



**DERBYSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER**

**Issue 79**

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# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2014 - 2015

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# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 79

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## The Cover Story

During a recent trip to New Zealand it was something of a surprise to find ourselves driving down a Hoon Hay Road in a large suburb of the same name in Christchurch. As this is one of the more obscure places in Derbyshire, a dot on the map in the parish of Marston on Dove my interest was diverted from the scenery.

It turns out that a Captain Wickham Talbot Harvey who had been brought up at Hoon Hay Farm arrived in Lyttleton Harbour with his new wife Georgina on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1852<sup>1</sup>. As such they were amongst the earliest settlers to a new colony set up under the auspices of the Church of England. A mountain separates the port from Christchurch and their initiation into their new life was the climb up and over a long and breath taking (in all senses) track known as the Bridle Path! Undoubtedly Captain Harvey was well heeled as he had enough money to purchase 50 acres of land that he named Hoon Hay at (£3 an acre). This gave him the status of colonist as opposed to the lowlier immigrant<sup>2</sup>.

A website ([www.peelingbackhistory.co.nz](http://www.peelingbackhistory.co.nz)) provides the following:

“The 50 acres that Captain Harvey took up on the Port Hills in 1852 was considered one of Christchurch’s most beautiful spots. Heavy lush woodlands swept up the nearby valley and like most men of the new settlement, the Captain looked over his new source of timber with dollar signs in his eyes. Over the next 4 years, the Captain milled some of the timber from his land and I’m sure enjoyed being referred to as the ‘Gentleman of Hoon Hay Bush’. During this time, he also dabbled in sheep farming, taking up 1000 acres in Halswell and managed to wage war against huge land owner and neighbour William Guise Brittan concerning rent payments and stray sheep.

It was all over for the Captain when his house was destroyed by fire in 1856. He sold up completely and took his life and family back to England for good.”

Of his early life nothing has so far been found but he ended up as the Governor of Parkhurst Prison and died there in 1889<sup>3</sup>.

References:

1. Ancestry.com
2. [www.firstfourships.co.nz](http://www.firstfourships.co.nz)
3. Ryde Social Heritage Group – on line

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## PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S NOTES

An excellent time was had by all on the Cumbria visit.

The Winter programme is maintaining its usual excellent talks and the opening lecture on 26 September - 'TV Archaeology - a view from the inside' by Julian Richards was very interesting and in spite of the rumblings and vibrations of the Student Union disco in the background, I think everybody enjoyed his talk. The Alwyn Davies Memorial lecture on 'Sir John Gardiner Wilkinson: Early Archaeology and Orientalism in 19th-century Egypt' by Dr Ian Shaw, had to be put off until January 23<sup>rd</sup> as Dr Shaw got his permission to visit his Egyptian site somewhat late and was there when he should have been here! However, please note the new date of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015.

The Christmas social at St Paul's Parish Church centre, off City Road, Chester Green was well attended and usual goodies to be tasted and drunk accompanied by social discourse.

Society New Year lecture on January 9<sup>th</sup> is 'Leek, Queen of the Moorlands' by Danny Wells, although it may be well over the horizon by the time this Newsletter comes out. And March 6<sup>th</sup> is a talk on 'Aethelfrith and the Battle of Chester AD616: a battlefield and war-grave discovered' by Dr David Mason, who gave us a wonderful



*Leek: Queen of the Moorlands*

lecture on 'New Evidence for Roman County Durham' in 2013.

The Society AGM date is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015, at St Mary's Parish Centre as usual. 7.30pm.

### Winter Programme 2015 - 16

Two dates booked already for this - 9 October by the Architectural Section and 30 October for the DAS - WEA lecture on 'Roman Sculpture in Derbyshire' by Lindsay Allason-Jones. *Malise McGuire*

### Society Visit to the Cotswolds 23 - 27 July 2015

Please note the new dates as we were not able to book the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester for the usual weekend dates.

This year we shall be visiting places in the Cotswolds. Forty places have been reserved at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester for four nights: 23 - 27 July 2015. The rooms are single en-suite. See [www.rau.ac.uk](http://www.rau.ac.uk) for more information.

We have booked a Skills coach which will depart from Derby and the cost of this is included in the price. We hope to make the usual interesting stops en route. David Carder will again be our Tour Guide and we will use local guides for some site visits. The itinerary will include visits to Chavenage House (a setting for the recently filmed Wolf Hall), Chedworth Roman Villa and Berkeley Castle with time to explore Bath, Bradford-on-Avon and Gloucester.

We estimate a cost of no more than £390.

The exact cost will be known in May 2015. This will include accommodation - bed,

breakfast and evening meals - for four nights and the cost of the coach for five days. It will also include all entrance fees except for English Heritage and National Trust sites so please bring your EH and NT cards if you have them.

In order to book a place, an initial deposit of £50.00 (non returnable) is required. Places will be allocated in order of booking. We would advise that applications be made as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We would strongly recommend that you to take out personal Travel and Cancellation Insurance.

To book please send a cheque for £50 per person, payable to Derbyshire Archaeological Society and with the words '**DAS COTSWOLDS VISIT**' on the back. Send to:

Mr. Geoffrey Marler  
10 Auckland Close  
Mickleover  
Derby DE3 9LH

A stamped addressed envelope or an email address should be included to receive confirmation of your booking and receipt of your booking fee.

Any queries please contact Geoff on 01332 515659 (please leave your details on voicemail if busy)

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### LIBRARY NOTES

It has been a difficult few months at the Library. Derby City Council have been having some electrical work done in the Wardwick building and our Library team have been refused entry to the basement at some times. However we have been able to build a new bookstack out of the uprights and shelving that once housed the books in the Bridge Chapel many years ago. It has been washed down and polished, looks very smart, and is

now ready to go. Finding a suitable place to stand it is our first job in 2015.

As always we thank our reviewers, who pass the books on to the library, and whose reviews appear in the Newsletter and this time include four Through Time picture books. Although published in 2013 there was also Trevor Brighton's life of the eccentric eighteenth century cleric Thomas Smith and Howard Sprenger's Rails to Ashbourne. Similarly we have accessed the third volume of the VCH, Bolsover and around, from Philip Riden and Dudley Fowkes.

Col. Wooddisse who, of course, hales from a distinguished and influential Derbyshire family, 'retired' some 20 years ago, after a long Army career, to Cumbria to act as a volunteer House Guide at Dalemain near Ullswater. He has also been writing for the Metterdale Historical Society and on his second retirement has sent us three compilation booklets of these articles on the House, the Howards and of his Military Recollections. We are pleased to have these and welcome any publications that records members research.

There remains some problems at the Central Library so it is best, if members wish to borrow books, first to contact Joan D'Arcy, Mike Butler or myself by e-mail, 'phone or post with their request. *Ray Margoram*

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### THE SOCIETY ANNUAL VISIT CARLISLE 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> JULY 2014

On yet another warm sunny morning we set off from Full Street at 9.30 am. We arrived at our first stop – Leighton Hall - at lunchtime and were met by the owner Mrs Reynolds and before being taken round the house were free to explore the lovely garden and tea room. We also met up with Mike McGuire. The house has had many owners

and alterations. Among the owners are the Gillow family, of furniture fame, and there are pieces of Gillow furniture still in the house.



*Whats under the table ?*

The photo above shows the group inspecting the legs of the dining room table! The house has a Georgian core and there were alterations in the 1820s when the neo gothic exterior was added. It is still a very much lived in home.

We arrived at the university campus on Fusehill Road and after dinner, we had lectures given by Mike McGuire. The building which housed the restaurant was originally the workhouse and later became a hospital and is now part of the university.

On Friday it was straight into Carlisle. As it was graduation week the cathedral was in use for ceremonies. So we could not go in but David took us round the precinct, showing us the Fraternity with a fine vaulted undercroft, which dates to 1300 and the Deanery and Prior's Tower, which has a defensive pele tower with oriel windows on the north and south sides. This dates from 1490 – 1520. We saw part of the original town wall and although now blocked up, the position of the postern gate.

The Tullie House Museum originally was the house of Thomas Tullie, Dean of Carlisle.

Built about 1689 it had various owners, but in 1890 it was rather dilapidated and demolition was imminent. It was saved by a local architect, money raised for restoration and was then given to the council and was opened as a museum in 1893. It houses Roman displays, stories of the border conflicts and artists, including the pre-raphaelites.

