



# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Chairman of Council	Mr C. Wardle, 9 St Hugh's Close, Darley Abbey, Derby, DE22 1FQ e-mail; chriswardle01@btinternet.com
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs J. Heginbotham, 59 Hickton Road, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derby, DE55 1AG e-mail; jane.heginbotham@btinternet.com
Hon. Secretary	Mrs S Peberdy, 147 Havenbault Lane, Littleover, Derby, DE23 4AF, Tel 01332 517762 e-mail; susanpeberdy@gmail.com
Programme Sec. & Publicity Officer	Vacant
Membership Secretary	Mr K.A. Reedman, 107 Curzon Street, Long Eaton, Derbyshire, NG10 4FH, Tel 0115 9732150 e-mail; das@reedman.org.uk
Hon. Editor (Journal)	Miss P. Beswick, 4 Chapel Row, Froggatt, Calver, Hope Valley, S32 3ZA, Tel 01433 631256 e-mail; paulinebwick@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Mr D. Bunting, 36 Priory Way, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3TJ, Tel 01773 748214 e-mail; davejbunting@btinternet.com
Librarian	Mrs A. Allcock, 217 Curzon Street, Long Eaton, Derbyshire, NG10 4FJ, Tel 0115 9726377 e-mail; anne.allcock51@gmail.com
Publications	Miscellany - Mrs S. Peberdy (address above) Journal - Mr K. Reedman (address above)

# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 88 July 2019

## The Cover Story

Recently I received a new book (The Old Roads of Derbyshire by Stephen Bailey) to review and the book included a short section on the turnpike era 1700 – 1840. Whilst reviewing the book I was reminded that it is around two hundred years since two key roads in different contrasting parts of the county were constructed and opened – the Belper to Cromford and the Sheffield to Glossop turnpikes. The seven mile stretch of the Derwent valley from Belper to Cromford was at the forefront of the expansion of the mill system but ten years after the the first mill started production there was still no valley road running north from Belper. Turnpike trusts already controlled a network of roads throughout Derbyshire and these normally followed the route of the old packhorse routes on high ground and only descended to the valley floor to cross the river.

When Farey conducted the full survey of Derbyshire in 1810 he recommended that a good road should be built along the line of the existing private carriageway, built by Arkwright, Strutt and Hurt, on the west side of the Derwent. However the Cromford to Belper turnpike road was constructed on the east side of the valley between Belper and

Whatstandwell along with a branch from Ambergate to the Cromford to Langley Mill turnpike at Bullbridge. At the junction in Ambergate, opposite the Hurt Arms public house, stood the toll house (see front cover) with a triangular arrangement of toll gates, similar to the triangular railway station that was to built later. A second toll house and gate was sited north of Whatstandwell.

At the northern end of the county around the same time Thomas Telford engineered the Sheffield to Glossop turnpike and the Sixth Duke of Devonshire contributed to the cost of constructing what at the time was the highest turnpike in England. The Duke also built the Snake Inn, later renamed as the Snake Pass Inn, and both the road and hostelry names are derived from the serpent on the Cavendish coat of arms. Unlike the Derwent Valley route this turnpike climbed through bleak moorland traversing the Pennines and now, as the A57, crosses the Pennine Way at a height of 1680 feet above sea level. There were two toll gates on the turnpike road, one at the Snake Inn and the other close to the Royal Oak coaching inn coming out of Glossop. (see page 19 for book review)

*David Bunting*

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## THE SOCIETY AGM

**26th April 2019**  
**St. Mary's Parish Hall**

The 2019 AGM was attended by 39 members, Mr Chris Wardle took the Chair.

The Minutes of AGM 2018 were approved and there were no matters arising.

The annual report for 2018 was approved and added to by the Chairman commenting on the good year the Library had had in moving from the Wardwick to the Strutts Centre in Belper which has already seen a steady flow of visitors. The Chairman also reminded us that we need to try more hands-on activities to attract younger members.

The Treasurer read the accounts which were approved.

The Officers for the Society were elected and Joan D'Arcy was re-elected as a member of Council. The new Newsletter Editor Dave Bunting was also elected to Council.

To mark his years of service it was proposed that Mr Ken Smith be made a Vice President of the society proposed by Jane Heginbotham seconded by Susan Peberdy and approved by all.

Under AOB encouragement was given to all in attendance to get their bookings in for the summer outings as the coach trips were struggling to reach the numbers needed.

We were then treated to a talk by long standing members Mike and Malise McGuire on their journey through life and archaeology especially their experiences at Vindolanda.

*Susan Peberdy*

## PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S REPORT

### Winter Programme 2018-19

The following two lectures were held at Derby University.

