections in Derby Museums [M. Craven]

FREE JOURNALS

The DAS has a large stock of old editions of the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*. These are offered for sale, but there is very little demand now that digital copies are available for free download from the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) from five years after publication. We need to vacate the existing storage space and Council has decided that in future we will not retain paper copies after the date when the material becomes free on ADS.

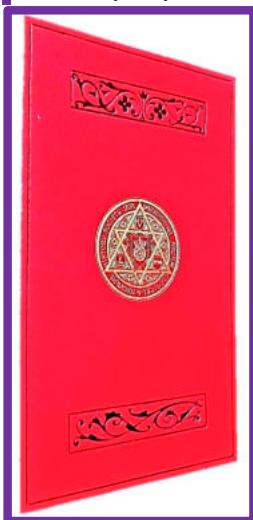
Before we dispose of the existing stock of old Journals, we are offering them to members free of charge. This is a one-off never-to-be-repeated opportunity.

* Identify the years that you are interested in by consulting the on-line index at ADS or browsing the copies in the DAS Library.

* Submit a request to the email address oldjournals@derbyshireas.org.uk by 30 September.

* When we move the material from its current storage location we will pick out and save the copies you have requested.

* You will be advised when the copies you have requested are available to collect from the DAS Library (sometime in the Autumn).



We cannot guarantee the availability or condition of any specific year. There are new copies available for most but not all of the last 50 years and a selection of older ones that may be second hand. Some copies may have deteriorated in storage. If the request for a particular year exceeds the number of copies available, we will allocate them on a first-come first-served basis.

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

I should like to apologise again for the delay to both the Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023 issues of *Miscellany*, primarily the result of a minor but ongoing health issue that is not as under control as I keep hoping. Regardless, *Miscellany* is only possible because of the excellent content that continues to be submitted and the wonderful support and incredible diligence of the editorial team: Dr Rosemary Annable, Jane Steer, Dr Irene Brightmer and Dr Richard Clarke. My thanks to them all.

From original research to re-assessments and short historical anecdotes, please continue to send your content to das.miscellany@gmail.com. If you are working on an aspect of Derbyshire local history we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Becky Sheldon

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

THE REPTON ARCHIVE COMES HOME

Harold McCarter Taylor was born in 1907 in Dunedin, New Zealand. His brilliance as a mathematician was recognised whilst he was an undergraduate, so he won a place in Ernest Rutherford's team at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. On being awarded his PhD, Taylor's career flourished: he soon became a lecturer at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Clare College. At the outbreak of the Second World War Taylor, who was already in the Officer Training Corps, joined the Royal Artillery and spent the war researching the science of artillery and instructing artillery officers. After the war, he continued to serve as a part-time soldier, whilst rising rapidly in the world of academic administration. He was soon appointed treasurer of the University of Cambridge. In 1961 he was appointed as Principal of the University College of North Staffordshire. The following year, when the College became Keele University, he was appointed as its first Vice-Chancellor.

Yet it was not mathematics or his glittering academic career that first drew Taylor to Repton; it was the Anglo-Saxon fabric contained in the Church of St Wystan. Taylor became interested in Anglo-Saxon architecture after he settled in Britain, and he and his first wife, Joan, embarked on a study of Anglo-Saxon church architecture that was to last for the rest of their lives. By the 1960s the couple were regular visitors to Repton, as they tried to understand the development of the church, and in particular the crypt that had served as the tomb of several Kings of Mercia.



The east end of St Wystan's Church, with the Saxon chancel above the earlier crypt; note the typically Saxon strip pilasters flanking the later Early English window.

One of Taylor's theories was that the crypt had originally served as a single storey baptistry, but he was unable to demonstrate that this was been the case solely through study of the upstanding fabric. The fact that the parish needed to alter the drainage around the eastern end of the church provided an opportunity for an archaeological excavation. Taylor, who by this time knew many archaeologists, invited Martin and Birthe Biddle to assist in his investigations and conduct what was initially intended to be a limited investigation in the ground adjoining the crypt.



*Martin Biddle and
Birthe Kjølbjølby-Biddle
in the vicarage garden,
prior to a talk about
their work.*

[Martin Biddle]

Excavations around the crypt began in 1973, and almost immediately surprising discoveries began to be made in the form of a number of Viking burials. The most surprising discovery, however, came in 1976, when what appeared to be the west end of a very large defensive ditch was encountered to the south-east of the chancel.

Entries in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* for the 860s and 870s chart the movements of a large Viking army across southern and eastern England. The entry for 873 reports that,

‘This year the army went from Lindsey to Repton, and there took up their winter quarters.’
Whilst that for the following year states that

‘This year went the army from Repton.’

By the late 1970s the Biddles believed that they had identified direct evidence for the winter quarters of the Viking army. They conceived it as an encampment located in a small area between the church and a bluff overlooking a channel known as ‘the Old Trent’, and enclosed by a very substantial defensive ditch. As a result, they massively expanded the scope of their investigations; excavating two additional trenches in the vicarage garden, some 150m SW of the chancel, where a burial mound had been found in the late 17th century, and a further trench some 50m N of the chancel, where they hoped that they would encounter the centre of the ‘winter quarters’. In so doing they had launched what was almost certainly the largest archaeological excavation ever to take place in the county.

This is not the place to discuss the difficulties with some of the theories that the Biddles arrived at regarding the extent and location of the ‘winter quarters’ of the Viking army. Suffice to say that the main part of the archaeological fieldwork ended in 1987 (the Biddles did return to Repton in the early 1990s to dig a couple of trenches in the school grounds) and the Biddles transferred the vast majority of the site archive (all of the paper records and most of the artefactual material) to a private store in Oxford. This was so that they could work on the analysis of their findings from their base in the city.

Initially the analysis seemed to have started well: during the late 1980s, the Biddles published an article on a Saxon monument found in association with some of the Viking burials along with a couple of papers on the coins found together with those and other Viking burials. In 1992 they published an article in the journal *Antiquity* which focused almost entirely on the Viking burials found at Repton, although it also discussed the discovery of the Saxon chapel/mausoleum in which many of the Viking burials had lain.

Thereafter progress seemed to slow: Harold Taylor died in 1992 without the confirmation of the crypt’s origin as a baptistry. In 2001 Martin and Birthe contributed a chapter to a monograph on the ‘Great Heathen Army’ of the 860s and 870s, but this was largely an expanded version of their 1992 paper. The chapter, however, did provide a couple of tantalising glimpses of what might have been found apart from Viking burials. One of these glimpses was mention of traces of timber structures located close to the crypt, but which evidently predated the overtly Christian buildings. Another was a mention of the very substantial defences of a Norman motte and bailey castle, that that been completely destroyed in the mid-12th century during the war between King Stephen and Empress Matilda, and which had been discovered in the trench excavated 50m to the north of the chancel. Unfortunately, no evidence for these discoveries is presented in the chapter, so they remain enigmatic.

By the 1990s the Biddles had a considerable post-excavation backlog: in 1961 Martin had been appointed to direct a major programme of excavations in Winchester, focusing on the cathedral and its Saxon predecessor. Birthe joined him a couple of years later, and the two built their reputations on the discoveries that they made at Winchester, but it left them with a number of unpublished sites in the city. In the 1990s the Biddles took on a highly prestigious project investigating the remains of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. At the same time as they were spending a part of their summers at Repton, they were also excavating at St

Albans. So, the time available to work on the material from Repton was probably always fairly limited.

Tragedy struck in the 2000s: Birthe was found to have the illness that led to her death in 2011, and for a considerable time it appeared that progress on the analysis of the material from Repton had ground to a halt. That was not the case, as funding had been found for a research student to try to reconcile the inconsistencies surrounding the scientific dates for the Viking burials at Repton. That student was Cat Jarman, who in 2018 was able to publish some of her findings in the journal *Antiquity*. At the same time Dr Jarman began her own programme of fieldwork in and around Repton. For a while it appeared that funds might have been found for Cat Jarman to work on the analysis of the material from Repton working toward a full report. Unfortunately, this funding was not realised and Cat appears to have had to move on to other projects, and to abandon any hope that money might be found that would allow her to continue her work on the Repton archive.