Carlisle Castle occupies a triangular site. The first castle was built around 1092 but a stone keep was begun around 1122 and Norman architecture is still visible; there are splayed windows on the ground floor. In 1136 the castle came into the hands of David 1 of Scotland and he died there in 1153. In 1157 it returned to England under Henry

In the afternoon we went to Vindolanda and were given a guided tour by Mike McGuire and Justin Blake, Deputy Director of Excavations. Mike gave a detailed account of particular areas and showed the foundations of possibly an early Christian church. Justin Blake talked to us about an area under excavation. It was really interesting to hear about an actual 'in progress' excavation instead of the finished product that visitors will see in years to come. (Justin has since had a career change.)

Saturday saw us heading for the west coast. First to Maryport to see the Roman Fort of



*Vindolanda*

Alauna. There is a museum housed in what used to be a Naval Reserve Training Battery. This has one of the most important collections of Roman altar stones in the country and very interesting it was. Excavations outside the fort remain inconclusive. The possibility of a temple has been put forward.

We moved on to Whitehaven which in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was a prosperous port – the sixth largest in England in 1781. The extensive harbour has 9 very long wharves, the earliest being built in 1634 and extended in 1665 and 1681, used for coal shipments. Exports included iron and salt and imports included tobacco, rum, grain, sugar and timber. Other industries included the mining of haematite, ship building and more recently the manufacture of detergent. It was not difficult to imagine the ‘busyness’ around the harbour area and it was sad to see a town that now looks rather ‘tired’.

The afternoon saw visits to St Bees, Mayburgh Henge and Brougham Castle. St Bees was originally a Benedictine priory but only the Norman church remains. There are inscribed grave slabs from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. A decorated lintel showing a dragon and a knight with a sword, over a gateway west of the church dates to the 12<sup>th</sup> century – It was originally in the south aisle wall of the church.

During excavations outside the church of St Bees in 1981, a well preserved body was found wrapped in linen/resin. It is thought that the person might be Anthony De Lucy – a 14<sup>th</sup> century knight. It is hoped that DNA testing might confirm this. Mayburgh Henge was seen by just a few intrepid people who ventured out of the bus – weather-wise it had not been a good day – very wet in fact! However, the henge is very large and impressive – 325 feet in diameter.

At Brougham Castle we were met DAS life member, Colonel J R Wooddisse. Michael Butler was given 3 booklets written by

Colonel Wooddisse; one about his life in Malaya and another on the History of Dalemain House which is south of Penrith; Colonel Wooddisse has been a steward there following his retirement to the Lake District. The booklets are now in the DAS library.

The castle was built in 1268 by Robert de Vieuxpoint to defend his lands against the border tribes. It passed in marriage to the Clifford family. It was taken by the Scots in the 1380s. Neglected from the 1600s, in the 1700s, it became a roofless ruin and in 1928 came into the guardianship of the Office of Works. Today it is a magnificent ruin. The 13<sup>th</sup> century keep remains intact with gatehouses dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. We were given a free evening after dinner and some of us sampled the delights of Carlisle’s pub culture!

Sunday - Our first stop was at Burgh by Sands to see the fortified church of St Michael. Edward I lay in state here after his death in 1307 on Burgh Marsh. The church lies within a roman fort which is now barely discernible on the ground. The fortified west tower from 1360s has very thick walls with arrow slits and a gun loop. The original Iron Gate – yett – is complete with drawbar slot and bolt. Close by the church is a clay ‘dabbins’ cottage. They are recognisable by their ‘wobbly’ walls and stone plinth. These houses are distinctive in the Solway Plain where there is little stone and wood; they have a cruck frame.

The next port of call was Gretna WW1 Munitions Factory . This was built in order to maintain a supply of artillery shells to the front line. The factory stretched for 9 miles with its own railway system, power station, telephone exchange and water supply. The townships of Gretna and Eastrigg were built to house the working population. 16,000 people were employed at its height in 1917, twice as many women as men.



*The Ruthwell Cross in St Cuthbert's Church*

The Ruthwell Cross is housed in St Cuthbert's parish church in Dumfriesshire. There was an extra treat for us here as there was a rehearsal for a concert. So we were accompanied by renaissance music from The Galloway Consort. The 8<sup>th</sup> century cross is 18 feet high. It has had a chequered history. In 1644 it was pulled down and smashed. The bits were used as seating in the church until 1771! The pieces were reassembled and it stood in the manse garden and had new 'arms' added in 1823 carved with masonic symbols. The shaft is carved with scenes from the gospels with a Latin inscription. There is also a runic inscription around the border possibly added in the 10<sup>th</sup> century which has been identified as being from the Dream of the Rood an early English poem about the crucifixion.

The building of Caerlaverock Castle began during the late 13<sup>th</sup> century - it has a unique triangular ground plan, set in a deep wide moat, with an outer rampart and a further dry moat, and then more ramparts. It has seen many changes notably in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when more accommodation was added internally on the east side. This has ornate renaissance carving on the outside and inside the rooms have magnificent fireplaces and decoration.

The Cistercian Sweetheart Abbey was founded by Lady Devorgilla in 1273. The

church remains largely intact but sadly the rest of the abbey has completely gone. Down the road we visited New Abbey Corn Mill. There was possibly a mill on this site in the 13<sup>th</sup> century serving the abbey. It is known locally as Monk's Mill. The present building dates from the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century. We were able to see the mill in action. The mill is driven by an overshot wheel, but turns clockwise which is unusual. The millpond dam and lade sluices are all original.

After dinner was the traditional social evening with quiz!

On Monday morning we were able to visit Carlisle cathedral. Norman stonework is still visible in the crossing and chancel. There is some fine carved stonework and woodwork, including the Brougham Triptych which originated in Antwerp and was probably made in the early 1500 There are also some fine early paintings. The backs of the choir stalls are painted with scenes from the lives of St Anthony and St Cuthbert on the north side and St Augustine on the south side. There is also a runic inscription in the south transept from the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

After leaving Carlisle we headed for home but stopped on the way at Astley Hall near Chorley. Started in 1576, timber framing can still be seen. It was the home of the Charnock family of Chorley. One family member was executed because of his part in the Babington Plot of 1586. Inside original features include the kitchen fireplace and moulded beans in the north, west and south ranges. There are outstanding moulded plaster decorations from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century in the hall and drawing room, probably Flemish or French.

Tired but happy we arrived home at 6 pm. Thank you to all members of the sub committee, Mike Butler, Joan D'arcy, Jane Higginbottom, Geoff Marler, Malise and



Mike McGuire, and David Carder for another very successful and enjoyable weekend.  
*Jenny Butler*

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

### Visit to Sherwood Forest and King John's Palace, Clipstone. 30th August 2014.

On a lovely warm summer day, 34 of us met Andy Gaunt at the visitor centre, to guide us on a short tour of a section of Sherwood Forest.

Andy began by showing us a map of the Forest, and went on to explain, Sherwood Forest was once one of the largest of about 90 Royal Forests, which during the 13th Century covered an area encompassing a third of England. In medieval times Sherwood Forest consisted not only of woodland, but also areas of sandy heath, wood pasture and settlements. The term 'Forest', was an area where the Kings Forest Law held sway, where hunting was illegal except for the King.

The geology of the area consists of Mercian sandstone on clay, the water takes the minerals out of the soil, which creates the perfect conditions for growing timber, one section in particular has also been established as an area called Birklands woodland, which is part of the Thoresby Estate. This was known as Thynghowe in 1334 and 1609, an important Danelaw meeting place, used by local people to congregate and resolve disputes and settle issues. The Scandanavians, introduced long horned cattle in to the forest, it was also perfect conditions for breeding Red Deer. To support the deer population, the males were hunted in the summer and females in the winter.



*The Major Oak*

We were introduced to The Major Oak, which stands at over 800 years old and weighs approximately 23 tonnes supporting a variety of animal life, legend has it known as Robin Hood's hiding place. Henry's Oak, named after King Henry V111 who built the Royal Navy, complete with 'portholes', where branches once stood, and a collection of Birch trees known as the nine ladies, the resin of this tree used for centuries as a glue, in the manufacture of wine, it has antiseptic qualities and is waterproof. We were also told that the Forest contained over 200 species of spiders.

We returned to the visitor Centre, where we were told beneath the centre remains C.20 military remnants of railway track, where nearby, tanks had been hidden in the trees, and a munitions store left over from the bombing run over Sheffield during WW11, this is all to be cleared to create a new nature reserve. After lunch we made our way through Edwinstowe past the C.12 Church of St. Mary, reputed to be the church that held the marriage of Robin Hood and Maid Marion and on to Kings Clipstone, where we met up with Shaun who gave us an introduction to King John's Palace.

