



# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Chairman of Council	Mrs P. Tinkler, 53 Park Lane, Weston on Trent, Derby, DE72 2BR Tel 01332 706716 Email; pat_tinkler@hotmail.com
Hon. Treasurer	Mr P. Billson, 150 Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2GN Tel 01332 550725 e-mail; pbillson@btinternet.com
Hon. Secretary	Mrs B. A. Foster, 2, The Watermeadows, Swarkestone, Derbyshire, DE73 7FX Tel 01332 704148 e-mail; barbarafooster@talk21.com
Programme Sec. &Publicity Officer	Mrs M. McGuire, 18 Fairfield Park, Haltwhistle, Northumberland. NE49 9HE Tel 01434 322906 e-mail; malisemcg@btinternet.com
Membership Secretary	Mr K.A. Reedman, 107, Curzon St, Long Eaton, Derbyshire, NG10 4FH Tel 0115 9732150 e-mail; das@reedman.org.uk
Hon. Editors (Journal)	Dr. D.V. Fowkes, 11 Sidings Way, Westhouses, Alfreton, Derby DE55 5AS Tel 01773 546626 e-mail; dudleyfowkes@dfowkes.fsbusiness.co.uk  Miss P. Beswick, 4, Chapel Row, Froggatt, Calver, Hope Valley, S32 3ZA Tel 01433 631256 e-mail; paulinebwick@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Mrs B. A. Foster, 2, The Watermeadows, Swarkestone, Derbyshire, DE73 7FX Tel 01332 704148 e-mail; barbarafooster@talk21.com
Hon Assistant Librarian	Mr. J.R. Marjoram, Southfield House, Portway, Coxbench, Derby, DE21 5BE Tel 01332 880600 e-mail; raymarjoram@tiscali.co.uk
Publications	Dr. D.V. Fowkes, (address etc above)

# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER 81 JANUARY 2015

### The Cover Story

The Derbyshire Archaeological Society is currently scanning all our Journals from 1879 so that they can (with the exception of the last five years) be viewed on the Internet. It is anticipated that they will be hosted by the Archaeological Data Service site and should be available within the next few months. This is becoming a common practice among similar Societies to satisfy increasing demand for open and easy access to research material. In the meantime we would like to thank all those members who answered the call and who are now beaver away on their computers separating the Journals into individual articles for ease and speed of download. It couldn't be done without you!



From  
1886

The earlier Journals in particular contain some truly beautiful hand drawn illustrations of everything from tiles to tombs and from houses to heraldry with all manner of stained glass and ancient scripts in between. Reproduced on the cover is a drawing from DAJ 1881 of a child, William Curzon buried at Croxall church in 1487 and described as "a crism". The OED defines a crism as a pure white christening robe to signify innocence but used as a shroud if child died within its first month. It would seem that the word came to be used for the stylised tombs of babes or infants and often replete with decorative rather than practical swaddling bands. Sadly this tomb is no longer in the church.



From  
1883

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## VISIT TO HEREFORD

14-18 July 2016

This year our visit will be based at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire. Forty places have been reserved for four nights from 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The rooms are all double en-suites for double or single occupancy. See [www.cct.org.uk/high-leigh](http://www.cct.org.uk/high-leigh) for more information.

We have once again booked a Skills coach which will depart from Derby. David Carder will again be our Tour Guide and we will use local guides for some site visits.

We plan to stop at Audley End en route and the itinerary will be based around three centres: St. Albans with Verulamium, Waltham Abbey and Hertford itself. We hope to include at least one stately home (Hatfield or Knebworth) as well as smaller houses, Much Hadham with its early forge and Henry Moore gallery, Mill House water mill, Salisbury Hall and a sprinkling of villages and churches.

We estimate a cost in the region of £420; the exact cost will be known in May 2016. This will include accommodation - bed, breakfast and evening meals - for four nights and the coach for five days. It will also include all entrance fees except for English Heritage and National Trust sites.

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 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 HERTFORD VISIT' on the back. Send to:

Mr. John D'Arcy  
Stone House Prebend  
Old Chester Road  
Derby DE1 3SA

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 John on 01332 363354 (please leave your details on voicemail if busy)

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## Programme Secretary's Report Winter Newsletter 2015

The opening lecture in OL1 'Death & Taxes' etc on 25 Sep was quite well attended although I was unable to attend on that date. On 30<sup>th</sup> October we had Lindsay Allason-Jones, OBE, and her talk on 'Roman Sculpture in Derbyshire' - although quite a bit of it would have been difficult to identify, there certainly is some and she led us through the various identifications. She had brought a little list with her so hopefully we may be able to fill in some gaps. Fascinating subject given by a really good speaker.

Due to an oversight from me the Christmas Social venue got left off the Programme Card. Because St Mary's Church Hall is now used by St Mary's parishioners exclusively during the month of December we have, for the past few years, been using St Paul's Church Hall in Chester Green. This is now a fixed venue for the DAS December meeting and not looking likely to change. My apologies for any inconvenience thus caused.

The opening lecture in the New Year at the University will be Tony Wilmott, Historic England, on 'Highlights from Recent Excavations at Maryport', and we have on March 4<sup>th</sup> Professors Hadley and Richards - there might only be one of them giving the talk but they both supplied details, talking about 'Torksey Lincolnshire - recent work in the winter camp of the Viking Great Army'.

The next opening lecture is on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 'Aethelfrith and the Battle of Chester AD616: a battlefield and war-grave discovered' by Dr David Mason. This lecture is rescheduled from March 6<sup>th</sup> 2015.

In between these University dates we will have the usual interesting talks given by the Sections.

The Society AGM date is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016, at St Mary's Parish Centre as usual. 7.30pm

*Malise McGuire*

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### **THE LIBRARY NOTES HELP WANTED**

I have been the de-facto Society Librarian for !\*#! years So it is perhaps now the time to offer the interesting and exciting and fantastic job to some one else. (Hope that I have got enough of today's iconic modern idiom in for full understanding by everyone). It is an interesting job and important feature of the Society's activities to have county and national reference library going back to our very foundation in 1878.

So now the cry goes out for someone with an interest in books and periodicals on history and archaeology, both older and modern, and matters relating thereto to come forward offer to take on the Librarian's job for the Society now or next year. It really is a great opportunity to know and follow what is going on in our field of interest. Please help. Please give me a call or an email at any time (see front cover for details) so that we can meet and explore the matter. Or speak to any other Council Member

We have accessed several items recently. The Butterly Gangroad Project has given the Library their extensive and important final report by Griffin and Bunting on the Project. Joan D'Arcy has provided Stevenson's history of the Midlands County Railway which was put together some time ago by he Derby Railway Research Group for the Railway and Canal Historical Society. Also added is the big 1954 report on the deep survey of social attitudes and views of Derby people that was used by Paul Sturges for his lecture to the Society in October.

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

*Ray Marjoram*

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### **THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL VISIT, THE COTSWOLDS 23 – 27 July 2015 Part 1**

We set out at 9:30 on a Skill's coach driven by Andy, who was to entertain us with his jokes and his ability to create parking space for a 40 foot coach.

David Carder joined us in Stroud at the Cotswold Canals Trust Visitor Centre, housed in an ex brewery next to Wallbridge Upper Lock on the Thames & Severn Canal, opened in 1789 joining the Stroudwater Navigation to the Thames at Lechlade for London. A short walk took us to Lodgemore Mill, on a site used for at least 500 years; it now produces cloth for snooker tables & tennis balls.

It was then on to Chavenage House near Tetbury, an Elizabethan Manor House down a country lane; on alighting, the impression was "what on earth....." but it was one of the quirkiest & most entertaining tours yet experienced – Caroline Lowsley-Williams, a family member, had us in thrall for a fair time with tales of the house's development over the centuries, its regular use nowadays as a film and tv. location, the chapel that can't be used for marriages, the illustrious neighbours, the Mortlake tapestries upstairs and the paranormal activity found by the experts (probably her dad on the creaky floorboards).

A short run via Tetbury saw us at the Royal Agricultural University on the outskirts of Cirencester in time to settle in before the meal. Afterwards, we had a talk by David and a Youtube of Alec Clifton Taylor's 1984 "Six Towns of England", both on Cirencester.

Friday started in the rain with a visit to Cotswold Archaeology on Kemble Airfield to see a recently excavated Roman tombstone currently considered unique in Britain, thought to name the grave's female occupant, Bodicacia. It has a carving of Oceanus with his lobster claws on his forehead in the pediment.

Back to the Corinium Museum in Cirencester for the Roman garden & a talk by their mosaics expert on some of the 90 already known of in the area, a few including Oceanus; then a quick look at the extensive displays.

Along the Fosse Way then into the wilds to Chedworth Roman Villa, set at the head of a valley with wonderful views if it's dry! Talk & walk by NT guide, three wings totalling around 400 feet, the Nymphaeum spring still flowing and the new covering building over the west wing giving a good interpretation.

On to picturesque Bibury for Arlington Row on the River Coln, built as a wool store but later weaver's cottages. Rack Isle over the mill stream was used to dry the dyed cloth. Andy parked wrong way on a no entry sign.

In Fairford we visited the grand perpendicular wool church of St. Mary; England's only complete set of 28 narrative stained glass windows, bale, chest & pillar tombs outside and a headstone to Tiddles, church cat, d.1980 aged 17. The annual Royal International Air Tattoo is based nearby.

Later, David on Bath & Gloucester and Alec CT 1981 on Bradford on Avon.

Saturday; on the way to Bath we passed the WOMAD festival site near Malmesbury. Bath was very busy, selfies galore all around. In the Abbey, while with a Guide looking for Norman parts, spotted a plaque to Sir Nigel Gresley of Knypersley Hall, Staffs. d.1777 – related to he of Mallard fame? The Guide also pointed out a plaque with a spelling mistake – Immorality for Immortality. Into the Roman Baths for a brief introduction then excellent audio guide; missed David's Crescent walk & only finished the Baths in time to grab a sandwich on the way back to the coach.

On to Farleigh Hungerford Castle, ruins commanding a prominent position overlooking the River Frome. When the original square castle was extended in 1420 it took in the parish church of St. Leonard, noted for its tombs & wall paintings, including George & the Dragon. The tomb of Thomas & Joan Hungerford unusually has Thomas's head resting on a dog. The crypt has several body shaped lead coffins with facial features. On departure, Andy was exhorted to reverse as we were atop a steep drop to the river!

Next to Bradford on Avon; at Barton Grange Farm we met Joan's ex colleague. David gave a brief talk on the farmhouse & granary, then pointed out the three styles of roof truss, the threshing floor, mason's & other marks in the massive barn. Over the Avon to St. Laurence's, a tiny tall Saxon church with no additions, rediscovered in 1856 after other uses. Some of us took a detour around the town centre, saw some fine clothier's houses, the Freemason's Hall, the ex Abbey Mill & the Lockup on the river bridge.