**11th January 2019**

**Dr Ffiona Gilmore-Eaves:**

**What the Romans did for the South of France.**

Her stunningly researched lecture that had us all spell bound as usual with the result, I am sure, that we'll be off to that region to have a look for ourselves.

**1st March 2019**

**Dr Andrew Birley:**

**A frontier in transition and conflict: the results of the recent and on-going excavations at Vindolanda.**

All I can say is - now you know why we moved north!

Amazing how well a muddy hole can be understood to have been a hive of industry. It was a pity we had so much 17-18th century pottery to get to some of it... and a few of us had to wash every sherd! (pretty stuff, quite fine china....must interest somebody).

*Malise McGuire*

Footnote:

Malise has now resigned after many years of service to the Society and we urgently need someone to take up the challenge to fill her shoes.

*Susan Peberdy*

## LIBRARY REPORT

This has been an important year for the Library. The removal from Wardwick went without a hitch but it took a few months before the Library was ready for opening. However the Library is now fully settled in the Strutts Centre in Belper and the move has proved very successful. It was opened to members in January and it has been gratifying to see a steady flow of people browsing the collection and taking out books for study and enjoyment. The geographical position of Strutts has helped considerably – it is easily reached by car with plenty of parking on site and by public transport, the bus stop being right outside. The opening hours on the second Wednesday(1.30-3.30) and the last Saturday (10-12 noon) of each month will continue for the time being and by the time you read this the Library should have had its official opening (see back cover).

The work is ongoing as we continue to add to the collection. We have been pleased to receive a generous number of books from Malcolm Burrows. In addition, at auction we were able to acquire 26 volumes of *The Reliquary*, the antiquarian journal founded and edited by Llewellyn Jewitt who was a founder member of the Society. These are of important historic interest to the Society and we hope that members will enjoy browsing through them in the Library.

I have been greatly helped by volunteers who have willingly got their hands dusty sorting books and journals and keeping the library in good order for which many thanks.

At the end of this year of upheaval for the library I'd like to thank Council members for their support and in particular to Ray Marjoram and Joan D'Arcy for their continuing help and enthusiasm.

I look forward to seeing members at the Library – the collection is there for everyone to enjoy.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries - [anne.allcock51@gmail.com](mailto:anne.allcock51@gmail.com).

*Anne Allcock*

## DISTRIBUTION OF DAS NEWSLETTER

The review of the distribution of the six monthly newsletter has been completed and for this issue the hard copy version will continue to be produced and distributed to all members.

The response from members, requesting them to consider opting to take an electronic version of the publication, was disappointing with only a handful of members prepared at this stage to make the change. For those members who did opt to make the change they will receive a PDF version of the Newsletter via email as soon as it is available. In addition selected members will be sent the Newsletter via email on a trial basis for the next few issues of the Newsletter to try and encourage more members to take up the email option. The electronic option will remain open and if any member (who has not responded previously) would like a PDF or Kindle version of the newsletter they have just received they should email the Editor and he will be pleased to email them a copy in their requested format.

The Newsletter is uploaded to the DAS website shortly after publication and the latest issue (members only by request) or any previous issue can be downloaded.

*David Bunting*

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

## Summer Programme

### Little Eaton Day

15th August 2019

There are just half a dozen places left for the day at Little Eaton so if you are still pondering, please book soon. The venue has been moved a few yards down the road from the Village Hall to the Senior Citizens Welfare Club on Barley Close, the usual venue of the Little Eaton History Society (DE21 5DJ). You may still park at the Village Hall. Lunch cannot, after all, be provided and anyone who has paid for this in advance will be refunded on the day. The venue will be open over lunch time for those who like to bring a packed lunch but there are two inns and a village shop close by where food can be obtained.

*Joan D'Arcy*

## Search for Belper Manor House 8th March 2019

Following the AGM of the Archaeological Research Group, we were given a very enlightening talk by Denise Grace, on a new project led by the Belper U3A, in their search for Belper Manor House.

Denise began by explaining that there had been a settlement in Belper since Saxon times, in 1071 King William awarded Henry de Ferrers this land including those in nearby Bradelei (Bradley). The site was favoured by both Saxon and Normans, giving panoramic views over the Derwent Valley and Chevin. In 1266 Robert 11 de Ferrers rebelled against King Henry 111, his land, including Belper, was confiscated and given to Edmund Crouchback, Duke of Lancaster and Henry's second son. A

mansion is mentioned in 1296 at Beauprepaire described by 'Lysons', as a hunting lodge, including a deer park, recording 96 does, 25 bucks, killed, salted, and stored in the great larder of the Manor House.

During the 1500's things went downhill, by 1563 no deer were recorded. In the early 1800's 'Steven Glover', wrote that "...fragments of old walls of great thickness buried in the ground..." were all that remained of the manor house. The Chapel of St. John, founded circa 1260, once adjoining Belper Manor House, remains today, as a Heritage Centre.