We were shown the remains of the Royal retreat known to have been frequented by 8 Kings during the Medieval period. Written evidence has been found of Parliament being held here by King John and Edward



*Excavation at King's Clipstone*

1st. A Royal residence before 1164, Rebuilt in stone during C. 12 when it became a principle hunting lodge in Sherwood Forest. The site was first re-discovered by Philip Rahtz in 1956, excavations revealed the outline of a late C.13 building, surrounded by a ditch and palisade, with a possible associated fishpond. The site had been disturbed by ploughing and stone robbing.

Excavations by Time Team in 2011 found probable chapel foundations.

Andy took over to describe his idea of the view from the castle, set atop a SE facing slope, in front a beautiful landscape, including a deer park and a lake stocked with fish and lobster pots. A C.14 Manor rabbit Garth, a medieval formal garden with covered corridors to shade ladies from the sun.

He reminded us of the Ecclesiastic link between the Palace and Edwinstowe Church, an Iron Cross in the village dated 1913 commemorates the location where King John and descendants pledged to maintain the Chapel.

David Budge then took us over to the excavations in progress and the finds on display including, Pottery ranging from 12th-16th century, a quantity of drinking vessels, an animal head shaped stone carving and a silver Edwardian coin dated 1299-1300. An enjoyable and remarkable visit.

*Janette Johnson*

## Lincoln

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August was a bright and breezy day for the visit to the city of Lincoln.

The coach dropped most of the members near the river Witham and they made their way to meet with Erik Grigg, the Collection Museum access officer, in Saltergate. He opened an unassuming door in the side of the Royal Bank of Scotland building and the group descended fifteen feet down steps to see an old Roman limestone wall which was part of the southern wall of the old city. Erik led a very lively discussion on the findings and answered the many questions fired at him. The excavations date from the 1970s when redevelopment of the site took place. Archaeologists had expected to find the Roman wall with the medieval wall on top but the surprising remains of an otherwise unknown gateway, the Posterngate, were revealed. The wall was built around AD200 when the original city was extended from the top of the hill down to the river. Around AD350 the wall was widened and a pedestrian gateway, about six feet wide, was inserted into the wall probably to allow access to the busy waterfront. The river Witham and the Brayford Pool were much larger than they are today and would have come almost up to the southern walls. It would have been possible for boats to moor alongside the walls to deposit and collect goods. A concrete shell was built over the whole site to protect it for the future. To aid preservation the site is only opened four or five times a year to the public so we were lucky to get a private tour. Visitors can see preserved sections of the Roman walls, the remains of a turret, the gateway itself and the original flagstone floor which still bears the scars of use together with various finds, displays, models and information boards - a glimpse into Roman life.

After this visit, members visited various places including the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral. The first cathedral was built in 1092 but was badly damaged by fire in 1141. It then became the victim of an earthquake in 1185 which caused severe structural damage. Work began in 1192 rebuilding the cathedral in the Gothic style. Also visited were the ruins of the medieval Bishop's Palace, the new (2005) award winning Collection archaeology museum, the Usher Art Gallery and the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. Unfortunately, not all of Lincoln Castle was available for viewing due to the on-going restoration work getting it ready to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta. An underground vault is being constructed in which to display the copy of Magna Carta and the Charter of the Forest, the only place where they can be seen together. The Cathedral Close is spacious and has a wide range of attractive residential and commercial buildings which are mainly of Grade 1, 2 or 2\* significance. The age of properties vary, some dating back to medieval times.

The steep streets up to the castle and cathedral were a challenge to some of the members but it was a very picturesque trek with great views and interesting buildings and shops including the famous Pie Shop and the Jews House surviving from the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century and believed to be one of the earliest extant houses in England. The building is said to have been in continuous occupation and part is now a restaurant.

At the top of the hill, in Castle Square, there was a busy, colourful 'Farmers' Market' in full swing making quite a 'Merry England' scene in front of the castle entrance. All in all there was plenty to do and see in Lincoln.

*Anne Heywood*

## Visit to Codnor Castle: 20 September.

On a bright Saturday afternoon the Group visited Codnor Castle. Almost 40 members assembled in Codnor Market Place where we were met by one of our guides for the day. The walk to the Castle site was a pleasant country track, the latter part of which is steeply uphill. It took the young and fit no more than 15 minutes but for some of us it was a good half hour before we gained our objective, the Castle and Castle farm, where we were greeted with refreshing cups of tea and a feast of sandwiches and cake. The uphill struggle was well worth the effort!

Our hosts were the Codnor Castle Heritage Trust, a group of volunteers dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the standing remains. These are more considerable than at first appears. It is believed that the castle was built by Henry de Grey, a knight favoured by King John, and remained in this family until 1496 when another Henry willed it to his nephew John Zouche. By the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Zouches were bankrupt and the castle abandoned. We were divided into two parties and guided around the site which encompasses two areas or courts, our two knowledgeable guides Rokia Brown and Martyn Taylor-Cockayne expertly brought the castle alive. The north, or upper, court contains the remains of the oldest part of



the castle, two sides of a Great Hall, standing in places to an impressive height of nine metres, and substantial remains of a curtain wall. Situated on high ground above the Erewash valley, it would have been dominant in the landscape when first built in the early 13th century. This court was once encircled by a wide moat, later filled in after it was abandoned. The Hall shows much evidence of architectural modifications over time. Built into the curtain wall are two striking square projecting towers, once containing latrines with chutes which empties into the moat.

The lower, or south court, is a later extension and its castellated buildings are not all they seem. A great gatehouse, controlling the entrance into the inner court, is now thought to be an early 16th century garden 'folly'. This court is now the garden of Castle Farm, a building of uncertain date but with a possible 17th century core. The Neile family purchased the Codnor estate in 1634 and may have built the farm house while at the same time using the castle as a source of building stone for other enterprises. By the 19th century it had been substantially robbed out and was in a state of decay. Yet a surprising amount remains standing and deserves conservation. We discussed this, and Time Team's visit in 2007 when a gold noble from the time of Henry V was found, while consuming even more sandwiches and cake. Truly a memorable visit.



*Codnor Castle*

If you are interested to learn more, or to become a member of the Trust, there is a website: [www.codnorcastle.co.uk](http://www.codnorcastle.co.uk). There is also a Guide book, published by the CCHT in 2013.

*Joan D'Arty*

## ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

### St. John's and St. Anne's Church



On the warm evening of July 2, 22 members gathered outside St. John's church in the West End of Derby to look at the buildings in the locality. A major scheme in the 1960s had swept away the rows of Victorian terraces and replaced them with blocks of flats with wide boulevards between. St. John the Evangelist's church was built in 1828 under an Act of Parliament to serve the needs of the inhabitants of these lost terraces, the Parish being formed from part of St. Werburgh's. It was designed in Gothic Revivalist style by Francis Goodwin and built in grey stone on a garden plot beside the Markeaton Brook. It has a spacious nave with side aisles separated off by elegant cast iron columns (made by Weatherhead & Glover, Duke St.) which also support side galleries. The cast iron window frames were refurbished in 2003 and a modern feature is a side chapel, separately heated for small congregations.

We were fortunate that Alison Haslam, our guide on this occasion, had managed to obtain permission for us to visit St. John's Terrace. This is a late 18th century group of houses in a very attractive setting close to the Markeaton Brook. The private road is parallel to the brook, with small gardens between it and the stream. A separate detached house sits at the end of the terrace in a large open plan garden.

A visit to the last remaining building of the Augustinian Nunnery of St. Mary de Pratis had also been arranged. The Nunnery was an offshoot of Darley Abbey, being founded in the mid -12th century. In the 16th century its income was only £18; it was dissolved in 1536. The remaining building had been restored by Derby University in 1995 and 2007 and now used by them as offices. It shows much timbering inside, though the outside walls are rendered apart from the brick road elevation. Many of the windows are stone mullioned, though nearly all are modern replacements. Two of the ground floor beams show stopped mouldings while most ceilings have exposed joists. Upstairs, gaps in the ceilings enable the roof structure to be seen. Much of the exposed brickwork is built of thin (4.5 cm thick) bricks. More details are recorded in the Derbyshire Buildings Record No. 68; a 16th century date is suggested with later alterations.

Finally, we went to St. Anne's Church, which was originally a Chapel of Ease of St. Alkmund's, the parish being carved out of this and St. John's. It is recorded that 5000 persons attended in one year. This church is a large brick structure with a slate roof, built 1871. The architect was F.W. Hunt of London. It has a south porch with a small statue over the door of St. Anne teaching her daughter by S. Tinkler. There is a small belfry on the southwest corner.

The interior is somewhat dim, the only windows being at clerestory level. There is no east window, the wall being covered by

large painted panels of New Testament scenes by David Bell, the colours of which are muted having been varnished to protect them against incense fumes, this church having always been 'high' in its religious observance. The aisles are narrow, being designed for processions. At the West end there is an inlaid marble font and a large war memorial. The Chancel arch is dominated by a rood erected in 1897, with carved alabaster statues painted black. We were shown some of the church's embroidered vestments as well as the church plate, including a Derby made chalice inlaid with amethysts and seed pearls. Finishing up with coffee in the vestry, we considered this was an evening well spent.