After our meal most of us visited the RAU chapel, built in 1846 in Decorated style with a fine timber roof, ballflower decoration and a 1964 East window in memory of "Bobby" Boutflour, principal 1931–58; it shows numerous elements from creation including cattle & horses. Boutflour is remembered for his "Cow Rationing & Management Chart" of 1950 which vastly increased milk yields worldwide. The royal escutcheon facing the altar isn't supported by the lion & the unicorn but by medieval farm workers, one ploughing, one sowing.

Sunday was rainy Berkeley. First Dr. Edward Jenner's house & garden for an informative video on his development of the smallpox vaccine, a tour of the house and a look at the "Temple of Vaccinia", a small thatched hut in the grounds where, from 1796, he treated the local poor. Over the fence was the plastic Yurt cafe of Berkeley Castle where we waited our turn

for the guide. Climbing into the Keep we looked down into the dungeon which once held Edward II then progressed through the castle, substantially altered over time, seeing the horse bells in the buttery, the array of spits in the kitchen and the somewhat art nouveau "Berkeley Arches" more recently inserted. In the Long Drawing Room is a c1300 Madonna & Child.

We met Henry VIII and his retinue taking the air - actually the Gloriana Re-enactment Group - while on the way to the church of St. Mary. It has puzzling architectural elements both inside and out, C13 stiff leaf capitals and Berkeley family tombs of alabaster, probably from our area.

Next Tetbury; the Market House, 1655, has a pillared understorey supporting two rooms; in its meeting room we learned a new word - Feoffee - a sort of Trustee. In 1633 the Berkeley family sold the land & market tolls to four Feoffees in trust for the town's inhabitants, assisted by the Bailiff & 12 townsfolk known as "The Thirteen" - essentially an early form of local government. There are now seven Feoffees and The Thirteen, who retain some civic & benevolent functions. Detouring via the Highgrove shop we reached the church of St. Mary the Virgin; originally built in 1160 it has been entirely rebuilt, the tower and spire in 1893 as an exact copy using much of the same material. Unusually it has slender timber columns supporting a plaster vault. Had a quick look at the Chipping Steps, a mix of steps & cobbles leading from the lower town to the medieval marketplace, flanked by weaver's cottages.

We got to St. John's in Cirencester just as it was closing but they welcomed us in; the sunshine now streaming in the west window lit up the "Cirencester Commemorates" exhibition & the flowers still in place from the Graduation ceremonies just completed. In the Trinity Chapel, behind & beside the altar were 5 sets of small brasses including Robert Page, wool merchant d.1440, his wife Margaret, 6 sons & 8 daughters. Outside, the

west tower has unusual large flying buttresses & the fan vaulted 3 storey South porch, originally the Abbey Gatehouse, now houses the Town Hall.

In the evening we met in the Ken Russell Room (not that one, Boutflour's farm manager) for our social & quiz - some varied scores but winning isn't everything!

Monday home; left RAU at 9:30 for Cirencester's Roman amphitheatre; in an ex quarry, it may have seated 8000 but now only massive earth banks, mostly unexcavated. Straight to Gloucester, walked past the Folk museum, largely a rich merchant's 3 storey jettied house from c1500, into Cathedral Green, just missing the Fire Brigade practising with their high-rise on the south transept. Down into the crypt for a tour, mirroring the ambulatory, chapels and quire above, evidence of extra strengthening of the original Norman arches as the structure expanded. The great East Window of 1350, the oldest in the cathedral, was dismantled in WW2, labelled & stored but unfortunately wet conditions ruined the labels so a postcard from a nearby shop was used to rebuild the jigsaw. The cloister has the earliest fan vaulting in Britain and a lavatorium with a recess for towels in the opposite wall.

David led us on a tour of Gloucester's old buildings including a visit to the galleries of the C15 New Inn, built by the then abbey for the Edward II pilgrim trade; the former Guildhall which replaced the Blue Coat School; Greyfriars with some tracery still in place; Robert Raikes' House & Blackfriars with its C13 scissor braced roof, converted into a mansion in c1540 and now used for civic functions. Finally the Docks, terminus of the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal; the little Mariner's Chapel is a gem but most folk headed for a cafe overlooking the main basin, where a narrow boat from Fradley came in and a Dutch Barge went out through Gloucester Lock onto the Severn.

Back in Derby for 6 o'clock after an enjoyable and busy trip. Thank you to the

organisers, John & Joan D'Arcy, Jane Heginbotham, Geoff & Ann Marler and members of the committee; also to David Carder for his enthusiasm & expertise throughout.

*Maryln & Robert Grasar*

## Summer visit to the Cotswolds Part 2

Day 1. Travelling down, the first stop was at the canal through Stroud with a very deep lock but a very welcoming visitor centre and an excellent cafe for lunch. The canal restoration seemed in good hands but there was a problem with the connection to the Severn involving sharing a bridge under the M4 with a river which would have to be shifted over slightly to make room!

The next stop was at Chavenage house, familiar to some as the 'Big House' in Poldark. We were met and entertained by three generations of the family who demonstrated what effort is required to keep such a big old house in running order. We were told that film work in Poldark paid for a new stone roof, wallpapers and curtains whilst a Greek wedding, one of about 30 a year, resulted in serious damage to window glazing.

The house was used for aerial photography training during WW1 by the Australians and in WW2 the Americans planned the D-Day landings at Omaha



*Chavenage House*

Beach. Ann Marler found that her mother was employed by the family at Catterick camp during the last war and was made especially welcome. There was so much of interest it was difficult to leave, especially on finding that the grandfather in the family had a very extensive model railway running around the whole roof space, the operation of which, in the dead of night, seriously troubled the local ghost hunters! Another trip perhaps.

Pressing on to Cirencester we found Graduation day just over in the fine Victorian University, Prince Charles had gone home unfortunately!

Day 2 in the Cirencester area was of serious rain but the first visits were indoors. The first was to the headquarters of the Cotswold Archaeological Group on Kemble aerodrome to inspect a newly found gravestone, the pallets of newly found material were of equal interest. On then to the museum at Cirencester for a chance to see the extensive finds on display and then a learned talk on mosaics.

Chedworth villa in the afternoon was disconcerting in that it showed how much had been missed in earlier investigations.

Bibury was visited and thanks to some enterprising parking by Andy, we saw Arlington Row, avoiding tripping over the council 'sludge gulping' pipes and lorries emptying cesspits!

Day 3 Dawned fine and a good morning in Bath was enjoyed marvelling at the new exhibition and listening to the high class Buskers outside the Baths. On to Farleigh Hungerford castle to enjoy an unspoilt chapel and very good ice creams! The final stop was at Bradford on Avon, fully briefed from David's excellent documentary the night before. The large barn was very impressive and even the bus driver was picking out the three types of roof beams, a feature of last night's talk. A final brief town tour by a friend of Joan's showed those of us who could still walk the Saxon church and the home of the Moulton bicycle.



Day 4, another wet day. To Berkeley for Jenner's house and garden. A sobering insight into the scourge of smallpox. The outdoor surgery in the garden used to treat the local villagers must be a truly historic garden shed. On to the castle for a tour of the extensive well preserved buildings, the clever domestic engineering in the kitchen drew some peoples attention. Dinner in a real Yurt set up in the kitchen garden after a warm up in the butterfly house. On again to Tetbury for a fascinating talk by 3 Feoffees (yes!) in the market hall on a local charity which seemed to have unlimited funds for good works in the town. Once again Prince Charles avoided us!

We then set out for Fairford church to see the magnificent windows and misericords. One famous window shows a woman being wheeled to hell in a wheel barrow by a large blue devil. Can this really be the origin of the 'to hell in a handcart' saying?

For the final visit of the full day we were able to get into Cirencester church even though it was closing time. One of the company was delighted to see again the Font she had been christened in. We think the umbrellas are breeding.

The usual social evening was enjoyed with Andy raising spirits as always with his alternative answers to the quiz.

The Final Day dawned dry and we were able to visit the Roman Amphitheatre in Cirencester before travelling on to Gloucester. Some of us had a tour of the cathedral crypt and found a modern highly polished red granite font hidden away for health and safety reasons (granite is so slippery when wet!).

There was time to look around the town or the docks and some of us found the New Inn, a remarkable galleried survivor from 1450. The beer was of newer vintage however.

A very enjoyable trip with much to remember. How did we manage to come

back with three more umbrellas than when we started?

*Peter Robinson*

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

### Archaeology of Royston Grange and Minninglow

A little over 20 members met at the Minninglow Car Park on a bright but rather cold Saturday morning. Our guide, Graham Guilbert promised us that we should see a landscape filled with archaeology stretching from the Neolithic to the First World War. So all this, and fabulous scenery and views too . We learnt first of all that Minninglow Grange was no grange at all just an attempt to ape the grandeur of the real thing, which had been established in the twelfth century when a landowner had gifted the 5 hides of land to the abbey of Garendon in Leicestershire. The monks employed lay brothers to exploit the land for sheep rearing and we were told would not hesitate to remove peasants from the area if they were in the way. We then moved on to admire the work that had gone into creating the high peak railway, initially drawn by horses, then by steam and Graham told us how this had enabled landowners to exploit the geology of the area which had in places left deep deposits of silica rich sand, used for the refractory bricks, much in demand during the industrial revolution. A little further on we found the remains of a brick kiln excavated in the 1980's. The railway would have brought coal for the kilns and taken the bricks away to the centres of industry. Also close by was a field kiln for burning lime which Graham explained would probably been used by the farmer to put on heather to kill it and clear the land. A load of limestone lay discarded by the kiln, evidence perhaps that the coming of the

railway made it easier for the farmer to get lime from elsewhere. A short scramble up to Minninglow, with a stop to admire the panorama across to Leicestershire, North Derbyshire and Staffordshire brought us right back in time to the Neolithic. The two barrows on Minninglow were in fact chambered Cairns. A number of archaeologists over the years had investigated the barrows, notably Hyman Rooke and Thomas Bateman. Graham had found a very early plan and sketch made in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, that showed the site had already been circled by a wall then. Hyman Rooke and again Barry Marsden had both found Roman coins and pottery in the chambers, evidence perhaps that the site was also venerated in Roman times. We chose this spot to feast upon the tombs of our ancestors before setting off towards Royston Grange. On the way we moved from an area of Below limestone to Magnesium limestone which outcropped in tor-like structures. Before visiting Royston Grange itself, we looked at the evidence for agricultural development in the area. Graham was a little sceptical of the evidence for Romano British field systems and indeed, on a North facing steep slope, cultivation looked to be a poor choice. On the south slope, there might indeed be evidence of Lynchetts. Graham showed us various plans which showed that some of the walls had been built pre enclosure and might well have been upon existing boundaries. A Roman road called The Street from Derby to Buxton was said to pass just below Minninglow and certainly a document of 930 called the boundary of Ballidon, King Street on this part of the estate, which implied that the road was indeed very ancient. However, archaeological excavation had not been conclusive on a Roman foundation. On the opposite hill, a quarry had been operational up to the 1930s when the depression rendered it economically unviable thus saving the landscape we were walking through from devastation. A stone built

explosive store still stood below that quarry boundary, which is now hidden by trees. The chapel-like pumping station had been sited near the only reliable spring in the valley in order that there was water to cool the large engines feeding compressed air to the quarry – so much easier than the pick and shovel used by the quarrymen getting limestone for the railway or to dig out the silica sand. We visited the excavated site of the original grange building and then the site of a Romano-British site further up the hill, puzzlingly further from the spring. This two phase building had originally been an aisled hall with the later addition of a further building. The present farm buildings had moved further up the slope and the farmer had on the coming of the railway, converted some of his buildings to stables for horses used on the railway. One of our members remembered the farm from 1947 and noted that a large breeze block and asbestos double cowshed (the latest thing in 1947) had been pulled down at the behest of the Peak Park as it did not sit asthetically in the landscape.