Martin Biddle is now in his mid-80s and it is likely that he has had to reconciled himself to devoting whatever time and energy he has remaining to working on the material from Winchester. Accordingly, he seems to have decided to abandon the analysis of the material from Repton, and to make good the promise that he and Birthe had made decades ago, which was to deposit most of the Repton archive with Derby Museum and Art Gallery and make it publicly accessible.

In many ways the final deposition of the excavation archive before the publication of a full report represents a retreat from undertakings made many years before. Yet it might also represent an opportunity for some other person or organisation to take up the burden set aside by Martin Biddle, and to bring the Repton excavation towards a comprehensive report.

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The editor adds – From 1979, Roy Hughes FSA, of Derby Museum and your editor, as his deputy, had the pleasurable duty of going over to Repton approximately every two weeks each summer to hear a report of latest progress, and receive various items for safekeeping, a process which I continued after Roy's retirement until the final season of excavation. I was at first somewhat in awe of Martin and Birthe, but earned myself Brownie points when the Repton stone (part of a Saxon high cross) was unearthed, by observing to Martin that the figure depicted (thought by Martin to be possibly King Æthelbald, 716-757) looked like a 'long-haired' Merovingian king, a point he enthusiastically took up. In return, Carole and I took Martin and Birthe on a Friends of the Museum trip around Ratcliffe Power Station, ending in the pub at Lockington, specially organised by Carole, which was much enjoyed. It 'made a great change from talking shop!' Martin boomed.

When the excavations were finally over (I must say Carole and I missed the end of dig parties and various other social events which took place during the Biddles' annual stint!) we were able to secure the Repton stone and a number of other major finds for the new archaeological gallery (which Martin ceremonially opened in 1986), including four from the important accumulation of coins from the site.

ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

Anne Heathcote and Jill Scarfe ST WILFRID'S CHURCH, BARROW-ON-TRENT a transformation back to the future: 3rd February 2023

The parish church has for centuries been at the heart of the local community but, with demographic change, dwindling congregations and diminishing income, many are now on life support. In this talk, Anne Heathcote and Jill Scarfe of the Friends of St Wilfrid's shared their long journey to do something about this problem in the parish in which they live.

In 2008, as Barrow upon Trent Parish Council prepared their parish plan, a questionnaire was sent to all residents (adults and children) including in it questions concerning the future of the church. How did residents feel about it? Did they use it? What to do with it? The response was one of overwhelming support for 'our church', something the community wished to keep. How that might be achieved in a small rural parish faced with continually rising costs for the maintenance, conservation and insurance of a Grade I Listed building, was more problematic.

What was to become the project called 'Back to the Future', conceived to preserve the history of the church and ensure its continuing use, was planned and progressed by an enthusiastic group of volunteers, the Friends of St Wilfrid's, set up in 2012, when the Parish Plan History Group was awarded a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to research the history of the village and the church. Included in the project was a Heritage Building Assessment of St Wilfrid's prepared by Peter Ryder. Contrary to earlier accounts of the church's date and development, based largely on architectural style, this new analysis suggested possible Anglo-Saxon origins for St Wilfrid's starting as a simple rectangular building with the addition in stages from the late 12th to the 15th centuries of the north aisle, south aisle, tower and porch.

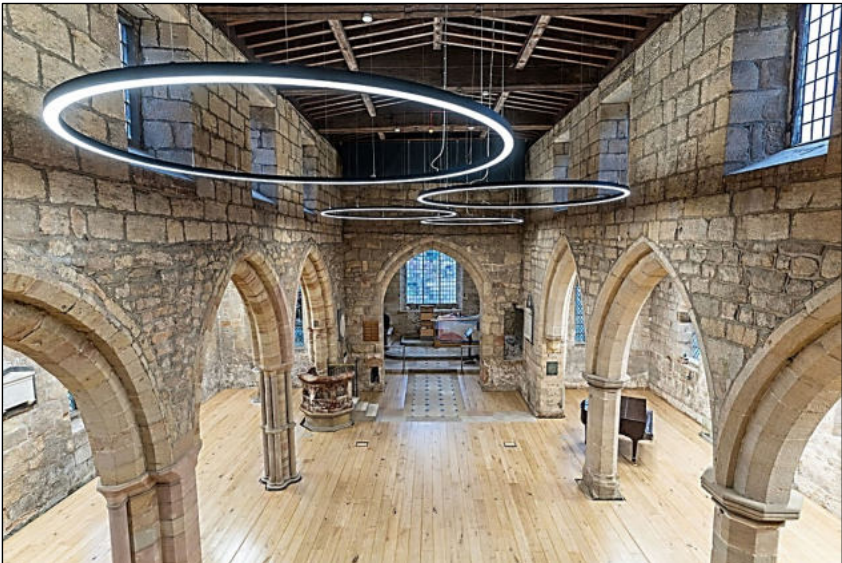
The church at Barrow had been given to the Knights Hospitaller in 1165 by the family of Bakepuiz of Barton (Bakepuiz, now Blount) which had held it under Henry de Ferrers and his heirs, the Earls of Derby. Founded in the late 11th century to provide accommodation and care for pilgrims in Jerusalem, the Order acquired extensive estates across Western Europe, given by donors and benefactors as a material means of supporting its hospitals and was at one time the largest landowner in England after the Crown. Answerable only to the Pope, the Order's management was determined solely by the local Priory, free of any laws or other constraints imposed by local or national authorities. At Barrow its property was in the care of a bailiff, under the direction of the preceptory at Yeaaveley, the Order's main centre of administration in Derbyshire, where the remains of its chapel still survive beside Stydd Hall. Together with other land and property acquired nearby, the church remained in the ownership of the Order from 1165 until its Dissolution in 1540, a period coinciding with the successive phases of post-Saxon building construction identified in the Heritage Building Assessment.

With no significant periods of construction postdating the 15th century, this new research identified St Wilfrid's as one of only two British churches developed by the Hospitallers that



Above: the interior of St Wilfrid's from the south-west before work began: a legacy of 19th century change and heating systems.

Below: The 'new' interior looking east: the same space used in the 15th century.



had remained structurally unchanged since the Order was dissolved, an important feature of historical significance that was to add weight to applications for grant funding and to shape ideas about how the church's past might contribute to its future.

The eventual result of the parish consultation process, of research and of much careful thought, was a project to ensure the continuing use of St Wilfrid's, by transforming it into a community centre for the whole parish, which would help to generate income while retaining its use as a place of worship and respecting its history and heritage.

In 2019 after two unsuccessful applications, St Wilfrid's was finally awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant that provided 58% of the eventual £830,000 total cost of the project, the balance being generously provided by fifteen other funding bodies. Work began in February 2020, when restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic made it unnecessary to find an alternative place for church services, as none could be held, but the builders worked on in their 'bubble' to complete the work on schedule in December.

The guiding principle of the plan was 'a light touch' with minimal intervention in the fabric of the building, while opening up the church as a flexible space suitable for a variety of uses, as it would have been in previous centuries, but with modern amenities and full accessibility. Some existing features helped in the transformation process. With no plaster or other decoration on the walls and only two stained glass windows, the building was naturally light while the late Victorian bench pews had little to recommend them in terms of comfort or design and were removed without controversy. The decision to insert a suspended floor obviated the need for an archaeological watching brief or excavation of intramural burials, of which there was ample evidence, as the sub-floor levels were undisturbed.