*John D'Arcy*

### **Norbury Visit**

On 2 August the Architectural Section visited Norbury Manor House and Church. Forty members had subscribed who clearly enjoyed the trip. The Manor House and the adjacent church of St Mary and St Barlock were built at the heart of a former medieval



village with the Lord of the Manor being members of the Fitzherrbert family. Mr Basil Fitzherbert sold the Manor House to Mr Samuel Clowes but retaining in the Fitzherbert family the lordship of the village.

The party went first in the church and repaired at once to the chancel where we had the privilege of Mr John Titterton FSA as our guide on the fantastic grisaille and heraldic glass. He went in detail through the windows explaining all the stained glass and also how the major restoration work was carried out including special works to hopefully preserve the windows in their current state. There is an extremely interesting book on the stained glass by our guide which is on sale in the church which I strongly recommend as not only is it informative but it has very high quality illustrations. In addition there is also a very good guide book to the church. Also in the chancel are two chest tombs of the Fitzherbert family. The current Mr Clowes (husband of Ann Clowes) joined us sitting in the nave. Other members of the public came and had the benefit of our guide.

The ladies of their congregation had prepared some scrumptious cakes were included in our entrance fee plus a cup of tea or coffee. There were plenty for seconds for us and the public visiting the church. This treat is available on most Saturdays so members who missed the trip should take advantage of this.

We then went to the Old Manor House which sits in lovely grounds including a herb knot garden which members enjoyed in the fine weather. The property is now run by the National Trust. The Manor medieval hall is regarded as a 'rare survival of an unusual building'. Only part of the building is open to the general public but such as is accessible gives some indication of its former glory. Part of the building is set aside for holiday lettings and there is a small building in the

grounds. Mr Marcus Stapleton (a member of the Fitzherbert family) bought it from the Clowes family in 1963 and then bequeathed it to the National Trust in 1987. A very enjoyable afternoon out with the Society.

*Alison Haslam*

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### **Sir Richard Arkwright**

Maxwell Craven gave a talk on 10 October to a packed audience on Sir Richard Arkwright's Architects who also worked for his work connections and family members. There were some excellent slides which I wish I could show here and it was a very informative lecture.

In 1769 Arkwright obtained a patent and with two new partners, Jedediah Strutt and Samuel Need, Arkwright commissioned a horse powered mill at the bottom of Woolpack Lane in Nottingham. The architect commissioned was Samuel Stretton who died in 1811 specialised in mills and various public buildings, most demolished since then. The new mill at Cromford was completed by 1772 but it is not known who was the architect, it may have been Rawlinson. In Arkwright's papers much information only relates to works in Nottingham and at Willersley Castle. Rawlinson designed a miniature Palladian villa on the hill at Matlock and this was called Masson Cottage. The architect also moved from Derby to Matlock Bath living in a villa called Belle Vue but seems to have kept his Derby link and subsequently Rawlinson was buried in All Saints now Derby Cathedral. He may well have been involved with the earliest phase of the Masson Mill. Many of Arkwright's mills are featured fully operated in paintings by Wright of Derby. The house and mill at Lunford, north of Bakewell (on land leased from Philip Gell) is again a possibility for work by Rawlinson again, the mill was long ago burnt to the ground,. The current

Masson Mill which features venetian windows is similar to the large mill built by Samuel Oldknow at Mellor in 1790, again the Palladian style. In 1800 he rebuilt the seat the Staffords, Bottom Hill in Mellor. Arkwright acquired a new mill at Cressbrook. Newton was architect and builder of the mill but the mill caught fire in November 1785. Arkwright was mean enough to have been unwilling to compensate Newton for the loss of the tools of his trade in the fire caused by Arkwright's business. There are also a group of country houses and others built and extended for Arkwright's business associates and relatives.

As well as building factories and fine houses for themselves these industrialists made a point of building accommodation for their apprentices and workers. In 1786, anticipating a knighthood, Arkwright wished to start work on Willersley Castle and for this project Sir Richard commissioned William Thomas. It was to be a building copying the work of Robert Adam's Scottish style being a classical house with battlements. After Sir Richard's death this architect went to Willersley Castle for the industrialist's son. Looking at the Wright paintings Sir Richard is clearly showing where he made his fortune whereas his son is taking all steps to look every inch a gentleman who happens to own a business. I am reliably informed that it is Maxwell Craven's intention to produce a fully researched and illustrated article and forward to the DAJ for publication. Look out for this in anticipation as it will no doubt show the enthusiasm which came across during his well attended lecture.

*Alison Haslam*

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### Post War Heritage

On Friday November 7th, Elaine Harwood came to talk about the best buildings of the 1950s and 1960s. Elaine has been employed

with English Heritage since 1987, with a particular interest in post-war architecture. Some 60 members attended in spite of the inclement weather. Elaine started by showing examples of modern architecture from earlier in the 20th century, local examples included Aslin's Council House and Msrs. Aiton's works, designed by Norah Aiton and Betty Scott. This led to an interesting digression on female architects.

She went on to show numerous examples from the post war period from all over England. Perhaps the most impressive of these were church buildings, including Liverpool and especially Coventry Cathedrals and also a Parish church in Coventry. The plain exteriors sometimes belie the handsome interior designs. She included several individual houses from the humble prefab upwards. Amongst the high-rise blocks, some of which looked surprisingly inviting when newly erected, was Balfour Tower with its separate stair tower. New Town architecture was also shown, with Harlow as the main example. We were taken on a trip to the 1951 Festival of Britain, with its Skylon and the vast Dome of Discovery, and especially the Royal Festival Hall although this was later refronted. We also were shown the new colleges at Oxford and Cambridge.

This was a stimulating lecture, energetically delivered with much panache. Elaine's book on the subject is awaiting publication.

*John D'Arcy*

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## LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

### Magic Attic Visit

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>. July 12 members visited Sharpes Pottery in Swadlincote in which the independently run Magic Attic Archives are situated.

During the morning session Keith Foster, a Trustee, gave an interesting presentation of both Sharpes Pottery and the Attic.

Sharpes Pottery was established by farmer Thomas Sharpe in 1821 and manufactured domestic pottery, much of which was exported to America in the mid 19th century to meet the needs of European settlers in that continent. During the 1850's, for public health reasons, there was an 'explosion' in the sanitary ware market and the local clay was ideal for the production of such products. This, together with the patenting of the successful 'rim flush' toilet at Sharpe's, led to the factory concentrating on sanitary ware, ceasing production of domestic 'pots' in 1900.

The factory flourished, along with many other local sanitary ware makers and sewer pipe manufacturers, until the 1950's. The coming of the Clean Air Acts around that time required new techniques and greater regulation. Sharpe's factory had never really modernised and it became apparent it could not survive in this 'modern' world, it finally closed in 1967.

The site was left derelict until 1999 when a Trust was established and gained funding from the District Council and the Lottery which has enabled the full restoration seen today.

For many years the archive of the Burton Mail Newspapers was kept in their offices at Swadlincote. In 1986, a move to smaller premises meant the archive would have to go.

A number of historians, decided to try and keep the collection in Swadlincote and eventually secured space in an attic above The Snooker Club. The Burton Mail Archive was saved from the skip and approximately 8 tons of material was handed over!



*The old "Attic" - above The Snooker Club*

The archive was housed in the older section of the Snooker Club which was initially the upper floor of a barn built in the mid-1700s. It was by no means the ideal place to keep a paper archive some of it dating back to the 1780s. Parts of the archive had already been subjected to the ravages of time including being caught up in floods.

Eventually visitor numbers increased and one, who, having reached the top of the stairs, surveyed the scene and said, "This is the Magic Attic"! From out of the community the name was born.

By 1990 locals were bringing in maps, photographs, works records, catalogues and many other items. This was usually following the death of a relative or if they were moving house. The Attic eventually had enough in the funds to acquire a second-hand photocopier. This made it easier to create material for displays and also to raise a little more revenue by being able to offer an immediate service to researchers who required copies.

The Attic now exhibits approximately 12 times per year throughout the immediate area.

Probably the largest was the exhibition in 2007 with 1200 professionally printed and mounted photographs from a collection of over 7000 original glass slides, rescued from



a skip at The Burton Mail. More bound newspaper volumes arrived from areas throughout Derbyshire and Staffordshire. On occasion the British Newspaper library at Colindale borrowed an assortment of copies for micro-filming.