The site chosen for the dig, was 28 Market Place the former site of the Angel Inn before it was demolished in the 1920's, a map of 1844 shows the site of the Inn, Coach House with stables, and slaughter house next door. Beginning in an area 2 x 1 metres the group found drystone walls, post holes, floors, lime mortar surfaces and a threshold into a building. An extension to the east gave evidence of burning and further post holes. Also found on the south side was a brick floor and path. One of three test pits sunk near the garden wall revealed a C19 grain pit. County Archaeologist, Dave Barratt came to help, to advise on the findings and confirmed the presence of the stratified Medieval layer.

On one day Keith and Barbara Foster joined the group to perform a resistivity survey. This found a bowl shaped feature underground which would have either been a midden, filled-in pond or a hollow where a tree had been dug out.

Finds included glass, pottery, charcoal, musket flints, oyster shells, bone and teeth; a C19, 'murder bottle', a babies drinking bottle-so called as then, there was no sterilization, coins, a penny and a halfpenny dated 1807. There were numerous clay

pipes, one depicting the face of Fred Archer, a famous jockey 1857-1886, who committed suicide aged only 19. and another of patriotic Irish origin perhaps from the navvies building the railway. In the C19, and earlier, nail making was a cottage Industry in the area and evidence of metalworking was found.

There were two and half thousand sherds of ceramics found; Blue and White ware made in Hanley by Job Meigh, Mocha ware possibly made in Ticknall, and more than 300 sherds of medieval ware and, in the stratified layer, only 9-15 century pottery. The group were granted a Pilling Award to enable the finds to be taken to Dr. Chris Cumberpatch for analysis. Further interesting finds included a Tyg, a Cistercian ware- a two handled drinking vessel used to pass around, some Burley Hill pottery, and a type not familiar to Chris, who for this new pot, created a new classification of, Belper whiteware. He therefore established six types of Belper Whiteware, 12 and 13th century pottery.

In conclusion, Denise finalised, the remains of the building excavated, when last in use could have belonged to an 18th century blacksmith or nail manufacturer, and although it is not the manor house building, it is highly likely to be part of the original medieval site.

*Janette Jackson*

## Field Walking

The field walking group were fortunate to have chosen a fine Sunday in May for their second outing to Radbourne, to walk a recently ploughed and reseeded field across the road from Foxfields Farm. It is large, rectangular field, sloping downhill from the road to a small stream so it took most of the day to walk the transects and record the finds. Over 100 finds were bagged, chiefly



pot sherds and clay pipe, scattered irregularly across the field. When plotted they show no particular concentration. The majority of pot sherds have been provisionally identified as 18th-19th century but there are a few which may be of earlier date. A full analysis is still pending. A possibly Roman sherd was found off transect by Leo, the son of the house, and was duly recorded in his name.

Many thanks to Jennie Hammond for liaising with Chris Smith, to Chris and Ben Sidwell, and especially Leo, for allowing us to walk the field, and to all who turned out on the day.

*Joan D'Arcy*

## Ticknall Excavations 15th June 2019

On Saturday afternoon 15th June we visited the TARG (Ticknall Archaeological Research Group) excavations at Springfield Barn. We were fortunate that it was not raining since the dig was taking place in what may well turn out to be the wettest June on record. We were met by Sue Brown, the TARG Secretary. She told us that the site was on National Trust property and they were grateful for permission to dig there. The excavations started in 2011 with a trial trench in an allotment that had produced interesting pottery sherds when it was first being dug. In 2014 a resistivity survey was carried out by Keith and Barbara



Foster, this showed contrasting areas – an almost circular feature (too big to be a kiln) of low resistivity surrounded by areas of high resistivity. In 2016 and 2018 the areas of high resistivity were targeted and large amounts of pottery were recovered. This was mostly Cistercian and early Midlands Purple which dates the site from about 1400 to the second half of 16th century.

We then went to inspect the trench, an extension of the earlier excavations, and protected from the worst of the weather by a gazebo. The excavation was headed by Jeff Morris, a member of TARG and a qualified archaeologist. It was immediately obvious why it is such a tempting site to dig. The main trench, meticulously dug, and tidied for visitors, showed a layer of pottery covering half the surface with shining Cistercian ware just begging to be released. Geoff explained to us that besides finding wasters they were finding saggers, squeezes and burnt red clay, (though the latter was not in situ). These all indicated that a kiln must be close by.

As well as the main trench in a high resistivity area a second trench had been opened on the circular low resistivity area to enable comparison of the two areas. This second trench was producing very little apart from a few Cistercian sherds.

As well as digging and recording, pottery was being washed and processed on the site.