In the course of the work features that had long been obscured by general clutter or by previous re-orderings of the church once again became visible and now form part of the interpretation of the church and its history. The most notable of these, and one that made national headlines, was the alabaster effigy of a priest in a niche in the south aisle. Badly vandalised at the Reformation, when the face had been damaged, the hands once joined in prayer broken off and the angels flanking the pillow decapitated, the effigy was known from the historical record, but had later disappeared from view, obscured first by box pews and ultimately completely hidden with the installation of the pipe organ in 1892. After being alerted to the possible importance of the effigy by the Church Monuments Society, additional funds were raised by the Friends for specialist conservation work which revealed traces of original colouring made from gold and expensive pigments. Taken in combination, the priest's robes, craftsmanship of the carving, quality and richness of the work, suggested the probable identification of the effigy as John de Belton, who had been sent to Barrow by the Order in 1343 but had disappeared from the roll of parish vicars by 1348, a possible victim of the Black Death. With a date of c. 1350 this has now been identified as perhaps the oldest alabaster effigy of a priest in the country, and an example of the importance of Barrow in the Hospitallers' estate. After cleaning and

conservation, the effigy has been returned to its niche (also cleaned) where a mirror has been installed at the back enabling both sides of the figure to be viewed.



'In the midst of life ...': the 14th century alabaster effigy of a priest, freed from its niche, receives expert conservation in the chancel.

In approving the Faculty Application for the work at St Wilfrid's, John Bullimore, Chancellor of the Dioceses of Blackburn and Derby and a noted ecclesiastical lawyer, acknowledged the problems experienced by many churches, especially in rural areas 'desperate to preserve their ancient buildings into the future, both for worship and wider service to the community'. The people of St Wilfrid's had faced the challenge 'and presented an imaginative and creative solution' but would need 'determination and energy' if the proposals were to be carried to a successful conclusion in the long term. After achieving so much, we wish the Friends of St Wilfrid's well in the continuing work of caring for their parish church and for the life and history of their community. The photographs are courtesy of St. Wilfred's.

Rosemary Annable

**St Wilfrid's Church was the winner of the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust 2021 Architecture Award for the Restoration of a Public Building.

**The work of the Barrow upon Trent Parish History Research Project (2013 to 2014) can be found on the website butphrg.org.uk

Research about St Wilfrid's is on their website stwilfridsbarrow.org and YouTube channel including short talks on the history of the Knights Hospitaller and their connection with Barrow

on Trent by Dr Rory MacLellan, post-doctoral researcher at Historic Royal Palaces and by Dr Nicholas Morton of Nottingham Trent University.

‘The Church of St Wilfrid, Barrow-upon-Trent An Historic Building Assessment’ by Peter F Ryder (Spring 2013) can be downloaded from the Listed Building Record for St Wilfrid’s on the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record website

<https://her.derbyshire.gov.uk/Monument/MDR4385>

**Details of the grave slabs discovered beneath the floor of the church have been added to the earlier (1994) publication by the Derbyshire Ancestral Research Group, *Monumental Inscriptions at St Wilfrid’s* which is also available on the website.

‘The rise to popularity of alabaster for memorialisation in England’ by Sally Badham, who first identified the effigy at St Wilfrid’s as probably the oldest alabaster effigy of a priest in the country is published in the *Journal* of the Church Monuments Society Vol. XXXI (2016).

Saturday 12 August
A tour of the village of Barrow upon Trent and St Wilfrid’s Church
(Architectural Section)

Following the recent talk to the Society by the friends of St Wilfrid’s, this tour includes both the village of Barrow upon Trent and the church. The tour will last about 2 hours, is on flat ground and concludes with refreshments at St Wilfrid’s.

Meet at 10.30am at the Village Hall Car Park, Twyford Road, Barrow upon Trent, DE73 7HA

The cost is £10 which includes refreshments at St Wilfrid’s. **Numbers are limited to 20.**

For those who may wish to stay in the area and have lunch afterwards the village pub, The Brookfield, and the nearby Swarkestone Garden Centre both serve meals.

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Andrew Polkey
PERCY H CURREY, LOCAL ARCHITECT (1864 – 1942)
17th March 2023

Andrew began his talk with two quotes. The first suggested that in the late 20th century ‘there’s nothing of note in the county, except perhaps the sound and sensitive churches of P H Currey, an architect worthy of being better known’ (Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Derbyshire*, 1953). The second stated that ‘The name Percy H Currey rings few bells, even in his native Derbyshire. A shame, as his churches are so interesting, embodying characteristics of sincerity, simplicity, clarity and warmth, which epitomise Arts and Crafts sentiments when expressed in churches.’ (Alec Hamilton *Arts and Crafts Churches*, 2020).

Andrew is not an architect but an historian who, over the years, became increasingly aware of the little-known, but prolific, local architect Percy Heylyn Currey, who designed and built in



the Arts and Crafts style and was influenced by Lutyens.

Percy Currey was born in 1848 in Derby, the son of Benjamin Scott Currey and Helen Heygate, through whom he was a cousin of Sir Raymond Unwin. Benjamin had moved from Kent to Derby to attend to the Duke of Devonshire's legal affairs.

Percy Heylyn Currey FRIBA
[Private collection]

In 1867 Benjamin and his father-in-law purchased a 23-acre estate in Little Eaton on which to build a family home. The house, Eaton Hill, was designed and built by Benjamin's brother and it was here that Percy spent most of his early years. From the 1900s he was responsible for additions to the building. Family members lived in the house until 1944, after which time it became a children's home followed by a period of dereliction, but has been recently restored.

Currey attended Derby School 1875-82 and became a keen supporter of the Old Derbeian Society. In addition, he became a member of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, spending the years 1901 - 1929 as its secretary.

Rather than following the family tradition of going into the church or law, Currey became an architect. Relatively little is known about him as he left no family papers or letters. All that remains are a few notebooks, diaries and some family photos. Virtually the only written records he left behind were articles for *DAJ* between 1899 and 1923, mostly about the restoration of old buildings. The only written material that Andrew could find concerning Currey was by Max Craven in a 2009 Derby Civic Society newsletter, which further stimulated his interest. Max inspired and encouraged him to compile a gazetteer of Currey's buildings, which he continues to do. We were shown illustrations from Currey's surviving 1880 diary and sketchbooks dated 1898 – 1902. They contain remarkably detailed drawings and watercolours of local buildings and churches.

After working as an assistant to architects Frederick Josias Robinson and Sir Arthur Blomfield, he set up his own business at 3 Market Place, Derby. His first commission was the Gothic Revival church of St Stephen's in Borrowash followed by the Chapel at Derby School (where both Currey and Andrew had been pupils), once again in the Gothic Revival style, begun in 1889 and completed in 1895. This building, known to many DAS members, was sadly demolished in 2017. Although unlisted, it was curtilage listed as part of St. Helen's House which is grade I. Currey also built the sanatorium, chemistry laboratories and headmaster's house on the site in 1892, all now altered but under restoration. Further local commissions

around this time included St John the Evangelist, Ilkeston, built in four stages from 1893 to 1925 and St Bartholomew, Hallam Fields, 1896.

In 1895 Currey was appointed as Diocesan Surveyor and therefore had access to a variety of church buildings. He gained further church commissions through being a Freemason and through family connections: many of his relatives were local clergy. At this point Andrew mentioned that Currey's bread and butter work was surveying, extending and repairing churches, schools and other buildings, plus designing vicarages and parish centres.

In 1897 Currey married Augusta Leacroft. His father made available Wyndesmoor, in the grounds of the Eaton Hill estate, for the couple. Currey remodelled it from being a simple cottage into an attractive Arts and Crafts villa and lived here with his family until 1910. Percy's brother lived nearby at The Poplars, for which Percy built an extension at the rear of the house in the Arts and Crafts style. This was one of his first essays in domestic architecture and displayed some of Currey's typical characteristics – sweeping roofs, steep detached gables and a large number of windows. Unfortunately, the style was not in keeping with the original Georgian house of 1782. Further church commissions included St Mary's, Westwood, near Jacksdale, 1899; St Peter's, Stonebroom, 1900, and St Thomas, Somercotes, 1900.