By the late 1990s The Magic Attic was becoming more popular. Visitors arrived from across the UK and abroad. Many were amazed at the odd but atmospheric set-up, especially the Americans who constantly took photographs inside the building.

Around 1998 the Attic was approached by the local council who were looking at the possibility of setting up a museum or heritage centre by renovating the derelict Sharpes Pottery. Eventually grants totalling £1.7million were raised and in 2003 Sharpe's Museum was opened. Two floors in the building were given over to Magic Attic. The archive was again moved and second-hand desks, furniture and chairs were drawn from all quarters. Many of the original wooden racks were also put into use.

The Attic became a Registered Charity and began to apply for small grants. This allowed new desks, chairs, computers, printers, micro-film reader, projectors and a screen to be purchased. A metal shelving system, being disposed of at the Burton-on-Trent Library, was bought at a bargain price and the old shelves were removed.

The archive grew and today holds around 18 tons of material. Four thousand volumes of bound newspapers, over 25,000 photographs on computer databases, maps, catalogues and works records are just some of the items kept.

The Magic Attic pays rent to Sharpes and for all its services. It pays a public liability insurance which also covers their outdoor events. There is no core funding. Funds, for day to day running, are raised from

donations, book and photograph sales and various fund-raising projects. No mean feat!

The archive today has 32 volunteers drawn from all walks of life, builders, painters, examiners, clay-workers, farmers, librarians, retired teachers and a geologist to list a few. There are no paid staff and never have been.

The Attic receives enquiries from across the UK and abroad. It is open to the public 17 hours a week and other groups hold meetings, talks and lecture programmes in the premises. Groups of school children and the occasional Coach Tour visit. The Attic was honoured to accept an award from The British Association for Local History in 2013.

It is not a library and not a record office and at times the chatter and swapping of information can become boisterous but this makes for a pleasant and friendly atmosphere. Many visitors say the Attic and the way it operates is unique. Really Magic!

Following a lunch in Sharpes Café the Group were given a guided tour around the Attic. Several members became engrossed in the old newspapers but had to leave after the lights were switched off. Some members later visited the large WW1



*The new "Attic"*

exhibition in the nearby Town Hall – produced by Attic Volunteers.

*Barbara Foster*

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### **A Taste of Tudor Ilkeston** **17<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

The 1598 map of Ilkeston Manor formed the basis of Stephen Flinders lively and informative talk on Tudor Ilkeston. This the earliest known map of its kind relating to a Derbyshire settlement which had been surveyed by a Henry Fletcher at the time of the purchase of the Manor by Sir John Manners. The original map survives at Haddon Hall but careful transcription and modelling demonstrates that the accuracy, clarity and detail of the mapping is notable. Land use/ownership is distinguished in terms of enclosed fields worked by the manorial lord, freeholders and copyholders. Common land, woodland and open field are clearly identified. Of the 55 dwellings, including ten ale houses, most were in Ilkeston, with its church and market place, while others were in Little Hallam and just one in Cotmanhay. However little is shown of coal and iron workings although the area known as Brendike became the site of Stanton ironworks.

Careful field work, including archaeological investigation, allowed Stephen to relate features as mapped to surviving buildings and the present landscape including modification of stream courses. He had consulted Parish Registers and identified a large collection of wills to gain insight into basic aspects of Tudor living including family size, life expectancy and the possessions normal to a community dominated by small farmers. Through Manorial Court Records he showed how the farming community were obliged to work within clear rules of land management and that all citizens were bound by conventions of behaviour. Fines

for indiscretions showed how the Manor was central to everyday living at a time of restricted horizons – real localism then!

The strength of Stephen Flinders talk lay in the care given to the map interpretation and the way in which questions posed by the map had been identified and investigated. In many ways this came across as a model of such a piece of historical work.

*Roger Dalton*

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### **Derby in the First World War**

Dr. Mike Galer, formerly of Derby Museum Trust: Friday, 14 November, 2014

To set the scene we were treated to a series of black and white picture post card views of the main streets of Derby at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Several of the post cards featured public transport of the day – Dr. Galer is now General Manager at Crich Tramway Village! This formed an introduction to our talk based on Mike's Derby book in the series "The Great War" - to be launched the day following the lecture. Lots of research of Census documents of 1901 had produced many facts relating to the number of male and female residents in the town; that there were more births than deaths and that people were moving out of the town. By the Census a decade later, there were many people under 40 years of age. 31% of the 15,678 women were employed and 520 women had private means. Only 13 females worked on the railways; 97 were in heavy industry and 2,641 worked in "indoor services".

At the outbreak of the War we saw a Derby Gas Works photo showing a group of men in uniform, with four not, but wearing small badges indicating they were exempt from military duties. Women were engaged in filling cartridge cases at the Midland Railway

- in fact, 2,600,000 shell fuses were reformed as well as the fitting of copper bands for the cases.

We then heard more of the Military. Full details were listed of the Battalions that existed – such as 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Notts. and Derby Regiment (the Sherwood Foresters) some of whom may have been photographed with their equipment prior to embarkation at Pear Tree and Normanton Railway Station (close to their Barracks) for their journey to the coast.

As a result of Lord Kitchener's request, more Battalions were formed and, for instance, "K1"/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion came into being in August, 1914. Many more followed including "The Bantems" – smaller men – in October, 1915.

A Zeppelin raid hit Derby in the early hours of 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1916 and the 21 high explosive bombs that were dropped landed in the Litchurch/Wilmorton area – four men being killed at the Midland Railway, near No. 9 shed and various other large businesses were damaged.

In total, 32 Derby men received Military Crosses for their actions during the War and several Memorials are still to be found around the area.

Hardships were endured by the general public with food shortages and panic buying. Rationing began in 1918 and Ration cards were issued to families who had to register with a butcher and a grocer.

Following the end of the War, a Peace Carnival was held in July 1919 and the Lutyens' designed memorial was unveiled in Midland Road, followed by the Crich Memorial to commemorate members of the Sherwood Foresters who lost their lives in this, "The Great War".

*Norma Consterdine*

## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

### Coach Trip to Yorkshire

The first destination for the industrial section's summer outing on 6 July was the Yorkshire Waterways Museum, which tells the story of the town and port of Goole that grew up where the Aire and Calder navigation meets the Humber Estuary

*Goole Harbour*



The highlight of our visit here was a boat trip through the docks on the tug boat "Wheldale", which was built in 1959 to propel "trains" of compartment boats (sometimes known as "Tom Puddings") conveying coal from collieries on the Yorkshire canal system to the port of Goole. With a very informative guide, we learned a great deal about the history and present day traffic passing through the port. One of the most impressive features is a preserved 90 feet high hydraulic hoist that could lift a compartment boat out of the water and empty its contents into a sea-going ship – this was last used in 1986.

After lunch, our coach took us on a tour of the low lying land on the borders of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire where the River

Trent flows into the Humber, with views of flood defences and several windmill stumps. We crossed the Trent at Keadby, over an impressive steel bridge built by the Great Central Railway in 1912-1916 and still carrying road and rail traffic today. The bridge was originally designed to lift to allow tall ships to pass below, but is now fixed. We then drove through the town of Scunthorpe past one of the few surviving steelworks in the UK, before returning into Yorkshire to the village of Sandtoft and The Trolleybus Museum.

the coach, but instead arrived by light aircraft landing on the runway of the old RAF base. The second was that as we were due to depart, we were invited to stay in the museum after it was officially closed to the public, and view the Derby trolleybus running around the circuit – something they couldn't do for us during normal opening hours as it has just completed an overhaul and needed a safety check before being fit for public use.

*Ian Mitchell*

**Birmingham Gun Barrel Proof House**



*The Derby Trolley Bus*



*At the Proof House*

The museum opened in 1972 on a part of what used to be RAF Sandtoft. Concrete building bases and access roads dating from WW2 now form a quarter mile circular track with electrified overhead wiring that allows a fleet of preserved trolleybuses to demonstrate what a silent and pollution free form of transport they used to provide for towns and cities in the UK and abroad. On arrival we were greeted by the site of Derby 172, a wartime “austerity” design that ran from 1944 to 1964, bringing back memories for many in the party, including our coach driver who started his career as trolleybus conductor.

On 9<sup>th</sup> October a small group of DAS members ventured through the area of wasteland on the edge of Birmingham City Centre, that has been earmarked for a High Speed Rail station, to visit a 200 year old business that is still trading on its original site. The access route was underneath a railway arch and through two sets of high iron gateways to a Georgian brick building with a magnificent coat of arms over the doorway. This was the Birmingham Gun Barrel Proof House, established in 1813 to test guns and explosives, and continuing to fulfil the same role today.