*Ticknall Excavations*



*Ticknall Decorated Base*

When unfortunately the rain did start, we took refuge in the very smart white headquarters tent. On one side of the tent were piled some of the over 100 crates of pottery recovered so far this year. Continuous processing of the finds was obviously essential.

Our visit ended with a very civilized coffee and biscuits, enjoyed while looking at some of the more spectacular Cistercian ware sherds recovered. Thank you TARG.

*Ann Jones*

## ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

**Staffordshire Gems  
29th March 2019**

Ruth Williams' whistle stop tour of Staffordshire, from the dramatic gritstone landscape of the north to the undulating sandstone lowlands of the south, illustrated many features of its heritage that the county shares with our own – the White Peak, the moorlands with their drystone walls and many well known personalities – while also showcasing some of its unique sites and beauties. Although of course Derbyshire has nothing to compare with that hoard, weighing in – just for the record, as this was discussed in questions following the lecture



– at 5.1 kilos of gold and 1.4 kilos of silver and now with its own website.

The county flag is young, adopted in 2016, but with historic references, in a palette of red and gold, of greater antiquity to the De Stafford family and the Stafford knot.

With the distinction of having the highest village in Britain (Flash), it is not surprising that the county boasts views to Snowdonia and Lancashire from the gritstone eminence of The Roaches while at the other extreme Chartley Moss, a National Nature Reserve, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and SSSI is the largest example of a floating peat bog in Britain, a fragile habitat with limited public access to preserve its rare species. Elsewhere geology combines with myth in the form of Lud's Church an 18m deep chasm over 100m long, caused by a giant landslide, where it is possible to quite literally disappear into the landscape and which may have been used as a secret place of worship for just that reason by the Lollards.

One recent lost landscape brings into focus the massive destructive power of 20th century armaments, also part of our heritage – the site of the explosion at the underground munitions storage depot at RAF Fauld which took place on the morning of 27 November 1944. This explosion destroyed about a third of the munitions dump, a nearby farm, reservoir (which added flooding to the disaster), extensively damaged other local buildings and killed an estimated 70 people. The resulting crater, an area of about 30 acres and now known as Hanbury Crater, supports trees and wildlife but remains out of bounds because of the quantity of explosives that remain beneath the surface.

Some of Staffordshire's most notable architectural gems are of more than local or even regional importance including the Ancient High House in Stafford, the largest

remaining timber framed town house in England from the Tudor period (built around 1595), now a museum and of course A W N Pugin's gem the church of St Giles – 'Cheadle, perfect Cheadle, my consolation in all afflictions' – the subject of a previous lecture and visit by the Society, one of Pugin's commissions for the Earl of Shrewsbury which also included alterations to Alton Towers. An equivalent in horticultural terms are the Victorian gardens at Biddulph Grange, created by James Bateman to house his extensive plant collection from travels around the world, where the arrangement of separate garden 'compartments' leads the visitor seamlessly but surprisingly through features such as the Italian, Egyptian and Chinese gardens.

The Grange, like many large residences, succumbed to the fate of becoming a medical institution when no longer liveable or in fashion, but the gardens have now been restored under National Trust ownership. At the other end of the domestic scale are the red sandstone rock houses on Kinver Edge (also owned by the National Trust), a heath and woodland escarpment with a long history of occupation including an Iron Age hill fort. Described by Wikipedia as 'the last troglodyte dwellings occupied in England' one of the rocks, Holy Austin, was a hermitage until the Reformation and the rock houses were a popular local tourist destination from the Edwardian period and inhabited until the 1960s.



The lives of the Darwin and Wedgwood families are variously represented throughout the county and provide connections with Derbyshire through the Lunar Society. Erasmus Darwin's house is located in the Cathedral Close in Litchfield, while Charles Darwin proposed to his future wife Emma at her father, Josiah Wedgwood II's home Mear Hall and the couple were married at St Peter's Church nearby. Dr Johnson – together with James Boswell – is memorialised in Litchfield as is his father, in the form of the annual 'Johnson's Penance' for filial disobedience, at Uttoxeter with a plaque in Market Square.

A brief look at Tutbury Castle and church provided useful background for a planned Society excursion later in the year. The 11th century church is the oldest useable building in Staffordshire, with the earliest known example (c. 1160) of alabaster carving on the wide-arched west doorway while Tutbury Castle is one of the many less than satisfactory residences of the peripatetic Mary Queen of Scots in her captivity.