St. Osmund, Wilmorton, Derby (1902) photographed November 2015.

[M. Craven]

Andrew mentioned Currey's four characteristic features in his church buildings, which were influenced by his leanings towards High Anglicanism. First was the erection of a lady chapel; second was the displaying of foundation stones for each completed building phase; third was the building of a rood screen and fourth was the inclusion of a niche for the figure of a saint.

A further church built by Currey was Christ Church, Holloway, 1901. This was financed by John Smedley, director of the local textile mill and displayed an impressive Italian marble chancel floor and a fine vicarage. 1904 saw the building of St Osmund, Wilmorton, with alms

houses and vicarage forming an almost collegiate ensemble on the same site; Currey's brother Lancelot (1869-1959) was patron and first incumbent.

Andrew gave examples of Currey's domestic architecture. St Anne's vicarage (later the Provost's House), Highfield Rd, Derby, was built in the Queen Anne Revival style. No. 28, Loudon Street, a villa of 1907 is an unusual design, with the inclusion of a verandah that overlooks the Arboretum, all now regrettably unsympathetically divided as flats. Currey built an attractive home, The Hatherings, in 1910 for his growing family that is presently lived in by his grandson, George. In complete contrast to the grandeur of many of his other buildings, he also built a small carriage house and stable in Henry Street, Derby in 1899.



The Hatherings, Little Eaton (1910), Andrew Polkey by the door. [Pat Haldenby]

Currey & Thompson, College Practising School, 1905; perspective view. [M. Craven]



In 1900 Currey was appointed architect for Derby Training College, Uttoxeter Rd., which had been designed and built by H I Stevens 1851. Currey added a delightful practising school in Great Northern Road following extensions in sympathetic style to the main college building

including detached gables and fine fenestration along with an impressive tall gymnasium with stair tower with witches' hat roof. The school was demolished in 2006 but the gymnasium complex and science wing (including the former chapel) survive.

In 1902, Currey entered into a partnership with Charles Clayton Thompson (1873-1932) which endured until 1926. Throughout that period, Currey seems to have undertaken the lion's share of the actual design work.

St Mary's, Buxton, built in 1915 was Currey's most advanced and attractive Arts and Crafts design. It displays eyebrow dormer windows and a wide, swooping tile roof, whilst St Bartholomew, Nightingale Road, 1926 is of a futuristic design and is galleried, unusual in a Currey building



*St. Mary the Virgin,
Buxton (1913-15).*
[Private collection]

A great achievement for our Society was its involvement in the plans for the restoration of St Mary's Bridge Chapel in 1929, in which Currey played a large part. He claimed no fee, restoration being his first love. Finance provided by the family of first Cathedral provost Herbert Ham allowed it to proceed.

Currey died in 1942, aged 77 years. He was buried in St Paul's Churchyard, Little Eaton, where he had designed the War Memorial lych gate, though no permanent memorial now exists to him. Andrew finished his informative, well-illustrated talk by quoting from Wren's monument in St Paul's Cathedral, which he thinks is also appropriate for Currey: *Lector, si monumentum requiris, circumspice* ('Reader, if you seek [his] monument, look around you.')

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Tour: Andrew Polkey and Chris Stone
THE WORK OF PERCY CURREY IN LITTLE EATON
Saturday 27th May 2023

Andrew, together with Chris Stone of the Derby Civic Society, arranged this visit as a follow-up to his talk on Percy H Currey earlier this year. It gave our members the opportunity to walk

round the village (in glorious sunshine) to study first-hand the buildings about which we'd heard.

First stop was Eaton Hill Lodge. Unfortunately, we were unable to visit Eaton Hill House, built for Percy's father in 1868 and where Percy grew up, but caught a glimpse of it through the trees. Instead, we concentrated on the brick-built lodge, which is now a hotch-potch of different styles. It's thought that it was Currey who enlarged a smaller house, evident on the 1881 OS map, around 1886 after which it became home to the estate's gardener and chauffeur. The house has been further enlarged to the west since Currey's time.



Eaton Hill Lodge (c 1886); the tactfully designed later extensions are on the left.
[Pat Haldenby]

We moved on to the nearby Wyndesmoor, where we were greeted by the present owner, Emma-Jayne, who kindly provided us with refreshments. The house was a small-holding when Percy moved in after his marriage in 1897 and he made major modifications to transform it into an Arts and Crafts villa. He added many outbuildings and it's believed that the shed-like structure beside the house was probably his drawing office. What you see today is a three-story structure built of stone (almost certainly quarried locally), brick and pebble-dash. The family moved out in 1912, after which time it was let to various people; one tenant ran a car business from here and another was a dressmaker. It was sold with the other family properties in 1944. However, his grandson George lived here from 1969 to 1987 and built a new extension to the north.

A pleasant walk up the hill behind the village took us to The Hatherings, probably Percy's finest achievement in domestic architecture. It was built from scratch in 1910 as a new family home – the family had outgrown Wyndesmoor. We'd been given kind permission by owners

George, Percy's grandson, and his wife Mary, to walk round the garden and view the outside of the house. The very attractive exterior displays many of Percy's characteristic features: sweeping detached gables, elaborate fenestration and leaded windows (still the original), with a nod to a Venetian window. The unusual decorative chimney stacks and an arrow slit were pointed out. Andrew has been inside and says the interior is much as Percy built it. The house is surrounded by a large garden, which affords magnificent views of the surrounding countryside and of Derby in the distance.



the group taking the tour photographed in front of Wyndesmore; Andrew Polkey, centre, in cap.
[Pat Haldenby]

A neighbour, Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust Chairman and architect Derek Latham, noticed us peering over his wall to look at his modern property and invited us into his garden, where he explained why and how he built his eco-house. This was an unexpected surprise and an added bonus to our tour.

Back in the village we took note of the lychgate to St Paul's Church. It had been designed by Percy in 1922 to commemorate the 1914 – 1918 war dead, using local labour and materials. Many members of the Currey family are buried in the churchyard. Unfortunately, no memorial now exists to Percy himself, although it's known he is buried here. It's suggested that he had a wooden grave marker similar to the existing one to his sisters, but which has since rotted away.

We ended the tour by looking at the extension Percy built at the back of his brother's house, The Poplars. It's thought that he may have been experimenting with ideas early on in his career,

as the Arts and Crafts style is really not in keeping with the original Georgian house.



*The Poplars, Little Eaton
(1783) from Station Rd. [MC]*

Many thanks are due to Andrew and Chris for organising this interesting tour round the village where Percy made his mark and where he lived for much of his life.

Pat Haldenby

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INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

Spencer Green HOPE VALLEY CEMENT WORKS 3rd March 2023

Spencer Green, who is Sustainability Manager for Breedon's GB Cement division gave a most interesting and enlightening talk about Breedon PLCs Cement Works, situated at Hope in the Peak District and bordering on the Navio Roman fort and *vicus* site. A selection of the company's large archive of historic photographs enhanced the information.

After a brief history of the company, which took over the site in 2010, Spencer discussed the technical side of cement making. The geology of Hope, with limestone and shale within easy reach of each other, makes it an ideal location for cement production, as does its proximity to the big conurbations for distribution. The process of making cement, which is 85% limestone and 15% shale, is created in much the same way as volcanoes work – a lot of heat! 2,000,000 tonnes of limestone and 300,000 tonnes of shale are quarried every year to make 1,500,000 tonnes of cement annually. Diagrams illustrated the processes involved.

A decade by decade look at the history of the company, with well-known names such as Blue Circle, showed just how forward looking and technically innovative the site has been since its inception in 1920. By 1929 it was the biggest cement producer in the UK, producing 3,000 tons a week. A most unexpected piece of information from this time centered on some pictures of cartoons by Heath Robinson on cement workings. Cement is not the most obvious choice for a cartoonist, but Heath Robinson made it fun! By the 1930s they had the largest jaw crusher in England. The 1940s saw a big expansion with four kiln works and during the war, two

underground air raid shelters were built, each capable supporting 100 men, complete with air conditioning, but it was unlikely that they were ever used.