*Jane Heginbotham*

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### **Visit to Ilam and Throwley Hall Saturday August 2015**

Ilam lies in the Manifold Valley in the Staffordshire Peak District. The Manor of Ilam was held by the Benedictine Abbey of Burton from 1004 until the dissolution when it was bought by William Paget. He sold the estate in three lots: to John Port (Ilam), to the Merevells (Throwley), and to the Hurts (Casterne Hall) and each family built a house and settled there. Ilam's beautiful location attracted writers such as Congreve and Samuel Johnson.

In 1809 soap and shipping magnate Jesse Russell bought Ilam for his son Jesse on his engagement to Mary Watts, daughter of David Pike Watts, a wine merchant. All but the stable block was demolished by

Jesse Watts-Russell (1821-6) and replaced by a palatial building in Gothic Revival style. After his death, it was sold to Robert William Hanbury MP, a coal mine owner whose death in 1903 ushered in a period of decline and in 1930 all but the porch, servants wings and estate buildings were pulled down. Sir Robert McDougall saved what was left and gave it to the National Trust for a youth hostel which was opened by the North Midlands YHA in May 1935.

Our visit began at the 19th century Mary Watts Russell Memorial Cross (II\*), in the centre of the village. It was designed by John McDuff Derick in 1840 after the style of the Eleanor Crosses raised by Edward I in memory of his wife. Standing 40 ft high on a three step plinth, two tiers of statues, featuring six angels and other carvings, including the Ilam 'imp', are topped by a spire and cross. Its base incorporates a fountain, the water running from Bunster Hill through pipes into a header tank from where it was once piped into basins. Over time, the Cross became eroded. The angels lost heads and limbs and on 14 February 1962 a storm took off the top section. A temporary cross was erected but in 1998, through the efforts of the Ilam Cross Trust and a successful lottery bid, it was restored. Information boards tell its story.

When the Hall was rebuilt, the medieval village lying close to the church was pulled down to improve the view. It was replaced by stylish houses designed in Swiss cottage style by Gilbert Scott. These, and the school, were admired as we followed a footpath to the church which is dedicated to the Holy Cross.

In the churchyard stand two much eroded Anglo-Saxon preaching crosses, minus cross heads. One is a typical Mercian cylindrically shaped pillar, about 4 ft high with a raised collar around its middle. The other, about 7 ft tall, is a much restored Anglo-Saxon pillar, with plaitwork interlacing and human figures too eroded to identify. A fragment of Saxon Cross was

noted in the church fabric, set in the west wall of the south chapel. In the south wall a blocked up Saxon doorway and Saxon stonework also suggest a Saxon origin.

The church's origin is bound up in the legend of St Bertram or Bertellinus, a prince of probably Mercian descent who journeyed to Ireland to marry an Irish princess. During their return journey she had a child. While they rested in a forest close to Ilam, Bertram went hunting and returned to find that they had been killed by wolves. He became a hermit and was later sanctified. In 1618 a chapel was added to Ilam church by the Meverells of Throwley to house an altar tomb which became, and still is, a pilgrimage site.

There is much to see in the church. Two outstanding items are 19th century Maiden's Garlands (paper gloves, handkerchief and flowers), traditionally placed on coffins of unmarried women. The most spectacular is an alabaster sculpture by Sir Francis Chantry housed within an octagonal chapel, a monument to David Pike Watts, arm raised in blessing his daughter Mary Watts Russell and her three children. The latest, attractive, addition is an 18 metre 'bonard', or wall hanging created by Ilam Art Club using an ancient folk art painting technique from Sweden. Twelve artists have each created a scene from Ilam's history using egg tempera, the yolks from Ilam eggs! The paint is applied to gesso (rabbit skin glue) on canvas.

It was the font however that attracted most attention and raised discussion as to its age (a suggested date is 1120-1130) and interpretation of the six sculptured panels around the basin. Three depict human forms, two wolves or dragons and one a lamb with cross and dove. As the discussion was inconclusive, an exposition from Janet Spavold is appended.

Leaving the church, a brief halt by St. Bertram's well, sadly a muddy puddle, took us to the Hall and lunch. In the afternoon some of the party went, via Paradise Walk,

to the ruins of Throwley Hall, and returned in a thunder storm.

*Joan D'Arcy*

### **An Interpretation of Ilam Font**

Ilam font can be dated to the initial period of Anglo-Norman assimilation; the break in iconography is caused not by the Conquest but by a radical change in the Church's interpretation of its sources. This occurred when the Ransom Theory for why Christ took human form, which was accepted for a thousand years, was replaced by the Doctrine of Atonement. The main sources for the Ransom Theory are Gregory the Great's commentary on the Book of Job, the *Moralia in Job*, and the apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus. The theory was abandoned in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, after Anselm expounded the Doctrine of Atonement. It coincided with the rediscovery of Plato's cosmology which was seen by the Church as signifying the cosmic harmony of God's creation and which is also represented in church carvings.

Ilam font is firmly within the Ransom Theory interpretations. It has six panels, but I can only give interpretations for four of them; the two adjacent figures of men in panels four and five don't relate to anything I have seen or read of elsewhere. One has a large head and a very worried expression, and stands facing the viewer with his hands clasped across his stomach. He seems to be bearded. The other has a normal sized head and no discernible expression; his tunic is belted and he may be holding something like the pommel of a sword with his right hand, but the erosion of the stone might be misleading. We can be sure though that these two did mean something significant at the time.

Baptism is the first of the sacraments and essential to Christianity; without it there is no Christian burial, no salvation for the soul and no entry to Heaven. This is really what the four panels conveyed to the

contemporary viewer. The first panel shows Christ on the left, with His right hand raised in blessing. He is leading Adam out of Hell with His left hand holding Adam's right. This tells us that believers in Christ will be saved. The second panel tells us how this is done: it is through the sacrifice of the Lamb of God on the cross – note that this is not a Lamb and Flag depiction, but a Lamb with a cross. Sitting on the top of the cross is a dove, representing the Holy Spirit, showing that Christ's sacrifice was approved by God. As part of the Ransom Theory Christ is often shown as a vulture, interpreted as the mediator between man and God, but we can tell it is a dove because its beak is closed. A vulture's is open, and its feathering is different.

The third and sixth panels each show a dragon, representing the devil, and warn of what is to come for sinners. The dragon is another version of Leviathan in Job, and both are always shown with long tails, usually coiled or knotted to show Christ's power to limit evil. Here, panel 3's dragon has a long relaxed tail whereas panel six's dragon's tail sweeps round, under its body and is shown "raised like a cedar", as Gregory describes it. When this happened, it would signal the end of the world. Both dragons have enormous and vicious claws. Both have a sinner in their jaws, and panel three's dragon is also clawing one on the ground. Sinners caught in the jaws of Hell were commonly shown in manuscript illustrations and wall paintings.

The font dates from the same period as the tympanum carvings at Ault Hucknall which DAS members may remember visiting; they also illustrate the Ransom Theory. Leviathan, or the devil, can also be a dragon called Behemoth as Pope Gregory describes him in the *Moralia in Job*, and the devil appears fighting the Incarnate Christ as Behemoth at Ault Hucknall. The dragon is exactly as Gregory describes, with a coiled tail that sticks up at the end, a body like a whale, claws, a large open jaw with a long

extended tongue, a huge eye and wings. The Ault Hucknall tympanum depicts the fight between Christ and Death. Between the two figures stands the Cross and the monster extends his tongue to try to destroy it. Christ is dressed in the padded and quilted tunic of the type worn by Norman infantry, with no chain mail, but He does wear a helmet. He appears almost defenceless to the monster, but is defended by His spiritual purity and His sacrifice on the cross. He is about to strike with the sword in His right hand, and has moved His shield aside in order to do so. Behind him is the loop of a shackle which has been torn out of the ground and is falling over. The shackle represents the prison house of Death in the Ransom Theory, from which Christ freed Adam (and all believers) when He rose from his grave. Christ had voluntarily locked himself in the shackle of human life when He became incarnate, precisely so that He could break the bonds of death and redeem humanity.

Can anyone interpret the two remaining panels of the Ilam font please?

*Janet Spavold*

### **Thornton Abbey**

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Dr. Hugh Willmott and his colleague, Peter Townend, of Sheffield University Archaeology Department, gave a report on excavations and findings at Thornton Abbey, North Lincolnshire. The Abbey was founded as an Augustian priory in 1139 by William Le Gros and over the next four centuries became one of the richest religious houses in England. After the Dissolution it passed to the Bishop of Lincoln in 1547 and then to the Tyrwhitt family who converted various parts into a house. In 1603 it was acquired by Sir Vincent Skinner who set about demolishing most of the church buildings to provide building material for his new mansion which was sited near to the magnificent medieval gatehouse which still dominates the site

today. The house, for some unknown reason, fell down almost as soon as it had been completed. Skinner went bankrupt and died in a debtors' prison in 1616. The site fell into obscurity. The estate was acquired by Charles, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Yarborough in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and he uncovered the church in the 1830s. Virtually no excavation has taken place since until in 2011 the University of Sheffield archaeology department started a detailed research programme.

It was decided not to concentrate on the church and cloisters but look at the surrounding area to find aspects of medieval and post-medieval occupation on the site. A magnetometry survey of this area was made to avoid random digging but it was concluded to be a waste of time. Resistivity provided better clues but the best method was an aerial survey using a drone to fly over the ground. This was revolutionary and only took about an hour to photograph the whole area. Trenches dug in the 2012 season revealed a medieval bank that acted as a flood defence as well as a boundary for the monastery. Further trenches revealed a formal Tudor garden with cobbled paths and coloured gravel to create coloured effects. Also discovered was a terraced garden and what may have been an Italianate water garden made when the Tyrwhitts were in residence. Part of a medieval monastic barn was found together with walls of a building containing a bread oven and fireplace base. In 2013 the site of Skinner's mansion was finally located revealing a rear corner buttress and a back room of the building which had in part been constructed incorporating an earlier medieval building. Nothing much else of the mansion was found.