For those with an interest in local customs the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, of considerable antiquity, takes place annually on Wakes Monday. After collecting the horns from the church at eight o'clock in the morning, the Horn Dancers comprising six Deer-men, a Fool, Hobby Horse, Bowman and Maid Marian, perform their dance to music provided by a melodion player at locations throughout the village, its surrounding farms and pubs, a walk of about 10 miles and at the end of the day the horns (which are never allowed to go out of the parish) are returned to the church. Carbon dating has it seems verified a pre-Mediaeval date for the reindeer antler 'horns' while leaving open the question of when and how they arrived in Staffordshire.

My own particular Staffordshire gem – with memories from childhood – is Ilam, the

Saxon church and Swiss cottages, the Hall and gardens (not so loved then as now) with wild garlic scented walks along the Manifold Valley and – at the end of a long day's walking – Warrington's bus back to Ashbourne. We were proud of our home county but, as one of my aunts often remarked, 'Some of the most beautiful parts of Derbyshire are in Staffordshire'.

*Rosemary Annable*

### **Breedon on the Hill & Stoneywell Cottage 1st June 2019**

On the 1st June over 20 members gathered outside Breedon on the Hill church to be met by our guide, Richard Stone. The weather was hot and sunny. Richard outlined the history of the site. The first inhabitants were of the Iron Age, who constructed a hill fort there, through the ramparts of which the road passes. The name Breedon is half Celtic and half Saxon, both syllables meaning 'hill'. So it translates as Hill-hill on the Hill! A Saxon religious house was founded in AD 675 by Aethelred, son of



**Breedon on the Hill church**

Penda, but this was destroyed by the Great Viking Army in AD 873. It was refounded in later Saxon times and fragments of carving survive in the present church. The dedication is to St Mary and St Hardulf, who is tentatively identified as King Eardwulf of Northumbria who was buried here.

A small Norman Augustinian monastery was created in 1120 with the claustral buildings to the north of the church, there being insufficient space to the south. Nothing remains of these buildings, though the tower and chancel have largely survived as the current parish church. The south transept has been truncated to form the present porch, while on the north side of the tower is the blocked-up night stairs doorway at first floor level. Below this is a finely carved Norman doorway. Traces of the chancel arch can also be seen on the west wall of the tower, the nave having been removed after the dissolution, when the site was bought by the Shirley family.

Inside the church, one gets the impression of space, with the lofty ceiling and wide aisles, although the building is not very large. There are a full set of box pews in the current nave, with a large one of 1672 for the Lord of the Manor with high sides so he could rest undisturbed. The windows are of various dates; there is a small panel of medieval glass and a tiny pane with the Ferrers' horseshoe badge. In the north aisle are two table tombs of 16th century Shirleys, and a huge renaissance tomb of 1585 for Sir George Shirley (d. 1622) complete with a *memento mori* figure beneath. These are all made from Chellaston alabaster. The main interest of the interior however is the Saxon carvings let into the walls. Parts of a carved frieze some six inches (15 cm) deep, which had been inside and outside the Saxon church is visible all round the church, together with several larger panels on the south wall. On the west



wall of the south aisle is a replica of the Angel of Breedon, the original being stored in the tower and not generally on view.

In the afternoon, a visit to the National Trust site at Stoneywell Cottage had been arranged. At the car park, a minibus ferried visitors to the house. House visits are guided in parties limited to 10 and those waiting for a tour have extensive grounds to explore, also guided if required. The Cottage was built in 1899 for Sidney Gimson, the director of the Vulcan engineering works in Leicester. It was designed by his brother Ernest. The owners of the house were very keen on the Arts and Crafts movement, and the interior reflects this. The house is constructed of local granite, partly into the craggy hillside, with a slate roof which replaced the thatch after a serious fire in 1938. The Cottage was later owned by Basil Gimson, Sidney's elder son, and then by Basil's son Donald.

Inside we saw two rooms downstairs, the dining room that used to be the kitchen and the sitting room, eight steps higher. Both rooms contain Arts and Crafts furniture, including a large dining table with ladderback chairs made by Ernest Gimson. Both rooms had open fires, whose chimneys dominate the front elevation of the house. Donald had central heating installed in 1969. An Orkney chair with a wicker hood sits among the Arts and Craft furniture in the sitting room.

The main bedroom is reached by a steep, narrow twisting stair of slate as are all the many steps at Stoneywell. The window opens onto the rising ground behind the Cottage, a route favoured by children of the house. A walnut coffer by Joseph Armitage has carved bands of oak leaves; he designed the Trust's badge in 1935. The next room is laid out as a nursery with three prints by a Viennese schoolchild, sold to raise money for the Red Cross after WW1. Four steps lead down to a landing where a bathroom and toilet were installed in 1938 after electricity arrived. Just after the bathroom was finished, an electrical fault in the roof set fire to the thatch. The bathroom and upstairs rooms were badly damaged though the contents were saved. A five-sided visitor's room is also at this level. The next bedroom known as the well room is set out as a boy's room, with a train set operating on the floor. Finally, the top floor bedroom ('Olympus') is reached by a stair from the landing. A quirky attic room with a complete set of Arthur Ransome books.