The Hope Valley cement works, photographed in 2005.

[Giles Robinson]

The 1940s also saw ‘A vision of the Future’ and, in conjunction with the landscape designer, the late Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe (1900-1996), the company looked to design the site in keeping with its situation in such a beautiful part of world and to be very sensitive to the changes that large-scale quarrying brings. Trees and landscaping were introduced to soften the landscape and this continues to the present day wherever land is restored and backfilled. 130,000 trees have been planted and the photographs showed just how important such practices are, particularly since the National Park was created in 1951. In 1954 a fifth kiln was added but now the company has only two, but much more efficient ones.

More modern techniques now can produce more cement with less input, making Hope the most productive site in the UK with a quarry 1 mile long and reserves of 38 million tonnes. Because of the cement works, the Hope Valley railway line, with its 1920-built loop to serve Castleton, didn’t fall foul of Lord Beeching of East Grinstead’s famous cuts and today 1,000,000 tons of cement are transported by rail. The company is still using some coal for firing but has been exploring waste fuels and at present 40% of the fuel used is waste. Spencer also spoke of the company’s work to maintain good relations with the stakeholders and how they continue to support the workforce through various leisure activities.

The evening produced a great deal information that perhaps wouldn’t have been thought of in a talk about a cement works, offering us an entirely new perspective on the topic.

Anne Allcock

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

John E Titterton, FSA
A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO HERALDRY
4 November 2022

John Titterton's excellent combination of explaining heraldic terminology, noting local examples and regularly testing the audience (in the hall and watching via Zoom) was perhaps exactly what most members had hoped for from a 'short introduction.' John began by providing some background to heraldry, which began in the Middle Ages between c1150 and c1200 as individuals started to decorate their shields, with the decorations later being used to identify themselves. Originally 'coat of arms' referred to the tunic worn over armour and a 'crest' was on the helmet, presumably enabling those at the back to see who was at the front. One particularly notable example of well-preserved heraldry can be found at Norbury Church – one of the earliest surviving examples in the county, dating to c1300-c1305. Virtually complete, it is very simple and mostly geometrical.



Arms of Thomas Goodall-Copestake of Kirk Langley, from his grant of arms dated 1816.

[Bamfords Ltd.]

John explained the various features of a coat of arms and the terminology associated with it, including a hatchment, where a design with a coat of arms painted on a black background as a sign of mourning. Within days of death of a member of the nobility or local gentry, the hatchment would hang outside their house for around one year before being moved to the parish church. Sometimes background of a hatchment would be painted one half in black, to indicate who had died, reflecting the marshalling (arrangement) of the arms of husband and wife, impaled together side-by-side on the same shield, husband to the left as you look at it, wife to

the right. Much can be learned about status from a coat-of-arms, for instance the red hand of Ulster indicates Baronet, as does a helm facing forward but this also indicates a knight; a barred helm facing left indicates a peer whereas a barred helm forward is royal. Supporters are used for peers and institutions. Augmentations of Honour can be added to an existing coat of arms to commemorate some specific deed; the whole thing – the achievement – may also indicate membership of a particular order, for example, of the Garter.



Chatsworth, west front, displaying the funeral hatchment of the 6th (Bachelor) Duke of Devonshire, March 1858; detail of a photograph by Richard Keene.

[M. Craven]

John gave special attention to the three ways of combining the coats of arms of different families: *impalement*: to show marriage, for example, FitzHerbert of Tissington-Fitzherbert of Norbury. Successive generations of FitzHerberts at Tissington include a crescent mark indicating that the individual founding that line had been a second son. A label indicates the first son, and a mullett (star-shape) indicates the third and so on. *In pretence*: to show marriage to an heiress. A smaller shield appears in the centre of a larger one. For example, Fitzherbert, gent. (where the helm faces left and there are no supporters) who married a Bagshaw heiress; *quartering*: to show descent from an heiress. Local examples can be found in Ashford, Baslow and Tissington. During the Tudor period, there was a trend for families to have as many coats of arms as possible on one shield ('quarterings') – one example in Ashbourne has a quartered quarter.

Devices in the design were selected for various reasons, for example, the Cotton family has three hanks of cotton, the Cockayne family opted for a pun and included a cockerel, and the Fitzherbert family of Norbury used a similar design in part (*vairé or and gules* = squirrel pelts sewn together, gold and red) taken from the arms of the Ferrers Earls of Derby, from whom Norbury was held. Coats of arms continue to have an impact today, for example on pub names and signs, large corporations, municipalities and so on.

Becky Sheldon

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John Arnold
AETHELFLAED: THE LADY OF THE MERCIANS
28 April 2023

Preceded by the Local History AGM, John Arnold drew the largest in-person audience since before Covid, with a very full hall in St Mary's. Using versions A-D of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (ASC), various Anglo-Saxon charters and notably the Mercian Register, also known as the *Annals of Aethelflaed*, John explained how Aethelflaed's place in history was undermined by the ASC-A (produced at Winchester), where she is not mentioned until her death.

The daughter of Alfred the Great [of Wessex] and Ealhswith of Mercia, Aethelflaed was born in Wessex c.869/70. Aethelred, as Lord of the Mercians, accepted Alfred's overlordship and married Aethelflaed. Together, they are mostly associated with Gloucester, although John also considers the case of Worcester to warrant further investigation – they certainly ordered, with Alfred's consent, the building of the *burh* (fortified town) of Worcester as a charter of 889/899 seems to suggest. A further charter of 901 suggests the couple gained more power under Alfred's successor and Aethelflaed's brother, Edward. Edward's (possibly illegitimate) son, Aethelstan, was fostered in Mercia (again, John suspects Worcester as a possible location). John speculated whether Alfred's will indicates that he was bequeathing to his female relatives places of personal significance, notably the manors of Wellow (to Aethelflaed), Edington, Wantage and Lambourne.

Many parts of the midlands and north are at this time still subject to Danish/Viking incursions, and it is notable that following their expulsion from Dublin and unsuccessful invasion of Anglesey, they approached Aethelflaed rather than her husband for permission to settle what became The Wirral. She also takes personal responsibility for defending (successfully) Chester from Viking attack, and there founded St Werburgh's, later the Cathedral, as well as building several *burhs* to surround the Vikings on The Wirral. With her brother, King Edward of Wessex, the fight is taken to the Danes, and following the death of Aethelred in 911, Aethelflaed continues to rule herself, hence the title Lady of the Mercians. Edward however takes land from the Mercians (Oxford and London), perhaps to put Aethelflaed in her place. In 913 she takes Tamworth and adopts colonisation by stealth as she encourages her nobility to buy land either side of the Mercia/Wessex border.

The battle in Derby of 917 is well known (often shown in an illustration from 1900, although the said illustration actually depicts Brecon), but it is very contentious and it is not known where the attack/battle took place – was it at the Roman fort, the Norse gates, on the streets? At this time Aethelflaed removed St Alkmund's bones, though it is hard to prove where they went, they were later returned to Derby.

In 918, Aethelflaed gained Leicester, peacefully, established a mint in Chester (though the coins bore her brother's image rather than her own) and received the submission of York, perhaps because Northumbria was concerned about Edward, who has already conquered most of East Anglia. She sent an ambassador to the Scots and there is certainly mention of

Aethelflaed in the Celtic sources, including references to her as Queen of the Mercians – a fact that John sees as more than mere flattery.