During the course of the afternoon there were a couple of surprises – the first being the arrival of Mick Larimore, who wasn't on

Our visit began with a talk on the history of gunmaking in Birmingham, which rose to prominence in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, largely

through the slave trade; guns were amongst the most popular European products to be traded for slaves in Africa, and by 1800 Birmingham gunmakers were producing 300,000 muskets a year. There was considerable concern about the quality of workmanship, so in 1813 the more reputable members of the trade promoted an Act of Parliament to establish a Proof House that would independently test firearms and mark those which passed the test. Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century it became mandatory for all small arms manufactured or imported in the UK to be proofed before they can be sold (except for some military arms) and this continues to the present day. The proof test involves firing the weapon with an explosive charge that is 25% more powerful than normal, and checking that no damage results. This requires the Proof House to prepare its own explosives, and as a result a secondary role in testing explosives has evolved.

former police firearms officer who was a mine of information about the subject.

The Birmingham Proof House continues to operate as a non-profit organisation under its original Act of Parliament, which stipulates that it is managed by a Board of Guardians, of whom 15 are master gunsmiths, 3 magistrates and 3 city councillors. Thanks to the continuing demand for the services they provide, they have been able to finance a substantial renovation of the original buildings which is now nearing completion.

It was a fascinating morning behind the iron gates of the Proof House – a DAS visit with a difference that we will remember for a long time to come.

*Ian Mitchell*

## Hydro Power in the Derwent Valley

The first talk of the Industrial Section's winter season was held on 24 October 2014. The speaker was Ian Jackson of "ADVyCE" (Amber and Derwent Valley Community Energy – of which more later), his subject being "Hydro Power in the Derwent Valley – Past, Present and Future".

Ian's starting point was the spectacular rise in carbon dioxide emissions that coincided with the Industrial Revolution, powered, as it mostly was, by coal. The Derwent Valley textile mills, however, were an honourable exception to this, maintaining their production for a full 70 years on hydro power alone. Ian illustrated this in detail with the case of Strutt's Belper Mills which relied exclusively on hydro power from 1776 to 1854. The former date saw the commissioning of the first (South) Mill, its single water wheel powered from a long head race taken well upstream from the River Derwent. The (original) North Mill added a further wheel in 1784 using a branch off the same leat. The West Mill



*The Gun Barrel Proof House*

After the talk, we were taken on a tour of the premises, seeing the present day activities testing guns and explosives with an interesting combination of old and new technology in use. The Proof House is also a museum and archive. There are several collections of different types of firearms and ammunition, including a "black museum" of weapons that have blown up in the field or on proof testing as a result of poor manufacture or usage. Our guide was a

then added further wheels, calling for further elaborations of the supply and construction of the horseshoe weir to raise the supplying water level. By 1833, 11 water wheels were in place – although not all would have operated simultaneously, some being smaller-diameter flood wheels brought into use when the main wheels would be submerged. By this date the horseshoe weir had already been raised once (in 1819); it would be raised again in 1843. Even after the introduction of steam power, hydro power was still contributing in 1911.

Turning to the present, Ian first sketched the normal configuration of a modern hydro-electric plant: automatic debris-clearing chamber, submerged vertical-axis turbine, directly-coupled electric generator, and control gear. He also touched upon the constraints imposed by the Environment Agency: in particular a ban on new weirs and limits on water take. Even so, four hydro-electric plants are already operating on the Derwent: at Masson Mill (240kW rating, introduced in 1995-97); at Belper (350kW, 1998-99); at Milford (180kW, 2012); and in Derby (230kW, also 2012). For the future, opportunities exist at the surviving weirs at Cromford, at Ambergate, for a second turbine at Milford, and at Darley Abbey. An opportunity at Peckwash Mill (below Duffield) has been lost due to collapse of the weir. Of the others, Ambergate is judged by Ian and his colleagues to be the most promising.

Ian then described the status of ADVyCE as a Community Energy Cooperative whose objective is to obtain sponsorship/funding from members of a local community to allow the construction and operation of a local hydro-electric plant for the benefit of the investors and the community. Their present efforts are concentrated on an Ambergate scheme where a feasibility study, of which Ian gave some detail, is under way. He finally mentioned comparable activities

nationwide, where 5 such schemes are up and running and a dozen or more are in progress.

*Alastair Gilchrist*

## Derbyshire Oil Wells



The subject of the Industrial Section's talk on 28 November 2014 was "Derbyshire Oil Wells of 1918". The speaker was Cliff Lea, well known to us as Chairman of the North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society and, as he told us, a chemist by profession.

Cliff briefly described the formation of oil in geological time from the decomposition of sea creatures in warm equatorial seas (now Derbyshire!). Very occasionally, oil breaks the surface as at Windy Knoll near Castleton. More usually (and usefully) it becomes trapped under a cap of rock in an anticline. In Derbyshire, two early reports of oil finds are Dr. Short's 1734 description of bitumen from a mine at Eyam, and report of a significant flow of oil into James Oakes'

coal mine at Riddings in 1847. The latter chose to investigate his windfall scientifically, setting up a pioneering distillation column which produced paraffin and paraffin wax and left the heavier fractions to be sold as lubricants.

However, it was the invention of the internal combustion engine that dramatically raised the importance of oil. Early exploration centred on North America and Persia. War in 1914 then added a strategic significance – the British fleet, for example, had just recently resolved to convert from coal as fuel to oil. The government accordingly in 1915 established a fund and commissioned Pearson and Sons to sink seven trial wells in Derbyshire along a known anticline running south from Ridgeway near Sheffield to Ironville – i.e. running a short distance west of the line of the present M1 between junctions 30 and 28. However action seemed to need an order under the Defence of the Realm Act, this only occurring in October 1918 when the war was all but over. Pearsons accordingly set to work, using American labour and the then standard percussion technique, to sink wells at Ridgeway, Renishaw, Brimington, Heath, Tibshelf and Ironville (two sites). The first strike of oil was made at Brimington on 9 February 1919. This flow soon died out, but unfortunately not before causing a fatal accident (to a boy, the well being on the village recreation ground). The one successful well was at Tibshelf where oil was first struck in May 1919. All the remaining wells were failures, despite some rather desperate explosive measures at Heath, and minor finds of warm brine, but no oil, at Ridgeway, and gas, but again no oil, at Renishaw. Thus Tibshelf emerged as the only useable source of oil and indeed remained in production, latterly under the Duke of Devonshire's auspices, until 1945. It produced in total some one million gallons of oil, much shipped out by rail. The site of the well is now a garden centre.

Cliff closed his excellent talk by suggesting three “firsts” of which Derbyshire can be proud – and one to regret: the first successful deep oil well in Britain (at Tibshelf); the world's first use of oil refinery technology (at Riddings); the first British attempt at “fracking” (at Heath); and the first British oil-related fatality (at Brimington). He is also hopeful that the Geological Society will lend its name to a plaque or other monument to celebrate the centenary in 2019 of Tibshelf's moment of fame.

*Alastair Gilchrist*

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### **Industrial Mayfield**

The fine evening of 29 July 2014 saw 23 members assemble for the Industrial Section's tour of Mayfield's industrial connections. The tour was led by John Robey, a Mayfield resident of 37 year's standing. He was assisted by Pat Smith who, as well as an even longer residence, had worked as maintenance engineer at the mill we were about to visit and could therefore provide detail at first hand.

Having welcomed us to the Church Hall, John paused first outside the handsome 18<sup>th</sup> century vicarage. The vicar from 1736 was the Rev. Edmund Evans, co-founder of the Darley Abbey Mills. The Evans Bank would later provide finance for the establishment of cotton milling in Mayfield.

The mill leat at Mayfield had long powered mills for a variety of purposes, including corn, leather and fulling. In 1791 the mills were put up for sale with the helpful comment that the site would be suitable for a cotton mill. A cotton mill was accordingly built in 1795. It burned down in 1806, to be replaced by a fireproof building in 1816. This worked successfully under various owners until 1866 when it was first leased, and then purchased, by the Simpson brothers Joseph and George. The brothers

were from a Quaker family that had turned from brewing to cotton spinning in Eccles, Lancashire. They enlarged and re-equipped the mill and would be a major and successful presence in Mayfield for the next 60 years.

We moved from the vicarage, via a narrow downhill footpath, to the footbridge over the mill leat. The leat, which is substantial, takes a short-cut across a long curve of the river Dove, so creating an island on which the present mill buildings and workers' cottages stand. The original mill buildings, on the landward side of the leat, were demolished in the 1960s. There remain, however, on the island site a stone-built 4-storey 15-bay mill building from the Simpson's era, as well as some smaller survivors such as the single-storey lodge building and another bearing a date-stone (a favourite Simpson feature) of 1883. These buildings occupy the centre of the island. To their south, workers' cottages, believed to date from the 1840s, are arranged in five terraces. The three longer terraces are all of the same design – 2-storey, stone fronted, with round-arched doorway and three sash windows per cottage – and make an attractive group. The northern part of the site is occupied by the modern sheds of the present owners Mayfield Yarns. The access road here follows the line of the earlier rail connection crossing over the river from Clifton.