Dr. Willmott then described the surprising find when a large sandy mound was explored. A total of some 164 skeletons were found. They had all been buried about the same time, a mixture of male and female, including 22 infants. Radio-carbon

testing of the bones, which were very fragile, dated them to between 1300 and 1400, which, of course, places them at the time of the Black Death. Care had been taken to lay the bodies in the grave and some bodies lay in groups of two or three together. Remains of a building nearby were found which could have been the hospital dedicated to St. James and nestled against a wall were more burials, including an infant.

Various objects have been found over the last four years including a 14<sup>th</sup> century pendant cross, a lead ampulla for oil, a 6<sup>th</sup> century brooch and a 7<sup>th</sup> century cremation urn together with more burials believed to date back to around 1050 to 1150. Further excavations of this fascinating site will take place in 2016 and it is planned that a visit will be made by the Society in early July when Hugh will give us a further talk on what has been newly discovered.

*Anne Haywood.*

## **The Dovedale Hoard**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, Rachael Hall of the National Trust entertained us with a talk on the 'Dovedale Hoard'. It started in 2013 when a climber was sheltering in Reynard's Kitchen Cave in Dovedale and found four ancient coins. The cave is very difficult to reach and got its name from a highwayman who operated in the area and relieved travellers of their money. A decision was made by the National Trust to excavate the site and investigate further. So, for the first time, the Trust enlisted the help of Operation Nightingale Archaeology, who work with wounded soldiers returned from Afghanistan, to assist with the excavation. The military men were well disciplined and enthusiastic and worked well with three archaeologists. The project became 'Operation Hades'.

In 1959, excavations by Stoke Archaeology Society had taken place but only a jumble of objects had been found – a

Roman brooch, Roman and medieval pottery but no coins.

The University of Leicester Services surveyed the site and a metal detectorist plotted 'hot spots' all across the cave which is quite wide and deep. The journey to the cave with the equipment was a problem as it was across the river and up a steep climb over rocks. It was suggested either a zip wire or a Chinook helicopter be used! In the end a simple rope, as a help to hold on to when scrambling over the rocks, was set up.. It was very necessary to keep the project secret and this was solved by erecting a simple notice saying 'Danger – Rock Safety Work' to keep the climbers and ramblers away. The cave had to have lighting and this was set up. The excavated soil was stored on site. The floor was divided into a one metre grid and an inch of topsoil was removed and then metal detected. Every item that came out was plotted. It was very hard work as the soil was compacted, like concrete, so picks were used to get through it. They found many shiny sweet wrappings and ring pulls.

During the second week the magic codewords There is an Egg in the Nest were received. A gold coin had been found and more kept coming. The coins were scattered, not in a heap. One coin was found lodged in an old sardine tin. Lots of animal bones were found together with worked flints, a brooch and pottery of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century. Three Roman coins pre-dating the Roman invasion in AD 43 and twenty gold and silver coins from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, attributed to the Corietavi tribe, were identified. This is the first known instance of coins from these two civilisations being found together. The coins were sent for conservation at University College, London. By July 2014, the find was finally announced. The television programme 'Countryfile' got involved and filmed at Dovedale where the presenter, John Craven, was allowed to 'conserve' a coin. News of the coins went viral and there

were requests for information worldwide. The coins, owned by the Trust, are now displayed in Buxton Museum for all to see but how did they get in the cave, who lost them or who hid them away? A mystery waiting to be solved.

*Anne Haywood.*

## ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

### Long Eaton

On the evening of Wednesday 24th June, 16 members visited Long Eaton. We joined fellow society member and resident Keith Reedman who led us on a lengthy walk around the town to view some its notable buildings contributing his extensive knowledge of them.

We met in the grounds in front of the Hall. Keith informed us that until the 1850s Long Eaton had been a small village with a population of about 1000 people. However with the arrival of the lace industry and the railway the town became very prosperous and rapidly expanded including the provision of many banks.

The Hall itself, now serving as the offices for Long Eaton Council, was built in 1778 as a gentleman's farm house. It is a

three story, three bay red brick building with a stone Doric doorcase and is attributed on stylistic grounds to Joseph Pickford. Heading towards the Church we paused in the Market place to view Barclays Bank built in 1898 for the Derbyshire Banking Company by long Eaton architect Ernest Ridgeway: Oxford Buildings built 1907 by architect Clarence Ross for Lichfield's furniture showrooms: Midland Counties District Bank 1903 and York chambers 1901 two Arts & Crafts style buildings by architects Gorman & Ross.

The church of St Laurence is Long Eaton's oldest building. Originally a chapel to the parish of Sawley it was constituted a parish church in its own right in 1864. To accommodate an expanding congregation building work commenced in 1868 to increase its capacity, the plans being drawn up by George Edward Street. The existing chancel and nave were taken down, leaving only the 14th century tower and spire. A new nave, chancel and north aisle were built and the original nave and chancel were rebuilt as the south aisle and Lady Chapel. Most of the original fenestration of the early building was retained as was the Norman south doorway, a new porch being added. Keith had arranged for the church to be open to allow us to view the interior which includes the carved and gilded High Alter with cross and six candlesticks, the work of Bowman of Stanford: The Chancel roof

Long Eaton Library



elaborately decorated by Wystan Widdows of Derby: The Hanging Rood dedicated in 1947 is a thank-offering for the preservation of the town, parish and church from the perils of the Second World War. The Churchyard Burial Ground opened in 1839 quickly filled and was closed in 1888. It was re-ordered in 1951 in co-operation with the Town Council and made into an amenity area. Outside the entrance to the Churchyard in Market Place is the War Memorial. Designed by Sir Ninian Comper to resemble a medieval cross and built of Clipsham limestone. It was erected in 1922 by public subscription, initially to commemorate the men killed during the First World War. It now also includes those from subsequent conflicts.

Proceeding towards High Street we looked at building frontages including Nat West Bank 1903 by John Sheldon for Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Bank: Halifax Bank 1899 by F. Watson for Samuel Smith & Co Nottingham Bank: Therm House 1938 built in a modernist style to plans of Long Eaton architects Dodd & Wilcox for Long Eaton Gas Company: HSBC 1888-91 by A.N. Bromley for Nottingham Joint Stock Bank: High Street Mills, the earliest lace factory built in 1857.

We passed Co-op New Central 1900 with clock tower by Ernest Ridgeway: Co-op Emporium 1934 steel framed, limestone clad Modernist style building by CWS architect's department: Long Eaton Library, one of the towns gems, Arts & Crafts style by Gorman & Ross, inside is a superb west-facing stained glass window by Stoddart of Nottingham.

Arriving at the Cemetery we viewed the Chapel 1891 by Nottingham architect William Knight. Keith then phoned a friend, who arrived accompanied with his Alsatian guard-dog and escorted us around the grounds of Trent College. The main building of 1866 designed by architect Mr Peck built in red brick in castellated Tudor Style. We were allowed inside to view the Chapel added 1874 by Robinson of Derby.

Finally, we viewed houses on Derby Road No. 170 Red Court 1910 by Long Eaton architect Osbourne Moorhouse Thorp. Built in a 'Y' shape for a lace manufacturer we were admitted into the garden by the owner, another of Keith's friends: No.s 158 & 150 Arts & Crafts style houses 1903 by Gorman & Ross.

To round off an interesting evening Keith provided refreshments at his own house.

*Chris Shelton*

## Derby St Werburgh's

The Society (about thirty of us) visited St Werburgh's church in Derby on the evening of 8.7.15. It had been declared redundant as a parish church in 1990 & the older part of it was vested with the predecessor of what has now become the Churches' Conservation Trust. One of our members, Pat Haldenby, some years ago took the initiative in arranging for this part of the church to be opened regularly in summer months on Saturday mornings from 1030. Its dedication speaks of its ancient foundation but otherwise every first impression of the church is mistaken. It does not look too interesting (one of the misconceptions) and it looks like a typical much restored English Medieval church (another mistake).

As you approach from the south along the Wardwick (the name indicates that this is an old street) you pass by the Wardwick





Tavern on which is marked the level of a flood of 1842 and this gives a clue to the most important factor in the church's history in recent centuries: its proximity to the Markeaton Brook which in this part of Derby is completely invisible, it's culverted course indicated only by the sinuous lines of Bold Lane, the Strand, Victoria St & Albert St. The Brook was prone to flooding and the church recurrently suffered damage. So much rebuilding took place that its medieval lay-out is unknown. As you reach the junction with Cheapside (again an old name referring to a market) you see the impressive west end of the church with a tower that looks vaguely mediaeval to its right and a slightly unusual projection, also to the right. By now, though you have not yet realised it, you are completely disorientated and it's best to concentrate on this projection which is actually a chancel pretty well where you might traditionally expect to find it, that is towards the east

On the edge of the church yard to the right (east of the chancel) is a small block of undistinguished Georgian brick houses. There is an old ingress to the block from Cheapside. The block includes a pub so this ensemble together with the church gives some indication in the radically altered

present day scene of what might have been a not unusual topography in our old towns: a market place at a road junction by an old church near a bridge that crosses a brook and with buildings sneaking into the edge of the churchyard. Just beyond these houses at the junction of the Strand with Sadler Gate there is a cast iron street sign saying "Sadler Gate Bridge". There is no sign of any bridge now but this indicates that from Cheapside you would cross the Markeaton Brook to Sadler Gate, another old street that continued eastwards to Iron Gate. Also leading from the far side of the bridge is "George Yard", an inconspicuous back lane that loops and joins Sadler Gate again, but which, it might be conjectured, once continued towards All Saints Church (now Cathedral) and (the vanished) St Alkmund's church (Derby had an impressive set of preconquest dedications to native saints). This therefore might once have provided a more direct route to the Medieval Derwent Bridge (where the Bridge Chapel survives).

The tower was built in 1601-08 supposedly to replace a damaged predecessor. Whether it stands in the same place as the old tower is not known. It is puzzling though: this was a time when there was little church building going on and it



*Robert Bakewell's Font Cover at St. Werburgh's*

seems strange that at such a time investment should be made in a quite substantial, old-fashioned structure in an area that had proven pretty inimical to churches (the churchyard still always seems damp). The lower courses of the tower (where they are visible) look as if they have survived free from subsidence and moreover seem to continue under the southern and eastern walls of the 1699 chancel. It would seem possible (to me) that these foundations are actually medieval survivals that have been re-used. To the chancel a north aisle was added in 1850 in a sympathetic style and it looks as if a window of 1699 was salvaged from the north wall of the chancel as it was being demolished and inserted into the new north wall.