*'Go get 'em, boys!'
Queen Aethelflaed
of Mercia liberates
Derby, 917. From a
glass slide.
[Derby Museums
Trust]*

Aethelflaed died at Tamworth in 918 and was briefly succeeded by her daughter Aelfwynn (meaning Elf-friend), making Aethelflaed the only woman in English history to be succeeded by another woman. As with the life of Aethelflaed, there is significant variation in the ASC-A and the Mercian Register about Aelfwynn's fate at the hands of her uncle, Edward, who deposed her. Following a revolt by the Mercians, Edward died in 924 and was succeeded by Aethelstan who notably became King (not Lord) of the Mercians and then King of Wessex.

John concluded by listing Aethelflaed's accomplishments, all of which are all the more impressive as a result of her gender: 1) she ruled in concert with her husband – although it is noted that she was the daughter of Alfred the Great; 2) she ruled for seven years unchallenged following the death of her husband; 3) she was a skilled diplomat; 4) she was an able military leader; 5) a strategic builder; 6) she showed considerable piety as shown through the translation of relics to new sites; 7) dynastic – she was succeeded by her daughter and fostered her nephew and 8) she preserved a sense of Mercian identity. *If there was one person today who could match this, is it Princess Anne?* John asks.

[Becky Sheldon]

The editor writes: There are two notes worth attaching to this report

- 1: there is little doubt that the battle in Derby was fought at a re-fortified Little Chester. When the former Great Northern Railway line embankment was removed in 1968–70, underneath was found, in 1971, a large 'corner extension' to the Roman wall, as Chris Sparey-Green appropriately called it, added to enable defenders to enfilade the walls with various missiles. Yet this structure was not keyed into the Roman wall behind it and, beneath the rubble base, were found crushed sherds of Saxon pottery.¹ Clearly it had been built, not by the Romans but long afterwards by the Danes. Subsequent events

¹ Sparey-Green, C., *Excavations at Little Chester 1971-1972* in DAJ CXXII (2002) 67-68.

go some way to confirm this.² If this hypothesis, supported by Dr. Sparey-Green's excavation report, that the Danes did indeed re-fortify Roman *Derventio*, is correct, then the explanation for the death of Aethelfled's four thegns 'within the gates' is also to hand.³ Dr. Sparey-Green also cites London, Cambridge, Exeter and Cirencester as examples of Danish re-fortification of Roman town walls.⁴

- 2. 'Queen of the Mercians': John was surely correct in referring to Aethelflaed's regal status (and that of her husband). This is increasingly being accepted these days, following N. J. Higham (several instances), and Alex Woolf *From Pictland to Alba 789-1070* (Edinburgh 2007) 132. Furthermore, Coelwulf II of Mercia seems to have preserved his status after his predecessor Burgred was driven out of Mercia by the Vikings in 874, appearing visually with equal status with Alfred on the recently discovered (2015, Watlington) coin issue of 'Two Emperors' type, suggesting that Aethelred and Aethelflaed's status was regal and not directly subordinate to Alfred's.

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**DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S
OPEN AFTERNOON AT STRUTTS
7th January 2023**

The Society's year started with another open afternoon at the Strutt's Centre in Belper. This was again very successful with over fifty people dropping in for some part of the afternoon (including a number of non-members), to browse in the library and listen to a series of short talks.

The Library was open from 12.30 and it was good to see it full of people. Some examples of the papers from the Derby Buildings Record were on display together with a history of this project and an obituary of Barbara Hutton who was the driving force behind it. The newly bound copy of Camden's *Britannia* was out for people to enjoy, as was the lovely Grangerised copy of Stephen Glover's two volumes of his *History and Gazetteer of the County of Derby*. Archaeological reports, both current and from over the years were also on display, which raised interest from many visitors, who were happy to browse the shelves and enjoy the variety of books. People who had not visited the library before were most complimentary about the numbers and range of volumes on the shelves. The attendance at the event was about 50, of whom 15 were non-members, which all helped with the book sales!

The first talk was by Jane Whitaker on 'Getting crabs, throwing stones and other offences: 19th century trespassers in Milford'. This was based on the contents of a notebook, recently donated to Belper Historical Society, which records fines levied by the nightwatchmen employed by the Strutt family to prevent trespassing on their property around Milford. The book records the

² First proposed by Hall in DAJ XCVI (1976) 20-21

³ Re-use of Roman fortifications by Danes at Leicester and Lincoln: *op. cit.* 18.

⁴ Sparey-Green, *op. cit.*, 80-81 & 142-143.

names of the offenders, what they were up to, the amount they were fined and how long it took them to pay up. Misdemeanors included collecting wood, getting sparrows nests, throwing stones, using a temporary bridge and walking a dog. Many of those caught were employees at the Strutt mills and the fines were deducted from their wages.

The second speaker was Andy Austin on 'Hunting Repton's medieval priory mill'. There is documentary evidence for a mill within the precinct of the Augustinian Priory (now Repton School) from Domesday onwards, but no visible trace remains today. The talk described the various antiquarian references and evidence on historical maps, and a recent geophysics survey using resistivity measurements, all very well illustrated with maps, diagrams and aerial photographs. Excavation of the school cricket pitch to learn more is unlikely to be popular, but coring or ground penetrating radar remain a possibility.

After a short break John Titterton FSA spoke with the intriguing title 'Me, Christ's instruments of the passion and pillowed burials'. He started by describing how he first became interested in archaeology as a result of finding floor tiles in a field next to his family home in Whitgreave, in Staffordshire. As a teenager, he took these along to the British Museum to be identified and found out that one was a rare example with a complex image including pincers, three nails, flail, the column where Jesus was whipped entwined with a rope arranged in a figure of eight, a flagon, a cup (holy grail), a cockerel, dice, altar, ladder, another flail and a hammer. The



second part of the talk covered a dig in a churchyard at Purley-on-Thames in Berkshire, which revealed an unusual form of burial dated to the 11/12th centuries – in which stones were laid either side of the skull, giving the appearance that the head was resting on a pillow.

Instruments of the Passion: arms of Pegg of Yeldersley, Melbourne and Beauchief, as displayed on the eponymous almshouses at Ashbourne: Argent a chevron between three pegs sable, where pegs = passion nails. [MC]

The final talk was from Richard Finch on 'Tales of Repton Church spire'. While the Anglo-Saxon crypt of Repton Church is often the focus of attention, the tall spire is a considerable landmark in the Trent Valley. Throughout its history it has been vulnerable to decay and damage by the elements – there are numerous references to lightning strikes, for instance. The slender tip of the spire has had to be taken down and rebuilt several times, most recently in 1899, 1926, 1987, and 2013. On each occasion it was confidently predicted that 'major work on the spire will not be needed for another generation or two'!

It was an excellent afternoon that highlighted the accumulation of knowledge amongst our members. We hope to hold a similar event next year, so please get thinking about the topics that *you* could offer to talk about.

Anne Allcock
Ian Mitchell

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LIBRARY NOTES

Some 36 books and pamphlets have been added to the collection since the last Society newsletter and, as ever, are a mixture of purchased and donated items. They are all on the online catalogue on the website. Here are a few of them.

- *Hardwick Hall: A Great Old castle of Romance*. David Adshead Editor. Yale University Press for the National Trust and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. 380 pp., 2016.
- *Peak District*, Penny Anderson, The New Naturalist Library, 511pp., 2021.
- *Quaternary of the Trent*, David R. Bridgland *et al.* (Eds). Oxbow Publishing 418pp., 2014.
- *The Life and Times of Revd John Reddaway Luxmoore (1829 – 1917), with special reference to his renovation of Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water*. 284pp., 2022
- *The Story of the Early Years of Christ Church, Holloway*. Dennis Brook. The John Smedley Archive Charitable Trust. 84pp., 2017 (as mentioned in the talk on Percy Currey).
- *Erasmus Darwin's Gardens. Medicine, Agriculture and the Sciences in the Eighteenth Century*. Paul A. Elliott, Boydell Press, 347pp., 2021.



Above, left: *After Joseph Wright of Derby:*

Dr. Darwin holding a Pen [Derby Museums] Above, right: *Ashford parish church* [A. Allcock]

We've had donated two 1920s road maps of the Peak District designed as tourist information as well as maps. They make for interesting reading. There will be more details in the next Library Newsletter in July.