The grounds were shown to us by Mandy, who first led us round the Cottage to see the back of the house and the planting there. Some of the massive roofing slates are impressive close to. A small herb garden sits by the kitchen door; the National Trust replanted it after it had been overrun by couch grass. The gardens were due to Donald's wife Anne who was a keen gardener. The lawn, blasted out of the rock to make a tennis court, took ten years to consolidate. Amongst the woodland planting was a Chinese dogwood with cream coloured bracts, and two embotriums, both covered on bright red flowers, fully justifying their nickname as flame of the forest.

We were also shown the 'fort' built by a teenage Basil from which magnificent views towards Bradgate Park can be seen. Finally, the circular well house with a conical roof

contains a pump. Just outside is a pool built for bathing but now a nature reserve.

It was now high time to sample the wares of the tea room. I noticed that the delicious ice-cream comes from Bluebell's of Spondon. In conclusion, a splendid but exhausting day out.

*John D'Arcy*

## LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

### Church Dedications 15th February 2019

This was a talk with a difference – no visual images! Just a good old fashioned lecture relying on the content and the speaker's style to hold an audience. It went down a treat. A full house listened intently to Trevor James as he started off outlining his background as firstly the youngest person taught by W. G. Hoskins and since then as a researcher and lecturer in a wide range of local history areas of many years standing, as well as editing *The Historian*, the member's magazine of The Historical Association for many years. All this has led to a long standing interest in church dedications, believing that people in the past usually had definite reasons for the dedication chosen for a church and these could be deduced with looking at how the dedication might have been influenced by either tribal territory, local or occupational influences or possibly pilgrim routes.

Firstly Trevor began by noting previous work on church dedications. Dr J. C. Cox in Derbyshire (not always correct in his detail), Bishop Kirk on pilgrim routes in the Diocese of Oxfordshire and Frances Arnold Foster who had analysed church dedications around 1900. All were many years ago.

We were interested to hear that nobody had to authorise a church dedication, that a church could have more than one saint's dedication and they could be changed at will. Nearly all the examples were to Derbyshire churches with just one or two over the borders.

Tribal influences came first, with Doveridge (St Cuthbert) and Ashbourne (St Oswald) both being northern saints; Horsley has St Clement, a saint revered by the Danes whilst Castleton, Allestree and Fenny Bentley all have churches dedicated to St Edmund. Just over the border in Staffordshire Yoxall and Elford both have their churches dedicated nowadays to St Peter but formerly to St Swithin who was a saint of the Saxons. All lingering influences of pre Conquest affiliations.

Occupational saints were represented by St Bartholomew, the patron saint of leatherworkers. These churches tended not to be in big towns or were away from the centre of towns, leatherworking was a smelly industrial trade. Abbots Bromley in Staffordshire is one of the best known local one with its Horn Dance taking place on Old St Bartholomew's Day (24th August) and it also had a famous fair associated with it in the past. Derbyshire examples are Elvaston, Hognaston and Old Whittington. St Giles with dedications at Matlock, Killamarsh, Hartington and Calke. He was also the patron saint of farriers and also lepers. His feast day was on September 1st at the end of the harvest.

Some dedications are associated with fairs and markets given in the Calendar of Charter Rolls. The date of the fair gave rise to the dedication of the church as at Cubley where there was a market charter and grant of a fair on St Andrews Day before the dedication to the church. Some saints don't appear as church dedications in ancient Derbyshire, this includes St Nicholas, the

patron saint of markets and market traders who is in every major town south of a line from Worcester to Lincoln except Derby, apart from Alkington Chapel. Nor is St Blaze the patron saint of woolcombers represented in the county.

Locative examples were next with St Anne being associated with wells and water, Derbyshire has Buxton, Baslow and possibly Beeley. Ancient dedications to St Michael (The Archangel) are often on pre Christian burial grounds and higher ground, such as Hathersage, South Normanton, Alsop en le Dale, Church Broughton and Stapenhill, the latter church was possibly dedicated to St Michael prior to the current day dedication to St Peter. St Barloc at Norbury was a J. C. Cox invention. Dedications to St Helen were usually ancient, she was the mother of Constantine the Great, they occur at Pinxton, Darley Dale and Etwell.