Those parts described above comprise the vestment to the CCT and are the only parts usually opened for the public. Inside there is a lot packed into a small area, monuments having been brought here from other parts of the church: the CCT's leaflet (excellent as usual) gives a good job of describing what there is to see. St Werburgh is well-known for two things: Samuel Johnson married here in 1735; and the celebrated ironsmith Robert Bakewell was engaged to make a font cover (1716) and that is still here. The screen to the former vestry includes handsome wooden roundels thought to be German of the early eighteenth century. There are numbers of small wall monuments including one to Gervase Sleigh (1626) surviving from the earlier church. There is a reredos of 1708 and a handsome coat of Arms of Queen Anne. And a monument by Chantrey of 1832. Among the war memorials is one to a field ambulance: the large number of soldiers commemorated there is a reminder of how dangerous was WWI even to those not considered combatants. The Derbyshire Family History Society has collated information about churches memorials.

The number of parishioners increased apace in the nineteenth century as Derby's industries expanded. The parish lay on both

sides of Brook. Between the Wardwick nearby and the Strand the museum was opened in 1879 and the Art Gallery in 1882.

From the edge of the churchyard by Bold Lane (the site where you would really choose to get the best view is occupied by a brick electrical substation) it can be seen that the older parts of the church are dominated by the much larger church of 1892-4 designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield. This re-orientated the main body of the church from east-west to north-south ensuring (if that is one of the considerations) that it was a little further away from the Brook. It should be said, though, that the old church is actually aligned with Cheapside so the descriptions that I have given of conventional orientation are not in reality geographically accurate. Outside the (apparent) east window of the Victorian church is an easily overlooked wrought iron screen of the eighteenth century made by Benjamin or William Yates. Also nearby (it is thought) is the pit (not grave) in which Jeremiah Brandreth and two other Pentrich Revolutionaries (or Martyrs) were buried after their execution in 1817 following a carefully managed trial.

Pat Haldenby had arranged in addition for Blomfield's church to be opened for us. After closing as a church it reopened as a shopping arcade venture that did not do well as the retail centre of gravity of Derby moved eastwards. After closing as a shopping arcade Blomfield's church was for a number of years a Chinese restaurant-now also closed but the fittings of the restaurant are still apparent. Built in a fifteenth century style, there is much stained glass by Kempe and associates (some can now be seen in Turnditch church) and other decoration. The details of the aumbry, piscina and sedilia are nicely cut.

All the parts of this church are of interest.

*John Morrissey*

## **'The Eco House', Allan Joyce**

### **9th October**

Allan Joyce, an architect in practice in Nottingham, gave an amusing account of the development & many unusual features of his house in Southwell. His interest in architecture perhaps derive from holiday work on a building site. He was paid £120 a week, but received only £7.50 weekly when 'articled' in the office of an architect. This was increased to just £10 when he queried this, & went on to study architecture at Nottingham University, subsequently starting his own practice.

Looking to house an increasing family, he found a promising site in Southwell, the walled garden of a Georgian house, derelict, but listed, along with the walls. The house was later converted into 8 flats, but an initial planning application for a bungalow in the garden had been refused. He proposed instead a three storey house, starting 7 metres below ground level, behind the existing walls. It would be almost invisible from the road, & in due course this was accepted. Indeed it was effectively 'upside down', with the bedrooms at the bottom, but on the glazed garden side the access corridor at the front was open to the roof. The rooms above were in effect balconies overlooking the garden, & ventilated by the rising warm air. The site sloped, with the first floor at ground level on one side, & entered there. The five children quarrelled bitterly over seats in the car, but accepted without question their rooms in the new house. The roof was coloured green on the plans to 'reassure' the authorities, & indeed where not glazed, is grassed, providing good insulation. It is otherwise heavily insulated all round, with a 'mechanical ventilation heat recovery' system, circulating air over a heat exchanger, costing just £5 a year. It is airtight, & the windows are not opened in the winter, when the temperature is 30 degrees on Christmas Day, although backed up by a wood burning

stove. There are no windows on the E & N sides, giving an element of surprise. The base is lined to anchor to the clay soil & stop expansion with moisture. Pilkington K glass limits heat loss, with argon in the cavity. Rain water is harvested for use in the closets & car washing.

Building took two years, and awkward shaped concrete frames were a particular problem, otherwise used recycled brick & stone. The beds use scaffold plates, & there is a solar hot water system, supplying low energy appliances.

He then outlined other projects, including 'The Flower Pod', a social centre for adults with learning difficulties. There is a garden for them to work in, & meeting rooms. This is supported by Reach, a local charity in which his wife Anna, a garden designer, is heavily involved. That & their own house, along with two other houses in Southwell designed by his practice with Eco features, would be open on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October as part of 'Green 4 day', and at least 9 DAS members attended.

*Malcolm Busfield*

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## **LOCAL HISTORY SECTION**

### **Launde Abbey**

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July we visited Launde Abbey in east Leicestershire. The warden, the Reverend Alison Christian, began our tour at the front of the house and gave us a talk about the history of the site. Launde Abbey was never an abbey but a priory built in 1125 by Augustinian canons, sponsored by Richard Bassett. The Priory of St John the Baptist was built in a glade or "launde" in Lyfield Forest and continued for the next four centuries, the canons extending their lands until the Dissolution of the monasteries.

When Thomas Cromwell came to examine the accounts of the priory in 1539, he liked its pleasant situation so much that he decided to buy Launde for himself and after the priory was destroyed the building of his new house began on the priory site in 1540. But in the same year Thomas Cromwell was executed and the house became the home of his son, Gregory, who had married Elizabeth Seymour, sister of Jane Seymour, third wife of Henry VIII. The house continued in the ownership of the Cromwell family until 1603 and was then owned by a succession of families and alterations to the building were made particularly in the nineteenth century by Thomas Rackman who built extensions at the back of the house. After more changes of ownership in 1957 Cecil Rawlins generously gave the house and land to the Diocese of Leicester for use as a retreat house and conference centre and this has continued to the present day.

We were shown several rooms on the ground floor including the library where continental seventeenth century panelling dated 1663 and 1676 had been added by Thomas Rackman in the nineteenth century, the fireplace has a date 1689. The main staircase to the first floor has a beautiful early eighteenth century handrail. The chapel, attached to the north side of the house, was originally an antechapel on the south aisle of the priory church. The warden had earlier pointed out to us outside the house, the extensive area that the large church would have covered. On the north east wall of the chapel is the memorial to Gregory Cromwell who died in 1551. There is some medieval glass in all the windows including three large figures in the east window of the Archangel Gabriel, St John the Baptist and St Catherine holding a wheel.

The visit ended in a room, now the gallery, but formerly the kitchen, with a huge sixteenth century stone fireplace, and here very welcome tea and cakes were served.

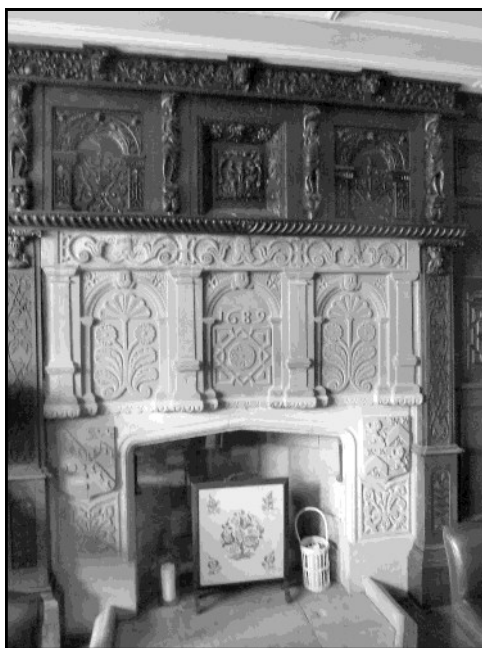
*Joan Davies*

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### **Living in Derby in the 1950s, Paul Sturges 16th October**

Paul Sturges entertained his audience with an excellent 'down memory lane experience'. He combined selected photographs and his recollections of his upbringing in Derby with an analysis of a detailed statistical survey of Derby carried out in 1953 by the Reader's Digest. This survey involving 1,200 full length interviews and 1,800 shorter ones was remarkably detailed but now little known.

In the 1950s Derby's population was c 140,000 (200,000 with the suburbs). Then 20% were children under 14 and 10% over 65. The populace possessed a wide range of skills and made things. Unemployment was less than 1% and the town was characterised



*Bedhead used as overmantle*

by a diversity of manufacturing from aero engines to lawn mowers to textiles. It was also a town where goods were bought and sold mostly in small shops and markets but not in supermarkets.

Paul Sturges elaborated a range of themes from the survey. In the 1950s there were few cars and journeys to town and work were made by bus (notably trolley bus) and bicycle. At the time some 73% claimed to be Church of England although only 13% attended weekly. Derby then had 236 licensed premises and some 70% of men socialised therein to enjoy beer and spirits. It was sherry and port for the ladies but wine and eating out featured little in people's lives. About 60% of children left school at 14 to enter the world of work and just 4% went into further and higher education though evening classes were frequently attended. For entertainment and news the radio, papers and magazines were important as was the cinema to which 30% of people went once a week but even so 29% had access to television. The town library was well used loaning a million books a year but mostly fiction. Sport, especially football, was important to many men and 46% of households did the football pools.

Paul Sturges argued the 1950s to be a distinctive decade perhaps colourless in some ways relative to the changes of the 1960s. The Reader's Digest survey sought to present Derby as representative of Britain as a whole. To the writer of this report, then in education in a town some 100 miles south of Derby, it succeeded in many ways as much was very familiar. Was that my Dad's trilby that man was wearing?

*Roger Dalton*

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### **Boarding Schools for Girls in Victorian Derbyshire. 20<sup>th</sup> November**

When Liz Keeley was researching her family history she discovered a letter written in 1860 by an ancestor, Mary Addison, which

seemed to have been written to her parents from a girls' boarding school. This letter inspired her to find out more. What were boarding schools like at this time? The lecture this evening outlined her research.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century there was no state education for either boys or girls. Landowners or wealthy mill owners sometimes set up schools for their workers, boys from wealthy families were educated at Public Schools and girls from wealthy families would be taught by a governess at home. Using Directories Liz discovered that there were many boarding schools for girls throughout Derbyshire, and she was able to identify some of the houses that had once been schools. The usually unqualified teachers of these schools might have set up a school to supplement a meagre income. Girls would be sent to such schools, perhaps because their mother had died as mortality in childbirth was high or perhaps parents were working abroad. There were also social reasons, girls might meet other families through their friends; useful later for marriage opportunities. Most boarding schools were quite small; we were shown a postcard of nine children at a school in Buxton, their ages ranging from about six to twelve which she said was fairly typical. There would usually only be one schoolroom for all ages, so the younger ones might be learning to read in one corner and the older ones in different parts of the room learning different subjects. The fees that the parents paid would have to cover the cost of servants for cleaning, cooking and laundry. Liz thought that because of restrictions of space girls might have shared beds. Some subjects were not taught to girls; it was thought that learning Latin or Greek or advanced Mathematics might cause physical damage and affect their ability to have children later. So girls were taught accomplishments such as needlework, singing, dancing, music and a modern language.