Returning via our footpath, we first encountered the younger Simpson's mansion (now vacant) at the foot of Conygree Lane. Then proceeding up the lane, we viewed five terraces of workers' houses built by the Simpsons between 1871 and 1914. The latest pair, and nearest to the works (Meadowside 1913 and Weirside 1914) show the fully developed design. They are in brick and stucco and have a third storey provided either with a dormer or a forward-facing gable; "cottage" would now be too modest a term. All five terraces carry a name and date stone.

Finally, after a brief visit to the attractive, mostly medieval, parish church, we returned to the Church Hall for some welcome refreshment. It made a pleasant conclusion to an instructive and enjoyable evening.

*Alastair Gilchrist*

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### **Butterley Gangroad Project Update**

When the Butterley Company set up its ironworks in the early 1790s, their engineer Benjamin Outram designed a horse-drawn railway using flanged iron rails and stone sleepers to bring limestone from Crich down to the newly built Cromford Canal at Bull Bridge. The line was just over a mile long, but is historically significant as the first of many canal feeder railways engineered by Outram that established the viability of railway transport and laid the foundations for the subsequent development of steam traction and the national railway network.

Over the last 18 months the DAS has been acting as parent organisation for a Heritage Lottery Funded community archaeology project to research and interpret this line, locally known as the "Butterley Gangroad". A lot of progress has been made in 2014, which started with a presentation to the Derbyshire Archaeology Day in Chesterfield in January. This was one of several talks given in the course of the year by Trevor Griffin, the project manager and kinpin of the project, but it was certainly the one with the largest audience.

Excellent progress has been made recording the physical remains of the route between the quarries in Crich and the Cromford Canal at Bull Bridge, oral history recordings of those who remember the line before and after its final closure in the 1930s, and documentary research at the Derbyshire Record Office and elsewhere. A remarkable amount of information has come to light, clarifying many details of the line's history which were obscure or misreported in the



past, though there are still significant unanswered questions to keep us puzzling. An even more impressive achievement is the speed at which the results have been published – hopefully by the time you read this newsletter the 2014 DAJ will be out with a very substantial article.

One key finding is that the short tunnel under the road at Bobbinmill Hill in Fritchley is a true ‘cut and cover’ tunnel and the northern part of it is unchanged from the original construction in 1793. This makes it the earliest surviving railway tunnel in the world (the previous contender was another Derbyshire example - Stodhart Tunnel on the Peak Forest Tramway, but this is a year or so younger). This claim has now been officially recognised by the Guinness World Book of Records, but more importantly has prompted English Heritage to consider scheduling the structure as an Ancient Monument.

*In the Guinness Book of Records !*



Throughout the year, a number of activities have taken place to raise awareness of the line amongst the local population. As well as numerous walks and talks, there have been specific activities for children organised, and a very successful “Village Day” in Fritchley in early September with an exhibition and local history fair, and a number of history themed activities, including a miniature steam train running on part of the original route.

The project is now moving into its final phase, with a focus on interpretation. A leaflet has been produced explaining the features that can be observed when walking on roads and public footpaths near to the line, and planning permission has been obtained to erect interpretative displays at three locations, in Crich, Fritchley and Bull Bridge. Display panels for the three locations have been designed and it is hoped to install these in February 2015. The final task is construction of a three dimensional exhibit – a wagon on a length of track illustrating how the line was converted from the original flanged plate rails on stone blocks (photo) to more modern edge rails on wooden sleepers.



The Butterley Gangroad will also feature in the next East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference on 9 May 2015. This will be held at the Glebe Field Centre in Crich on the theme of “Transport Innovations of the Butterley Company”. This will also cover the other end of the transport route from quarry to furnace – the underground wharf in the Butterley Tunnel on the Cromford Canal known as “the wide hole” – and the broader involvement of the Butterley Company in early railway construction. A booking form is included at the back of this newsletter.

*Ian Mitchell*

## NEW MEMBERS

Mr G. Bye & Miss L. Wild of Mickleover  
 Mrs A. Devine & Mr A. Earp of Ashbourne  
 Mr A. Norton of Sheffield  
 Mr J. Schofield of Roston, Ashbourne  
 Mr M. Taylor-Cockayne of Jacksdale

Deaths reported since June

Mrs G. Sandhu of Derby  
 Mr A. Germany of Derby

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### Obituary Gwen Sandhu

With much sadness, we have to announce the death of Gwen Sandhu from septicemia on November 20. She died at the Royal Derby Hospital after an operation following a sudden illness. She had been a member of the Architectural Section Committee for the last four years, and will be much missed. She had a wide circle of acquaintances, having been involved with Derby CAMRA and several ecological pressure groups. She had had a varied career, having trained as a nurse and later having a series of other jobs but recently performing voluntary activities.

*Joan D'Arcy*

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## DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

Vol 20, Part 4, Autumn 2014

The Ordnance Depot, Derby and its later owners 1805-1966 by Joan D'Arcy and Jane Steer

The Toll Collectors of Rowdale Bar by Ann Hall

The 'Island of Minorca' - A Sawley Curiosity by Adrian Henstock

Diary of a Shipleigh Farmer 1867: Part 2: March 11-16 April by Malcolm Burrows

A recent biography by John M. Robinson on the life and work of architect James Wyatt

(1746-1813) was the catalyst which led Joan D'Arcy and Jane Steer to research the history of the Derby Ordnance Depot and its later owners from 1805 until the demolition of the buildings in 1966. Robinson's description of the Depot was surprising. He wrote 'The demolished Derby Depot was an especially impressive Neoclassical composition, with a towering five storey armory surrounded by barracks and magazines within an oval curtain wall' and provided an illustration of a five-storey building, the 'Depot Mill', a silk mill occupied by J & W. Morley from 1849-56. Although the site was undoubtedly the same, information in books about Derby published of the 1820s showed that when the Depot was built it was a 2-storey building. Was Robinson right or had he been misled by the 1849 illustration?

The buildings were used as an Ordnance Depot from 1805 until its sale c1823 to Ambrose Moore, a silk manufacturer from Spitalfields who had Derbyshire connections. Moore converted the Depot into a silk mill called the Depot Mill. He both employed silk throwsters and manufactured silk goods until c1841 when the mill was let out to two tenants on 7 year leases, one of whom was J & W Morley. Moore would therefore have been responsible for enlarging the building to 5 stories and building a steam engine house to the rear because the terms of the Morleys' lease would not have encouraged them to undertake expensive building works. Between 1856-c1884, because of the decline in the silk industry, the Mill was let out to multi-occupants (like old mill buildings today), including the Rose Hill Wesleyan Methodist church, the Star Tea Company and some small silk, gimp and boot and lace manufacturers. In spite of many attempts to sell the Mill, it had not been sold when Moore died in 1873. 11 years later, c1884, his executors finally sold it to Offilers' Brewery. Offilers' was a family firm and

remained so until it was taken over by Charrington Brewery in 1965 who demolished the buildings in 1966.

In 2012 the 'Decoding The Bakewell Crosses' Project aimed to see if the Great Cross from Bakewell Churchyard had originally stood at a long lost road junction in a field near old Hassop Station. Desk based assessment before excavation in the field resulted in a wealth of information about roads in the area. The present day A6020 between Ashford and Hassop roundabout was part of the Edensor to Ashford Turnpike and the Rowdale Bar was one of two toll collection points on its length. There were only a few references to the toll collectors and their families who lived and worked at Rowdale Bar in the Edensor to Ashford Turnpike Trust minutes. In her article Ann Hall has traced the occupants from George Heathcote in 1817 to the Goodwins who left c1892. The cottage was unoccupied by the turn of the century.

Adrian Henstock draws our attention to the Sawley 'curiosity' known as The 'Island of Minorca'. Just a few yards away from Old Sawley village and Harrington Bridge over the River Trent is a group of fields named on George Sanderson's map of Twenty Miles around Mansfield of 1835 as the 'Island of Minorca!' They formed a peninsular within an abandoned meander of the river marked as 'Old Channel'. As the Trent formed the county boundary the 'island' was still regarded as part of Hemington parish in Leicestershire despite being only accessible from Sawley parish in Derbyshire. Today it has been transferred into Derbyshire and is now sliced in half by the M1 motorway.