The talk was rounded up with a look at pilgrim routes. First on the list was Derby St Alkmund, thought to be where the shrine of the saint was located and where the sarcophagus that is now in Derby Museum was found when the church was demolished last century. Nearby Duffield was also dedicated to the same saint and was probably a stopping place on the way to the shrine at Derby. Several churches are dedicated to St Chad, Great Wilne is in the Trent valley and on a pilgrim route to Lichfield; Barton Blount and Longford were also on a route coming from the north to Lichfield. St Werburgh had a shrine at Hanbury Staffordshire, Derby, Spondon (in Tudor times according to Cox) and Blackwell also dedicated to the same saint were part of a pilgrim route to Chester. Repton had St Wystan although the saints bones were removed to Evesham, nearby Bretby has the same dedication; Wessington, originally Wistington was also part of a pilgrim route. Dedications to St Wilfred include Egginton, Barrow on Trent, this



route was an arm of a pilgrim route to Ripon. St Thomas a Becket, canonised around 1200, has dedications at Chapel en le Frith and Ticknall en route to Canterbury?

Altogether a very interesting talk with plenty to think about and perhaps a bit different from what we had been expecting. Trevor mentioned that he was writing a book about it all so one to watch out for!

*Sue Brown*

## **Derby Isolation Hospital 22nd March 2019**

The talk on the former Borough Isolation Hospital in Derby by local historian Rita Bailey, which followed the Section AGM on 22nd March, attracted a large audience. Plans for the hospital were put forward in 1883 to nurse people with infectious diseases living within the Borough of Derby. A 3 acre site was chosen in an undeveloped area on a ridge to the north of the town centre and on the boundary between Breadsall and Chaddesden. The architects of the first building, a 48 bed ward, were Coulthurst and Booty. The cost of £8,000 was disputed by Alderman Russell who would have erected wooden sheds, more suitable for the poor who would be housed there than the architect designed brick building which was built in 1888. The hospital expanded gradually over the years, with the addition of wards and staff accommodation.

Leisure activities were added in the 1920s when a bowling green and tennis courts were laid out. In the 1930s a fine concert hall, with 250 seats, was built to the design of borough architect, Herbert Aslin, who also designed a new nursing home. In the 1940s the name was changed to Derwent Hospital. By the time of its closure in 1979 it had become a mini village. With its use

declared redundant, the buildings were demolished in 1986, making way for a housing estate. Although it has entirely disappeared under the estate, the speaker has been able to trace the architectural history of the site using maps and many photographs.

From written records supplemented by interviews with former staff and patients, the speaker painted a moving picture of life endured by patients who survived the experience. It was a place to be entered with trepidation. The wards were open to the elements on one side with a veranda where many patients slept under the stars in all kinds of weather conditions. Even the youngest children were allowed visitors only at weekends and parents were not allowed on the wards but could communicate only through the windows. The 2nd World War years were particularly hard. The wards were sandbagged against bombing raids which added to the gloom of war time conditions. This elicited strong memories from some of the listeners who recalled their months as patients there during their childhood. This fascinating talk on an hitherto overlooked aspect of Derby's history was based upon many ours of original research and would make an excellent subject for an article, or even a book.

*John D'Arcy*

## **All Saints Church Mickleover 18th June 2019**

This evening we were given a warm welcome by the vicar of All Saints Church Mickleover, the Reverend Peter Walley, who went on to give us an illustrated talk on the research so far into the history of All Saints Church.

Mickleover was a Royal Estate in the reign of Edward the Confessor. Later William the



Conqueror gave Mickleover with its church and Littleover, Findern and Potlock with their chapels to Burton Abbey. At Domesday the estate was valued at £10. Before 1086 its value had been £25 but Mickleover church and its three chapels amounted to a quarter of the value of the estates of Burton Abbey.

The present church was first built in the early fourteenth century but much renewed in the nineteenth century. The chancel retains early stonework and has a circular headed priest's doorway, a piscina, a stone lectern on the north wall, one of only six remaining in Derbyshire churches and the recess for an aumbry where the vessels for Mass and Communion would have been stored. There are two medieval carved heads, one with a fifteenth century horned headdress. The octagonal shaped font in the north aisle is also fourteenth century. When Charles Cox was writing about the church in 1879 he said that the old font was in a nearby cottage garden serving as a flower vase. Perhaps his comments led to its safe return. The church has a chalice and paten cover of 1606 now on display in Derby Cathedral.

The list of vicars on the church wall goes back to 1350 and one entry records the death of William de Rosteleston who died of the plague in 1375, the year he became vicar of the church. The tower with angle buttresses also contains fourteenth century stonework. There are three bells dated 1591, 1657 and 1742. At the Dissolution of the monasteries Henry V111 granted the manor of Mickleover to his secretary, Sir William Paget. The ownership then passed through several families including the Newtons and the Wilmots.