The Schools Inquiries Commission of 1867 revealed the inferior education of middle class girls. Too much time was spent on piano lessons and needlework. Hardly any Greek, Latin or Mathematics were taught and Physical Education was neglected. Dorothea Beale took over Cheltenham Ladies College and turned it into a high class Girls Boarding School and Frances Buss began The London Collegiate School to meet the problem of lack of education for middle class girls. Other schools followed; locally Derby High School for Girls was founded in 1892. Public examinations were opened up to girls and eventually girls were admitted to universities.

*Joan Davies*

## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

### I.A. Coach Tour to Jodrell Bank and Marple 5th July

This year's tour was to Cheshire, starting with the Jodrell Bank radio telescope, constructed in the 1950s and now a Grade 1 listed building. We were given an excellent introductory talk by a very enthusiastic

young woman – an astronomy PhD student. This covered the precarious early years of the project, when the construction of the pioneering steerable radio telescope almost bankrupted the University of Manchester, until its use for tracking Russian space probes during the Cold War attracted government funding.

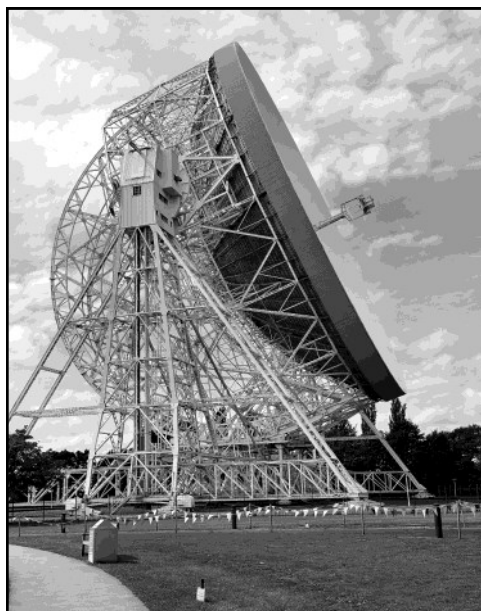
This brought back some personal memories for myself – I remember going on a school trip there in 1966 when we were shown the grainy photographs transmitted from the Moon by the first Russian space probe to land there, and intercepted at Jodrell Bank before they were publically announced in Moscow.

The original Mark 1 telescope remains in full working order, including the parts constructed from World War 2 battleship gun turrets, and the circular railway track on which we saw it rotating.

Our second destination was Marple to view progress on a £1.5 million Heritage Lottery funded project “Revealing Oldknow’s Legacy”. Our plans went slightly



*Wheelpit at Mellor Mill*



*Jodrell Bank*

away when it turned out that our bus was too large to negotiate a narrow bridge over the River Goyt (formerly the country boundary between Cheshire and Derbyshire), and we had to walk the final mile to our lunch location at the Roman Lakes Café. Here we were met by our host Bob Humphrey-Taylor, the project's Mill Site Director, impressively dressed in 18<sup>th</sup> Century costume as Samuel Oldknow, a major local entrepreneur of the early industrial revolution who established a very large Arkwright-style cotton mill on the Derbyshire side of the river.

After refreshments and an introductory talk, Bob led us on a walk following the course of the water abstracted from the River Goyt, through two impressive mill ponds that became known as the Roman Lakes when the area was developed for leisure and recreation after the Mill burned down in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The walk ended at the site of the mill itself, now undergoing a very large scale excavation – Bob is very proud that he persuaded the Heritage Lottery Fund to let him spend some of their money on the project's own digger for use throughout the 3 year project. We were witness to some live archaeology as a (very eminent) industrial archaeologist emerged from the depths of a flywheel pit with a lump of oily metal which he confidently declared to be part of the valve gear for a steam engine that was installed to supplement water power in a later phase of the mill's development.

Fortunately the walk ended close to where our coach had parked, because we got back on board just in time to avoid a very heavy thunderstorm. However the adverse weather and our late running due to the problem with coach access meant we had to miss our final objective for the day, the flight of locks and aqueduct on the Peak Forest Canal – one for another day.

*Ian Mitchell*

## **Factory Visit to Artistic Upholstery in Long Eaton 12th. August**

Many of the former lace factories in Long Eaton are now used by firms in the furniture business and the town is now being promoted with a new logo as the "UK Centre of Quality Upholstery Manufacture". There are over 50 companies in furniture manufacture and allied industries, employing 2,700 people.

One of longest established businesses is Artistic Upholstery, based in Bridge Mills by the Erewash Canal, and the I.A. section had a fascinating visit to see inside the factory, hosted by Andrew Mitchell whose family firm this is. The visit started with a chance to sit in a range of luxurious sofas and chairs in the crowded showroom while Andrew spoke about the history of the industry and his personal experiences from the first day of his career onwards. Artistic Upholstery produce the highest quality furniture, so much of their output goes to five star hotels and country houses, and he had many amusing anecdotes of adventures when delivering products all around the world, and eccentric requirements from wealthy customers and top designers.

Andrew then led us on a tour around the factory which is in two connected single story buildings. The first part was originally the woodworking shops for the Long Eaton builders F.Perks & Son, with an interesting



*Andrew Mitchell guiding members around the  
factory*

floor made of wooden “bricks”; the second part was a lace factory, part of the Bridge Mills complex constructed in 1902. It is a large space for the number of staff – only 18 people – but a lot of space is taken up with storage of materials and finished products. Each chair or sofa is hand built from start to finish by one worker, and the workmanship visible in the pieces under construction was most impressive. The top quality materials include beech wood for the frames, traditional horsehair stuffing, locally manufactured springs, and a wide range of leather and fabric coverings.

An unusual capability of the firm is that they use a rope walk and narrow fabric hand looms to produce all their own fringes, tassels and tie backs – these are also sold in their own right, one recent customer has been the Albert Hall.

We are very grateful to Andrew Mitchell for allowing the visit; it was a fascinating evening, a rare chance to see behind the scenes in a traditional industry that is continuing to thrive in the modern world. We came away hoping that upholstery will prove to be a more permanent source of prosperity for Long Eaton than the lace industry turned out to be.

*Ian Mitchell*

## EMIAC 89 – Swannington

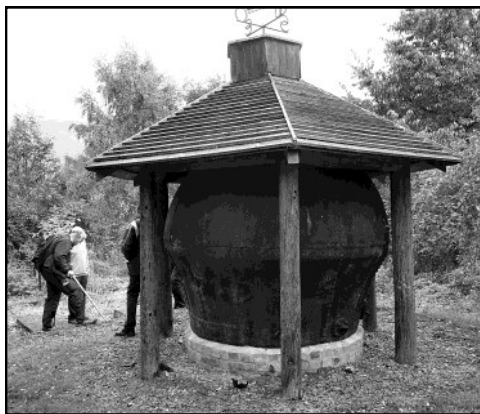
The autumn 2015 East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference was organised by the Leicestershire Industrial History Society (LIHS) at Swannington on 10 October. The theme was “New Sights at Old Sites” – there have been previous EMIACs in the area, but as a result of the very active Swannington Heritage Trust there was a lot to see on a return visit.

The morning session was four talks, covering the excavations at the Califat Colliery site, restoration work at Hough windmill, and the history and remains of the Leicester & Swannington and Coleorton

railways. Swannington Village Hall was an excellent venue, and the usual refreshments, bookstalls and displays were provided.

In the afternoon, there was the option to walk or to drive to Hough Mill and Califat Colliery. The restoration work at Hough Mill is most impressive. Starting from an empty shell 20 years ago a dedicated team is steadily working towards getting the mill back into full working order, with all the machinery built from scratch. The latest achievements are the construction and installation of the brake wheel and wallower under the cap at the top of the mill. At Califat colliery the 19<sup>th</sup> Century engine house foundations brickwork unearthed by the excavations has been consolidated, and investigation of a mysterious network of tunnels (possibly flues) is under way. A 18<sup>th</sup> century haystack boiler that was found on the site in the 1960s and stored for many years at the now closed Snibston museum has been returned to the site and protected with a roof.

After the main conference, there was an opportunity for a follow-on visit to view the interior of Glenfield Tunnel towards the Leicester end of the Leicester and Swannington Railway. LIHS have recently gained permission to take groups of people 400 yards into the tunnel, and this is



Haystack boiler at Califat colliery



proving to be very popular at Heritage Open Days and stimulating interest in the industrial history of the area.

The next EMIAC will be on 14 May 2016, organised by the Railway and Canal Historical Society on the subject of the Ashby Canal, at the National Forest Waterside Visitors Centre near Moira in Leicestershire. A booking form is provided at the back of this newsletter.

*Ian Mitchell*

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### **The Bass Railway Trips 1865-1914**

The I.A. Section talk on 23 October 2015 was given by Rod Pearson, describing the one-day railway excursions organised by the Bass brewery company for its workforce in Burton-on-Trent. These were enormous undertakings – the first trip in 1865 was ambitious enough with 1000 passengers in 2 trains, but by 1900 there were 11,241 passengers in no less than 17 trains, departing from Burton at 10 minute intervals from 4.00 am onwards.

Each year the trains ran to a different destination – in the later years there was a regular four year cycle alternating between Blackpool, Scarborough, Great Yarmouth and Liverpool. The timetable gave plenty of time at the destination, at least 12 hours, and Bass arranged for some of the entertainment options at the resort (e.g. donkey rides) to be available free to participants.

The mastermind behind this was the company's Traffic Manager, William Walters. He was responsible for liaising with the railway companies for the huge volume of incoming and outgoing goods that Bass sent by rail all over the country, so he was in an ideal position to negotiate a good deal for the excursion trains. The trips were always on a Friday, presumably a day on which the railways could make available the locomotives and rolling stock they used for public excursions at the weekend. Every year Walters would produce an "Excursion

Booklet" for the participants; this included details of what to see and do at the destination as well as the timetables and rules to be obeyed.

The last excursion was in 1914; the First World War seems to have been a good excuse for the Directors to save some money, and Walters retired in 1915. In their heyday, the company regarded the excursions as valuable source of publicity as well as an employee benefit. The trains were prominently labelled with the Bass triangle trademark logo and the excursions were reported in local and national newspapers.

The talk was well illustrated with photographs of the workers flocking off the trains dressed in their Sunday best clothes, and Rod's lively presentation even included a poetry recitation extolling the virtues of the Bass company's product.

*Ian Mitchell*

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## **OBITUARIES**

### **Barbara Hutton 1920-2015**

I first met Barbara in 1987 when she came to record our house. Until then the house had been difficult to date with any certainty but Barbara's method which included accurate floor plans and measuring the thickness of internal walls made the history of the house much clearer. I and other members of the Archaeological Society went on to help her measure and record many more buildings of historical interest.

Barbara had moved to Derby from York in 1986 where she had been a founder member of The Yorkshire Vernacular Building Study Group and recorded many buildings in the County. Together with Barry Harrison she wrote "Vernacular Houses in North Yorkshire and Cleveland" published in 1984. She was also an active

member of the national Vernacular History Group and was the Editor of its Journal in the 1970s and was elected its president for a year in the late 1980s.