The Library benefits from being open on the back of other events which the Society holds at Strutts . These opening times outside the normal opening hours can be used to return and take out books. As always if you know of any books which you think would be appropriate for the collection, do please let us know.

Anne Allcock, Hon. Librarian.

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DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY SUMMER PROGRAMME 2023

Booking arrangements

We are using the Eventbrite online system for booking our summer events.

Booking online will enable you to see immediately if places are available, to add your name to a waiting list for an event that is fully booked, in case there are any cancellations, and if you have to cancel a booking, to obtain a refund directly from Eventbrite. Should there happen to be any unforeseen changes of plan, those who have booked will be notified immediately by e-mail from Eventbrite. Online booking will also help the Section organisers to manage their events efficiently and simplify our method of payment.

If you have not used Eventbrite before, it will automatically set up an account for you the first time you book for an event. If you wish to book more than one place on an event (e.g. two members in a household), you will need to book separately with the individual names (but the email address can be the same). There are limited numbers of places for almost all the summer events, so do make your bookings as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

If an event is not fully booked before it is to take place, it may be opened to non-members, for example by invitation to other special interest groups or to the general public via Eventbrite. There may be an additional cost for tickets for non-members.

- ***Members who do not have internet access***

We appreciate that some members do not have internet access. For these members the contact to arrange bookings is Rosemary Annable by telephone on (01773) 828141 (evenings).

This contact is only for these members' enquiries.

- ***Updates to the programme***

Some details of the programme have not yet been finalised. Please check the website and emails for more information. General queries can be addressed to visits@derbyshireas.org.uk .

Saturday 15th July – Stone House Prebend, Little Chester, Derby

A tour of the house and garden with John D'Arcy (AS)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/631347807287> (morning)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/631374316577> (afternoon)

The Grade II* Stone House Prebend lies in the site of the Roman fort of Derventio. Henry I gave the Manor of Little Chester to the Dean of Lincoln who built seven Prebendal farmhouses to support the College of priests in Derby; this was the Sub-dean's Prebend. In 1554 it was sold

to the Borough of Derby by Queen Mary Tudor and leased out as a farm. Now the only remaining Prebend, it was rebuilt as a half-timbered thatched house in the late 16th century though the chimneys are probably older. The timbering was replaced piecemeal by bricks and the roof is now tiled. After the farm fields were gradually built over, it was used as a lodging by Derby School, then rented out to small businesses. It was sold by tender in 1977 after a fire had destroyed the staircase. There will be two tours at 10.30am and at 2.00pm. The tour will take 2 hours and includes stairs within the house. Meet outside the Chester Green Community Centre, Old Chester Rd, City Rd, Darley Abbey, Derby DE1 3RR. Parking is available at Old Chester Road Car Park opposite the Chester Green Community Centre. There are toilets available nearby. *The tour will take 2 hours and includes stairs within the house. Please do not park at Stone House Prebend or in its driveway. 20 places available in each group – no charge.*

Tuesday 18th July – Donington le Heath Manor House, Coalville (LHS)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/631657232787>

A private guided tour of the 1620 house and the 17th century style gardens. Terrain mostly flat with a few steps and stairs in the house. Café open for afternoon tea and cake. Meet at 12.30pm in the car park, LE67 2FW. *Pay at the venue - £9.50p adult. £8.50p concessions. Numbers limited to 30.*

Sunday 23rd July – Dove Valley cultural heritage walk (ARG)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/632199665217>

A walk is planned initially to explore on foot part of the Dove Valley, with the opportunity to follow up with desk based research at a later base, led by Mark Knight RRRV Cultural Heritage Officer. The walk will take in Marston on Dove and Hatton. *A relatively easy walk; the meeting time and place to follow. Numbers limited to 25 – no charge.*

Sunday 30th July – Bradford and Saltaire, Yorkshire, coach trip (IAS)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/631695737957>

The traditional IA Section day out by coach is back! Our destination this year is West Yorkshire with a first stop at Bradford Industrial Museum in a former textile mill which has permanent displays of textile machinery, steam power, engineering, printing machinery and motor vehicles. There are also examples of mill manager's and workers' housing. In the afternoon we will visit the World Heritage Site village of Saltaire and the Bingley five-rise locks on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Pickup from Derby bus station at 8.30am and return by 6.00pm. *30 places available - £25 payable in advance.*

Saturday 12th August – A tour of Barrow upon Trent and St Wilfrid's Church (AS)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/634789591757>

Following the recent talk to the Society by the friends of St Wilfrid's, this tour includes both the village of Barrow upon Trent and the church. The tour will last about 2 hours, is on flat ground and concludes with refreshments at St Wilfrid's. Meet at 10.30am at the Village Hall Car Park, Twyford Road, Barrow upon Trent, DE73 7HA. *For those who may wish to stay in the area and have lunch afterwards the village pub, The Brookfield, and the nearby Swarkestone Garden Centre both serve meals. Numbers are limited to 20 – cost is £10 payable in advance (includes refreshments at St Wilfred's).*

Tuesday 29 August *Taking a walk through Repton's past lives* (ARG)

St Wystan's Church, 7 Willington Rd, Repton, Derby DE65 6FH

The visit will begin at 6.30pm at the church and will include a guided talk on the history of Repton from Neolithic times, led by Chris Austin of the Repton Local History Group with a comprehensive talk on the archaeology by Chris Wardle. Meet at the Lynch Gate if fine, otherwise in the church. Booking is by donation to be shared between the church and the Friends of the church. 30 places available. Limited parking is available outside the church, with one space for disabled parking.

Thursday 7th September – *A dig around the Magic Attic* (ARG)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/632008042067>

A visit to the South Derbyshire local history archive in Swadlincote with an extensive collection of newspapers, photographs, maps and artefacts. 7.00pm at Sharpe's Heritage Centre, West Street, Swadlincote DE11 9DG, plenty of free parking. *Numbers limited to 24 – no charge but donations welcome on the day.*

Friday 8th September – *Moseley Old Hall, Staffs*, coach trip (LHS) [https://www](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/632009767227)

[.eventbrite.co.uk/e/632009767227](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/632009767227)

The Hall is an Elizabethan farmhouse near Wolverhampton with many secrets including the priest hole and the chapel attic which tells the story of King Charles II's escape (right, before 'restoration' in 1870). There is also a knot garden, heritage orchard, tree hide, bookshop and tea room. This is a National Trust property. Pickup from Derby bus station at 10.00am. *Please note the top floors of the house and the tea room are accessed only by stairs. 49 places available - £15 payable in advance for the coach, £10 admission pay on the day (NT members free).*



Saturday 16th September – *Peak District Mining Museum* (IAS)

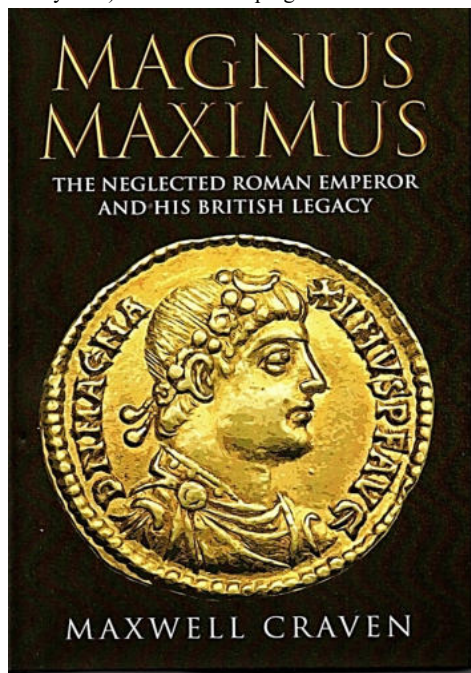
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/632011893587>