If you don't subscribe to Miscellany, copies of this issue are available from Dr Dudley Fowkes, 11 Sidings Way, Westhouses, Alfreton, DE55 5AS (£4 incl p&p). Alternatively an annual subscription for

Miscellany, which is published twice a year, is £6. *Jane Steer*

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## PILLING AWARD

Applications are invited from members of the Society who are involved in research projects relating to the history, archaeology, architecture or industrial archaeology of Derbyshire.

Grants of up to £1000 can be awarded. Full details of the conditions and application forms can be obtained from Barbara Foster (details on cover).

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## SMALL ADS

### Derbyshire's Deserted Medieval Villages

Website [www.dmv.hull.ac.uk](http://www.dmv.hull.ac.uk) gives access to the Gazeteer of Deserted Medieval Village sites currently being compiled at the University of Hull. For Derbyshire, on the basis of the pre 1974 boundaries, there is a google earth image to show the location of 31 sites within the county. The image is interactive and allows one to zoom in to see the detail of each site. There is also a referenced account of each of the sites which indicates the basis for a five-fold classification as DMV (deserted medieval village), DMH (deserted medieval hamlet), doubtful, shrunken or shifted. Comment is sought as to the completeness and accuracy of the information presented.

Members might also be interested in the English Place Name Society which has an encyclopaedic website on the Nottingham University website (it's easier to use your browser than navigate the whole site). It's a mine of information.

*Roger Dalton*



# LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2015

SATURDAY 6 JUNE 10.30 - 4.30

The Priory Rooms, Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF

- PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION  
'Public History': what is it and how does it relate to local history? Dr Stuart Davies
- BALH AGM
- 2015 LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS: for research & publication, for a society newsletter, and for personal achievement.
- BALH ANNUAL LECTURE:

## 'By ancient right or custom': the local history of common land in a European context.

Angus Winchester

Professor of Local & Landscape History  
Director: Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University



Image courtesy of North Yorkshire County Record Office

The resources of the commons were often a mainstay of the local economy, providing a host of benefits: grazing for livestock, fuel for the fire, food, and the raw materials for building and other purposes. Who owned common land? Who had rights to use it and how was its use managed and regulated? This lecture will explore these questions, drawing on examples of commons in England and Wales, and placing them in a wider European perspective.

**Tickets:** £25 for members (£35 for non-members) includes coffee/tea on arrival and sandwich lunch  
**BOOK** Early Orders received after 10 May subject to availability. **Please ensure you have sent a stamped addressed envelope with your completed form and cheque.**

To: BALH (L) 7 St Mark's Rd, Salisbury SP1 3AY

Please print below your name, address and email or phone number in case of query

Please send me \_\_\_ tickets for the 2015 Local History Day at £25.00 (£35 for non-members);

A cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to BALH, and a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed\*

Please send me details of BALH membership

Please tick here if you do not wish your name to be on the delegates list

\* min 110 x 160mm (C6)

**BOOKING FORM**

Please tear off this slip and complete the booking form overleaf. An acknowledgement and location map will be sent when your booking is accepted. Late bookings may have to be refused as there are limits on car parking and bus capacity.

**Special dietary requirements**

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**EMIAc reports item to be raised**

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**Bookstall or display space required for**

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Anyone wishing to display material for sale other than on behalf of an EMIAc affiliated society or supporting organisation will be expected to make a contribution to conference expenses.

**EAST MIDLANDS INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE**

The East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference is held every six months and is open to anyone with an interest in the subject. The first conference was held in 1970 with the idea of enabling those interested to meet in different locations and learn about the variety of the industrial heritage of the region. There is no formal organisation, the participating societies taking it in turn to organise the event.

- Derbyshire Archaeological Society
- East Midlands Group of the Railway and Canal Historical Society
- Leicestershire Industrial History Society
- Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology
- Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group
- North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society

**DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION**

The host society was founded in 1878 and remains the principal voluntary body within the County for the study of its history and archaeology, from the prehistoric period to the recent past. DAS members receive an annual journal and participate in a varied programme of lectures, visits and fieldwork.

[www.derbyshiresas.org.uk](http://www.derbyshiresas.org.uk)

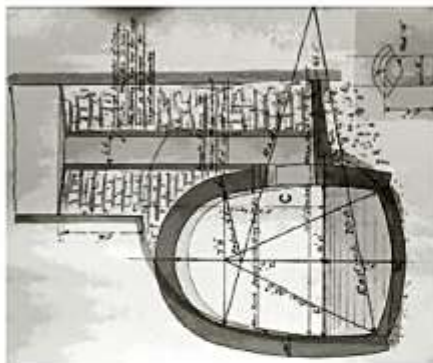
**DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE DAY**

**EMIAc 88**

**TRANSPORT INNOVATIONS OF THE BUTTERLEY COMPANY**

**Saturday 9 May 2015**



**Glebe Field Centre  
Crich, Derbyshire  
DE4 5EU**

## BACKGROUND

Transport for raw materials and finished goods was the key to the initial success of the Butterley Company in Derbyshire from its foundation in 1790. The location of the works was directly above a tunnel on the Cromford Canal, with a shaft from the works yard linked to a unique underground wharf known as the "wide hole". A horse drawn railway was built using flanged rails and stone sleeper blocks to bring limestone from Crich to the canal, and this acted as the model for many more canal feeder railways engineered by Benjamin Outram, who was one of the partners in the company.

The historical significance of these innovations has become increasingly apparent at a time when there is threat to these remains through redevelopment of the Butterley Works site. The speakers at the conference will report on the latest research results, and the afternoon visits will give a chance to view some of the surviving above ground features.

There will also be displays and bookstalls from participating societies across the East Midlands, and it is hoped to launch the Derbyshire Record Society's publication of the first minute book of the Cromford Canal Company at the event.

## THE SPEAKERS

Hugh Potter is Archivist for the Friends of the Cromford Canal and his research has contributed to a recent decision by English Heritage to schedule the Butterley blast furnaces, canal tunnel and underground wharf as an ancient monument.

Philip Riden teaches history at the University of Nottingham and has written on the early history of the Butterley Company.

Trevor Griffin has been the leader of a National Lottery funded community archaeology project to research and interpret the Butterley Gangroad.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

0900-0930	Setting up bookstalls and displays
0930-1000	Registration and coffee
1000-1005	Welcome
1005-1050	Hugh Potter – The Cromford Canal and the Wide Hole
1050-1100	Comfort break
1100-1145	Philip Riden – The Butterley Company and railway construction, 1790-1830
1145-1230	Trevor Griffin – The Butterley Gangroad
1230-1245	EMIAAC society reports
1245-1345	Lunch
1345-1630	Site visits – choice of two itineraries
<b>WALK</b>	A two-mile walk following the whole length of the Butterley Gangroad on minor roads and field footpaths between the conference venue in Crich and the Cromford Canal at Bull Bridge, returning by bus.
<b>BUS</b>	Tour to the Butterley Works site at Ripley, with a stop to look at part of the Butterley Gangroad en-route.
1630-1700	Tea and departure

## BOOKING FORM

Post to the booking secretary by 20 April 2015.

Alastair Gilchrist  
Summyside  
8 Mill Lane  
Mickleover  
Derby DE3 9FQ

Please include a cheque for £18 per person payable to "DAS – IA Section" and a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Names: Choice of Site visit  
..... BUS/WALK  
..... BUS/WALK  
..... BUS/WALK  
..... BUS/WALK

Address for correspondence:

Society (if applicable)

Telephone

Email

Car parking space needed

YES/NO  
Parking space at the venue is limited so please share transport where possible – Crich can also be reached by bus from Alfreton, Belper or Matlock.

# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## SECTION OFFICERS 2014/15

### Archaeological Research Group (ARG)

Chairman	Geoff Marler
Vice-chair	Mike Butler
Treasurer	John D'Arcy
Secretary	Janette Jackson
Programme Secretary	Anne Haywood
Council Representative	John D'Arcy

### Architectural Section (AS)

Chairman	John D'Arcy
Hon Secretary	Alison Haslam
Programme Secretary	Jane Steer
Treasurer	Malcolm Busfield
Council Representative	John D'Arcy

### Industrial Archaeology Section (IAS)

Chairman	Peter Robinson
Vice-Chairman	Jane Heginbotham
Secretary	David Mellors
Programme Secretary	Tom Farnsworth
Treasurer	Alastair Gilchrist
Council Representative	Peter Robinson

### Local History Section (LHS)

Chairman	Dudley Fowkes
Vice Chair	Joan D'Arcy
Secretary	Joan Davies
Treasurer	Sue Peberdy
Miscellany Editors	Dudley Fowkes & Jane Steer
Council Representative	Dudley Fowkes