She became a member of Derbyshire Archaeological Society and joined the committee of the Architectural Section and later became a member of the Council. She set up The Derby Buildings Record to record houses of historic interest in and around Derby and more than three hundred houses were surveyed and interpreted. Her book "Historic Farmhouses around Derby" was published in 1991. She also wrote in 1994 "Houses and Everyday Life in Weston on Trent" and contributed articles to "Miscellany" and the DAJ. More recently, she recorded a number of houses in Staunton Harold and she and Irene Brightmer wrote the book "Staunton Harold: Houses and People in a Leicestershire Parish." published in 2012.

Barbara will be remembered for her expert knowledge of vernacular buildings and her limitless energy and enthusiasm in continuing to record houses almost to the end of her long life.

*Joan Davies*

### **"Documentation"**

The true archaeologist  
Can interpret a loomweight as a lifestyle  
And let the Bronze Age breathe. We  
Endeavour to illustrate writings.

The will of Elizabeth Brasbridge, widow,  
Made this day, leaves her soul to God  
Sent Marie and the blessed company of heaven  
Her body to be decently brought home  
In the church of Sent Ellen. Three shillings  
And fourpence for a pound of wax for tapers  
And torches to burn about her body  
Where they keep watch in the cold and darkness  
The flags striking chill into their bones.

The will of Elizabeth Brasbridge  
Made this day  
Clothes her friends in the best of her no longer  
needed garments.,  
Her servants in the worse,

And her small clothes at their discretion.  
A lamb to every of her godchildren ...  
While in the parlour stands the bedstead, the  
bolster,  
Two coverlets and three pair of harden sheets -  
The flaxen sheets are in the wash.  
Invisible behind the bed hillings  
The cat has nested her kindle in the featherbed.  
On the wall  
The painted clothes shiver in the draughts  
And their stiff saints grow supple  
When the door opens.

A yoke of oxen worth four pounds  
A bay mare and her foal, two heiffers,  
Half a score of sheep, the swine and the poultry  
A hive of bees two shillings.  
But not the ubiquitous and necessary dog  
Kennelled at the foot of the granary steps  
To bark at the stranger or the cat  
And slobber over the child who tugs his ears.  
One silver spoon, the pewter and brass, the  
Ticknell ware.  
Her knife still hangs from her discarded girdle -  
A girdle is not needed for a shroud.  
A Bible perhaps, to read in the chimney corner.  
But where is her knitting, one and a half  
stockings  
from the wool of the black sheep.  
Her grand-daughter's spinning?  
Her purse and her apparel  
A true and perfect inventory -  
Appraised by Us ...

*Barbara Hutton 1996  
Farewell*

### **Kathleen M. Battye 1926 – 2015**

The Old Dronfield Society is saddened by the news that Kay Battye has died on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 just short of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Kay was our President for so many years and has made an invaluable contribution to the recording of the history of our area.

Though she never forgot her Scottish roots, she adopted the heritage of her new home when she married her Yorkshire husband, Harold, and lived in Unstone,

raising their family of five boys there. She loved Derbyshire and was a wonderful hostess, relying on her beloved Aga cooker at Siscar House.

Kay researched and taught local history studies in classes and workshops in Dronfield and Chesterfield as well as Eckington, Beighton and Norton, pioneering the use of wills and inventories, parish records and census returns. Her classes produced transcriptions, analyses and data which have become the foundation of our archive and are now lodged with the Dronfield Heritage Trust, available for future students. She wrote articles on aspects of local history for the Derbyshire Archaeological Society and The Diary of Joseph Jenkinson of Dronfield, the town's 19<sup>th</sup> century hatter, which she edited, was published by the Derbyshire Record Society as one of their occasional papers,. Most notably she wrote her history of Unstone which remains a main reference. We missed her expertise when she decided to retire to Callander in Scotland but she donated all her research to the Society.

Music was a major part of her life, singing in choirs and broadening the musical experience of her friends at the Buxton Opera Festival each year. She was a member of St. Mary's Church in Unstone and Dronfield Parish Church and is well remembered for her faithful service. **(A Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 on the 19th Feb at St. Mary's Church in Unstone - S18 4AL).**

We offer our condolences to her family and will remember her with respect and gratitude in Dronfield.

*Ann Brown*

## DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY Vol 20, Part 6, Autumn 2015

- *William Barton - Rowland's very own highwayman* by Ann Hall

- *The New Mills Torrs Hydro and Torr Mill* by Derek Brumhead
- *The Ordnance Depot, Derby and its later owners 1805-1966: Part 3: Ambrose Moore (1788-1873)*
- *and the Wilson family* by Jane Steer
- *John Porter, citizen and merchant tailor of London* by Miriam Wood

During research into old roads around Hassop for the Bakewell Crosses project, Ann Hall came across a very surprising report of highway robbery on the road between Ashford and Calver. There were three incidents in two days which, according to newspaper reports, were carried out by William Barton of Rowland. Ann's research gradually unfolded to give a picture of a young man, apparently of good character, who may have been seeking revenge on the Earl of Newburgh. His rather incompetent attacks on travellers, his subsequent court case and deportation to Australia are related in *William Barton - Rowland's very own highwayman*.

Derek Brumhead describes the working hydro electric power scheme which has been built in the Torrs gorge in *The New Mills Torrs Hydro and Torr Mill*. It has been installed on the site of Torr Mill, a former cotton spinning mill, re-using the 18<sup>th</sup>C water power site. Early features of the 1790s mill found during excavations are being preserved for display in the Heritage Centre. Maps show the position of the 1790s and 1840s mills as well as the footbridge which was moved to make room for the enlarged mill. Interestingly the scheme was partly funded through a £500 share offer taken up by around 200 mainly local people and businesses.

Two articles in earlier editions of *Derbyshire Miscellany* relate how Ambrose Moore bought the Derby Ordnance Depot c1823 for use as a silk mill which he owned until c1884 (Autumn 2014) and that he was not only a prominent silk manufacturer but a prominent businessman in the City of

London (Spring 2015). Not much is known about Ambrose's Moore family but his mother, Ann Wilson, came from the large, long established farming family of Wilsons based in Stenson and Twyford in South Derbyshire whose younger sons were found apprenticeships. Part 3 of these articles, *Ambrose Moore (1788-1873) and the Wilson family* by Jane Steer, shows that, from the late 18th century, the silk industry made some members of the Wilson family very wealthy.

Some descendants bought country estates and others became well known scientific academics, an Admiral and a Lord Mayor of the City of London. Two of them used their wealth to '*promote the causes of God*'. One, a member of the Church of England, founded the Wilson clerical dynasty and purchased the advowsons of churches, the other supported the Dissenters and founded the Congregational church in Derbyshire. A later philanthropist Wilson also supported the Congregational church and many other charitable organisations and one became the Bishop of Calcutta. On the other hand, Ambrose's neice, Elizabeth Hickson, became a national sensation in the press when she eloped with Thomas Buxton who also lived in Stenson. The law in one of the several court cases resulting from this elopement, *Shaw v Gould*, is still discussed in law books today.

Miriam Wood's research into the history of the Holden family of Aston Hall and the beginnings of the modern Aston estate in the mid-17th century, revealed a number of references to the name Porter. These occurred in the Holden family's archives between 1654 and 1664 in papers relating to the affairs of Robert Holden and his sons.

Robert was the founder of the Aston estate, buying Aston Hall in 1648, almost certainly from the proceeds of cattle trading. His business (and more personal matters, too) seems to have brought him contacts in London, one of whom was '*cousin*' John Porter. In *John Porter, citizen and merchant tailor of London*, Miriam reveals that Porter was not

only a merchant who sold cloth to the Holdens but was also wealthy enough to act as a private banker to the family, almost certainly to Robert Holden.

Jane Steer

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Articles for inclusion in *Derbyshire Miscellany* should be sent to Dr Dudley Fowkes, 11 Sidings Way, Westhouses, Alfreton, DE55 5AS

If you don't subscribe to *Miscellany*, copies of this issue are available from Dudley Fowkes (£4.25 incl. p&p). Alternatively an annual subscription to *Derbyshire Miscellany*, which is published twice a year, is £6.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE AND THE HIGHLAND ARMY IN DERBY by Brian Stone, Scarthin Books 2015, ISBN 9781900446167 207p b&w and coloured illustrations. £12.95

This is a welcome addition to the Bonnie Prince bookshelf concentrating, as it largely does, on the events in Derby that led to the Highland Army's retreat and to one of the great "what ifs" of British history. Extensively researched and with some new unpublished (and colourful) material from eye witnesses, Mr Stone explores the perceived bias of Major Eardley-Simpson's famous 1933 account of "Derby and the '45" given that the Major was himself a fervent Jacobite and tests the veracity of the role of the spy Dudley Bradstreet in the decision to turn back. The background to the 1745 rising is usefully explained, the manoeuvres of the government and its army described and the details of the march down and the return up recounted.

All in all an enjoyable, interesting and erudite book and if you are not tempted to shed even a little tear for the charismatic Prince at the end I'd be surprised.

Barbara Foster

And a footnote from Swarkestone Parish Records (DRO)

Feb 26 1745/6 Duncan son of Alexander and Sarah Mackenzie baptised.

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A HISTORY OF DERBY SCHOOL CADET CORPS by Andrew Polkey, Partisan Press 2015, ISBN 978-85818,124p, b&w illustrations. Available from [www.olderbeians.org](http://www.olderbeians.org) £12.50 + £2 p&xp

This book, by one of our members, documents the life and times of the Derby School Cadet Corps from its beginnings in 1861 in the wake of Crimean War when the British Army had been deemed “deficient” to its end in 1973 with the advent of comprehensive schools. It is an interesting story well told, from the early days when Public Schools and Universities were encouraged to form their own Volunteer Corps so that, in the event of war, “they did not have to learn at 30 what they should have learnt at 13”. Initially they were tricked out with “Garibaldi jackets and white flannel trousers” (!?) and armed with short muskets: by the end they were dressed in khaki or RAF blue and possessed of a trunk full of Bren guns. In between they marched and drilled on Parker’s Piece, camped out and took part in exercises all over the country and even had their own band. Their alumni served with distinction as officers in the two world wars and close links with the military were always maintained.

Indeed, the story is much intertwined with a century and more of “goings on” in the military and the educational world and there is much to entertain and interest the reader beyond the reminiscences of the mayhem and mishaps on night exercises with “thunderflashes”.

*Barbara Foster*

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THE BUTTERLEY GANGROAD (or CHRICH RAILWAY – the collected research material, documents and illustrations from the Butterley Gangroad Project (2013-2015)

*Compiled by Trevor Griffin, Dave Bunting and other members of the Butterley Gangroad team. Derbyshire Archaeological Society 2015, ISBN 978-1-32-043860-5, hardback 354 pages at 26x21cm; price £25.19; available from [www.blurb.co.uk/bookstore](http://www.blurb.co.uk/bookstore).*

The book is the final outcome of the very successful Heritage Lottery funded community archaeology project run under the society’s auspices from 2013-2015. The project researched and interpreted the history and archaeology of the very early railway built in 1793 to link the Butterley Company’s limestone quarries at Crich to the Cromford Canal. The progress of the project has been described in previous DAS Newsletters and was the subject of an EMIAC conference in May 2015.