The museum is operated by the Peak District Mines Historical Society and houses thousands of items, relics of the lost lead industry, which are explained and interpreted in an imaginative and thought-provoking exhibition. It has been housed in the former Grand Pavilion at Matlock Bath for many years, but plans are now afoot to move to a new purpose designed building at the National Stone Centre near Wirksworth. This 3 hour visit will be a chance to see the museum as it is today and hear about the exciting plans for the future, as well as a tour into Temple mine in the hillside across the road. Meet 10.00am at the museum on South Parade, Matlock Bath DE4 3NR. *The (optional) mine tour involves low ceilings, uneven floors and can be wet, muddy and slippery underfoot. Hard-hats are provided and sensible footwear is recommended. 30 places available - £12.00 pay in advance.*

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

Magnus Maximus A Neglected Roman Emperor and his British Legacy [sic] was published in hardback by Amberley Publishing, Stroud on 15th March this year and its author was the subject of an essentially light-hearted but well-informed hour-long *History Hack* podcast in February: <https://podfollow.com/history-hack/episode/7ce09440f82bed688de17be1a3f4a958ab1dae88/view>

The book's 352 pages include 50 illustrations; the list price is £25 (probably cheaper on the 'net). **Warning:** including this second-hand review of a book (with hardly a mention of Derbyshire) is a shameless plug!



Magnus Maximus is an attempt by a life-long non-academic Romanist – most recently author of *The Complete Imperial Families of Ancient Rome* (Fonthill, 2020) – to explain why, of all Roman Emperors under whose hegemony Britain lay, Magnus Maximus – as *Maxim Wletic* – should have been best remembered, as in the pedigrees and legends of the British and those of their inheritors the Welsh and north British.

Part I of the work examines the likely kinship of Magnus Maximus to Theodosius I and it is suggested that Maximus was appointed to Britain as *comes rei militaris* with wide powers immediately after Theodosius' post-Adrianople *coup*. P. J. Casey's re-examination and re-calibration of the *Chronicle of 452* is rather daringly accepted, too, suggesting that Maximus'

acclamation came in 380/381, with a first probable *largitio* coin issue from the London mint.

It is suggested that Maximus' crossing to the continent in 383 and his deposition of Valentinian II in 387 were elements of a well worked out scheme between Maximus and Theodosius I to eliminate the dynasty of Valentinian I without incurring obloquy, and establish their own. This was, however, compromised from Maximus's point of view, by the murder of Gratian which, it is suggested, was never intended, and the infatuation of Theodosius with Aelia Galla, which was engineered by Empress Justina and as a result of which Theodosius was blackmailed into moving against Maximus. The *damnatio memoriae* and vilification of Maximus subsequent to his fall was sufficiently Putinesque to leave his reputation permanently scarred.

Craven argues that Maximus was a major player in the mediatisation of the North African princes following the usurpation of Firmus and that this, and its success – vouchsafed for by

St. Jerome – encouraged Maximus to do something very similar with the insular rulers of the British frontier regions, putting them in charge of frontier defence and giving them considerable autonomy, thus freeing up permanent troops to bolster Maximus' *comitatus*, and that these British-ruled entities gradually mutated into post-Roman polities, later bards and poets grafting Maximus on to their later accounts of their various ruling groups as founding father. It is also suggested that, when ruling Britain, Maximus also made close contacts with Irish rulers, recruiting three regiments of Attacotti as regular Roman units and encouraged the Deisi to settle in underpopulated SW Wales to rule Demetia as a client state.

The second part of the work is where the author's sources are almost all either questionable or unreliable and he sets them out and assesses them, proceeding thence with admirable caution. Where the author really enters shark-infested waters is when he argues for much increased continuity in lowland Britain over the century following the breakdown of imperial rule in 409 and he attempts to describe developments there and in the native polities, allegedly of Maximus' foundation, in the various parts of Britain (and in Brittany) to explain Maximus' popularity amongst the British of the periphery. He also emphasises continuing and under-rated links between Britain and Gaul in the fifth century.

He also suggests that there was a wide-ranging 4th/5th century kinship grouping centered on Ambrosius, Ambrosius Aurelianus, Aurelius Caninus and Paul Aurelian, which may have had close connections with the alleged kin of Vortigern/Vitalinus and that both were possibly families of former senior Roman officials in origin with large estates in Britain, well placed to take control after 409. Interestingly (and topically), he also suggests that the so-called Saxon Revolt of c. 442 was caused by a recorded climate anomaly which made the payment of *annona* to treaty-settled Germanic mercenaries by the British authorities difficult or impossible to maintain, resulting in a rebellion which ran out of control.

Finally, he argues that the emergence of the Heptarchy in lowland England was a development of the earlier settlement by British authorities of various incoming groups by treaty (as in Europe) and that these later kingdoms often seem to have roots in various geographically related *civitates* and indeed, had possible British origins, but that this process, in the formerly Latin speaking lowlands ultimately erased much of the formal record of these early events, so that the leading lights of early post-Roman Britain, like the Ambrosii, left no genealogical memory to be absorbed into British insular tradition. In all, it is readable, boldly argued, well researched, with the more problematic sources deployed with all due caution.

DS

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The Hinterland of Hadrian's Wall and Derbyshire by Lindsay Allason-Jones was recently published by Oxford University Press and the steepish price of £105.

This is the last of the eleven fascicules produced under the auspices of the British Academy's *Corpus Signorum Imperii Romanum*, the aim of which (initiated almost 50 years ago) is to catalogue all the sculpture of Roman Britain with the aim of being set alongside *Roman Inscriptions of Britain* (RIB) and the more recent *Roman Mosaics of Britain*. This particular volume is one of the largest and covers a vast area, abundant with some of the least known Roman sculpture, including the Senhouse collection at Maryport.

Some of this sculpture is well out of public view, too, being in churches, church porches and on private property as well as in several museums, not all of them well known. Nearly all the monuments are of sandstone of various kinds, and many are from the sides of altars.

Derbyshire, in contrast is not that rich in such carvings compared to some of the wall's hinterlands, but such images as Derby Museums' jaunty little Mercury, found at Little Chester in 1973 dutifully appear.

The bibliography and history of many of the entries add much even to well-known examples, some of which (bearing inscriptions) also appear in RIB. Mind you, the artistic merit of much of the sculpture of the so-called military zone is hardly a patch on

THE HINTERLAND OF HADRIAN'S WALL AND DERBYSHIRE



LINDSAY ALLASON-JONES



specimens covered in some of the previous fascicules, but that is to be expected, and the thoroughness here is notable as are some of the entertaining stories that emerge from the background research, making dipping into this stout volume well worthwhile – if you can afford it, that is!

CC

Gritstone aedicule carved in bas relief with a naked Mercury, complete with horns and staff, probably from a small shrine, and discovered at Little Chester (Derventio) in the 1960s and now displayed in Derby Museum's Archaeology Gallery.

[the Late Roy Hughes]

DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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STOP PRESS

18th July: there is another talk with an Anchor Church connection on in St Wystan's Church Repton at 19.30hrs (admission £3 at the door).. It has been organised by Repton Village History Group. DAS members very welcome.

Gravel extraction adjacent to Anchor Church has revealed a line of posts leading from a bronze age barrow to the Anchor Church bluff together with Mesolithic and later finds. The dendrochronology and 14th century dating of the finds from the Tarmac gravel extraction site adjacent to Anchor Chapel have been completed and Carina Somerfield-Hill and Kristina Krawiec of York Archaeology Trust are coming to St Wystan's Church in Repton on 18th July for 19.30 to explain the results of their work..

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Above: *George Heriot (1759-1839), Cromford, Scarthin Nick; watercolour, dated 29th September 1819*
[Abbott & Holder Ltd.]

Below: *John Holland of Ford (1734-1807), Two of the three atmospheric engines at the Yatestoop mine, c. 1775.*
[Mellors & Kirk]