The original aim of the project was to make the results available on a web site, but as a result of an underspend on the budget it was also possible to put together a compendium of information in the form of a hardback book and provide 50 copies to libraries and schools. By using “print on demand” technology, the book is now available for public purchase at no extra cost to the project – you can order and pay for a copy on line and it will be printed and posted to you.

With this genesis, it is an unusual book, more akin to the proceedings of a conference or a project archive than a single text. Some of the content is previously published papers that have appeared in DAJ and the proceedings of the Early Railways Conference, but there are also reproductions and abstracts of original material, detailed project papers analysing specific topics that were researched, and transcripts of oral history recordings. There are many illustrations, mostly in colour,

including historical and present day photographs, reproductions of original maps and new ones specially drawn to illustrate the complicated sequence of changes during the life of the railway.

This isn't a book to read from cover to cover, but dipping into will reveal snippets of information of interest to a wide range of readers. For the railway historian, there is interesting information relating to both the early horse drawn plateway and the steam locomotives of the later 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The maps and description of the routing and rerouting of the railway will be of great value those exploring the area. Family historians may find gems of information in the lists of workers names and oral history recollections. The wider business context is covered with information on how the quarries were worked and the transhipment to the canal and standard gauge railway at Bullbridge.

If you don't have the shelf space or the budget to buy the book, do have a look at a library copy (it's in the DAS library and DCC library service have several copies) – as well as the interest in the topic it really is a new affordable model for how to disseminate information in a traditional format using new technology.

*Ian Mitchell*

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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 ADVERTS

### Help Wanted

Morley Park Blast Furnaces – can you help get a ladder to the site?

Since the 1980s, the DAS has been the custodian of two stone built blast furnaces that are the only surviving remains of one of the pioneering coke fired ironworks of the industrial revolution in Derbyshire, established by the Hurt family in 1780. The furnaces were conserved when the surrounding land was returned to agriculture following opencast coal extraction, and since then members of the Industrial Archaeology Section have visited the site annually to pick litter, repair fences and prevent weeds for gaining roothold on the structures.

One of the essential tools for these visits is a long ladder to enable us to spray weedkiller onto the upper parts of the furnaces. For many years Keith Reedman has been able to provide a suitable ladder, and equally importantly a car with a roof-rack large enough to carry the ladder to the site. When Keith bought a smaller car, we were lucky that he kept his old large one for tasks such as this, but by 2015 the outing to Morley Park was the only time it got used, and so not surprisingly he has disposed of it.

So to enable us to undertake our annual spring clean in 2016, we are appealing for a DAS member with a suitable car or van to come to the rescue. Transport of the ladder is the main problem we have but an extra pair of (possibly younger?) hands to help with the general tidy up would also be very welcome.

A date for the Spring 2016 working party will be fixed at the IA Section committee meeting in January. If you think you can help please contact Ian Mitchell on

0115 972 9029,

[Ian.Mitchell@newgramit.plus.com](mailto:Ian.Mitchell@newgramit.plus.com)

or at an IA Section talk

## **Our City - Our River**

### **Community Archaeology Volunteering Opportunity**

**Interested in Archaeology and History?**

**Want to Learn More about Roman  
Derby?**

**Want to get Hands-on with Ancient  
Artefacts?**

**Then join us on our Community  
Archaeology Project!**

**Finds Processing Daily (9.30am-3.30pm)  
from February 2016**

**Excavations of Ryknield Street Roman  
Road from May 2016**

For more information and to register your  
interest, please contact:

[TPA.volunteering@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:TPA.volunteering@yorkat.co.uk)

Laura Binns (Community Archaeologist) –  
0115 896 7408

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For booking EMIAC 90

(see over)

*Morley Park Blast Furnaces*

**EMIAC 90 Booking form**  
**Ashby Canal Heritage Day 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

Please complete this form and return to the address below by 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
 Please post booking form and cheque made payable to

**RGHS East Midlands Group**

Post to **Graham Wild, RGHS EMIAC, 141 Allestree Lane, Allestree,  
 Derby, DE22 2PG**

The cost of the event is **£22 per person**.  
 Any queries please e-mail [wild141@talktalk.net](mailto:wild141@talktalk.net)

**We will e-mail you your confirmation.**

**If you do not have e-mail or would prefer to receive a written confirmation by post, then please enclose a SAE.**

A more detailed map will be included in your confirmation.

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 4 (Inc post code) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Society (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to be informed about future EMIAC events by e-mail? YES/NO** ☐

**I require display space** ☐

**Please specify the main afternoon tour you would prefer.**

1. Walk to Moira Furnace ☐ 2. Snarestone restoration site ☐

**For Snarestone visit, please delete whichever is not applicable.**

- I am willing to travel to Snarestone in my own car.
- I can offer a lift for \_\_\_\_\_ people in my car, returning to The Waterside afterwards if required.
- I would like a lift to Snarestone if it can be arranged.





## Industrial Heritage Days

Also known as East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conferences \*EMIACs), these events are held every six months and are open to anyone wishing to attend with an interest in the subject.

The first conference was held in 1970 with the idea and aim of enabling industrial archaeologists in the East Midlands to meet in different locations to consider and discuss topics of mutual interest. There is no formal organization. The affiliated societies currently are:

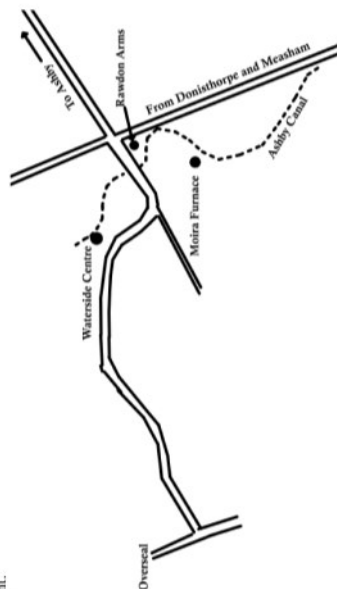
Derbyshire Archaeological Society, The East Midlands Group of the Railway and Canal Historical Society, Northampton Industrial Archaeology Group, Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, Leicestershire Industrial History Society, North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society

## Location

**The morning meeting will be at The National Forest Waterside Centre, Bath Lane, Moira, DE12 6BA.**

**By Car from the South M42** Leave the M42 at J11, on the roundabout take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit for the A444 towards Burton-on-Trent. Take the second turning on the right, signposted to Moira. A few yards after the turning, go straight across the crossroads and through the village of Donishorpe. At the next crossroads, with the Mason's Arms pub on your right, turn left onto Moira Road. Continue to the crossroads with mini roundabout and the Rawdon Arms pub on your left and turn left. Keep on this road as it makes a sharp right-hand bend. Just past the Moira Miners' Welfare Club on the left, the Waterside Centre entrance is on the right.

**By Car from the North A42** Leave the A42 at the junction 12 and take the B4116 towards Measham. At the traffic lights turn right on to the B586 towards Moira. At the crossroads with mini roundabout and Rawdon Arms pub on left, turn left. Keep on this road as it makes a sharp right-hand bend. Just past the Moira Miners' Welfare Club on the left, the Waterside Centre entrance is on the right.



## Railway and Canal Historical Society



## Industrial Heritage Day EMIAC 90

Saturday 14th May 2016  
The National Forest Waterside Visitors' Centre  
Bath Lane, Moira, DE12 6BA.



Photo: © Paul Burrows

The Ashby Canal was built between 1794 and 1804 to serve the eastern basin of the Leicestershire and Derbyshire coalfield. Originally 31 miles long, running from Ashby Wolds to the Coventry Canal at Marston Junction, it continued to serve this purpose until the 1960s, despite being taken over by the Midland Railway Company in 1845. The canal suffered decline and gradual partial closure in the 20th century but the section from Snarestone down to the Coventry Canal remained open and is still navigable today. In recent years much progress has been made in getting the canal restored north of its present terminus by the Quarry Lane Pumping station, near Snarestone. This Heritage Day will give you the chance to get up-to-date information on restoration progress as well as learn about the history of the canal and its tramroads.

## Programme

- 9.00 Set up
- 9.30 Registration
- 9.50 Welcome and introduction by Graham Wild, President of the Railway and Canal Historical Society
- 10.00 *The Ashby Canal and Tramroads*, Dr. Wendy Freer
- 10.45 Break, coffee and biscuits
- 11.15 *The Ashby Canal, decline and restoration*, Geoff Pursglove
- 12.00 EMIAC Business Meeting
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 Site visits

## Site Visits

1. Walk along the restored canal from The Waterside to Moira Furnace and early 19<sup>th</sup> century Blast Furnace, now a museum. Visit does not include entry to the museum which costs £2. An easy return walk of 2 miles along the towpath.
2. Visit to Snaresstone Wharf, (off Quarry Lane, by the old pumphouse) to see the length of canal recently restored, part of the abandoned length and what is planned for the future. This will be about a 1.5 mile easy return walk. Travel to Snaresstone is by own car but car sharing will hopefully be possible.

**Please indicate your preferred visit on the booking form.**

**If numbers are very high for the Snaresstone site we may have to stagger the visits slightly.**

## Speakers

**Wendy Freer** is a vice president of the Railway and Canal Historical Society and a well-known canal historian with a PhD from the University of Nottingham. Wendy is a very experienced speaker on canals and other aspects of industrial history. Author of *Women and Children of the Cut* and *Canal Boatmen's Missions* as well as books on other historical topics.

**Geoff Pursglove** is project manager for the Ashby Canal restoration project. Geoff's first proper canal boat holiday was in 1973 on a horse drawn boat and he has owned a canal boat since 1974. He was awarded a Masters in Industrial History at Birmingham University in 1990. He has been working on the Ashby Canal since 1990, latterly with Leicestershire County Council, to work towards the restoration from Snaresstone to Measham and ultimately to connect Moira to the national waterways network.

## Railway and Canal Historical Society

The Society was founded in 1954 to bring together all those interested in the history of transport, with particular reference to railways and waterways in Britain. Today, it aims to appeal to everyone with an interest in the history of transport — not just inland waterways and railways, but also tramroads, roads, aviation, coastal shipping, ports and pipelines — from the middle ages (or before) to the day before yesterday. Its main objects are to promote historical research and to raise the standard of published history.

## Ashby Canal Association

The Association was formed in 1966, born out of concern caused by progressive closure of the northern 8 miles of the canal due to mining subsidence. The ACA is now actively promoting the restoration of this section of the canal and its re-connection to the navigable canal. Over recent years, the Association's work-parties have significantly contributed to the voluntary effort of the restoration project.

# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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