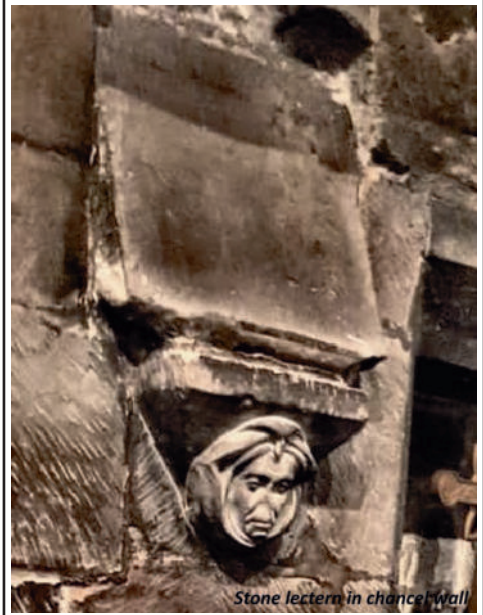
A fire damaged parts of the church in 1767 and in 1850 there was considerable rebuilding. The north aisle was extended and the chancel arch rebuilt. The lead roof was

replaced by one of slate and a new stone porch was built. The original two light east window of the chancel was replaced by one of three lights by the vicar, the Reverend Frederick Emmanuel Hippolyte Curzon, vicar from 1795 to 1871, in memory of his wife who died at the age of twenty one. The stained glass in the window is by Charles Gibbs.

A drawing of 1825 is displayed in the church and this shows the church with a lead covered roof over the nave and aisles and also a dormer window in the roof which might have once given light to a musician's gallery at the back of the church. In the twentieth century a vestry and organ chamber were added in the north east corner.

The vicar then showed us the architectural features in the chancel mentioned in his talk and answered questions. He was thanked for giving us such an interesting and informative talk and the visit ended with very welcome refreshments.

*Joan Davies*



*Stone lectern in chancel wall*

# **INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION**

## **EMIAC 97 Melting and Smelting British Steel Conference Centre Scunthorpe 5th October 2019**

Local iron ore was first smelted in Scunthorpe in the 1860s. The industry grew rapidly and by the 1920s three major companies, on sites to the east of the town, produced more than 10% of the steel made in Britain. In later years, now under single ownership, steel was produced in ever larger and more sophisticated furnaces and mills. Rail links to and within the site have been crucial to the development of the industry, especially since it has become wholly reliant on imported ore.

Scunthorpe owes its existence to the iron and steel industry. What was once a sparsely populated rural area has been transformed into a large town housing hundreds of workers and providing a wide range of supporting trades and services. Key aspects of the industry and the development of the town are highlighted in the morning's presentations. A guided tour by train in the afternoon gives a unique view of Scunthorpe's huge iron and steelmaking site, hopefully still in full production.

Industrial Heritage Days, formerly East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference, are held every six months and they are open to anyone with an interest in the subject. The first conference was convened in 1970 with the idea of enabling industrial archaeologists in the East Midlands to meet in differing locations to consider topics of mutual interest. There is

no formal organisation; the sponsoring bodies are Derbyshire Archaeological Society; the Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group; the East Midlands Group of the Railway & Canal Historical Society; the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and the Leicestershire Industrial History Society.

The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology (SLHA - [www.slha.org.uk](http://www.slha.org.uk)) is the principal county society addressing the interests of Industrial Archaeology, Local History, Archaeology, Transport History, Folklore and Customs, Vernacular Architecture, Church Architecture and so on.

For booking form and programme outline for the day see pages 21 and 22.

*Ian Mitchell*

## **Belper and Morley Park Railway Archaeology**

Three DAS members, Ian Mitchell, Liz Howe and myself, carried out some archaeology at Openwoodgate near Belper on 31st March 2019. A window of opportunity arose following the discovery of unusual stone sleeper blocks.

Belper grew very rapidly at the end of the 18th century and transporting the coal needed for the domestic fires became a problem. In 1801 George Benson Strutt planned a public railway from the Cromford Canal. This scheme was later replaced by a railway into the town across the hills from Smithy Houses, the terminus of the Derby Canal railway and also of private lines linked to Drury Lowe owned collieries. It was built by wayleaves which slowed the process down. Farey described it as under construction in 1817 and for many years it got no closer than Openwoodgate.

It was a horse-worked plateway of 4ft 2 in gauge. Most of the route was re-aligned in the 1830s. Finally in 1843 the extension into Belper was open to traffic. It ran to a coal wharf where Pottery School now stands. By then the North Midland Railway had opened and with its purpose gone the line was gradually cut back, the final short section closing in 1908.

Stone sleeper blocks from the 1843 extension were built into a wall when part of an embankment was demolished in the 1960s. This was recently demolished and two blocks were rescued. Unlike surviving blocks on the older section of the route, these show the marks of chairs set diagonally.

The archaeology took place on the surviving part of the embankment. A section showed the track bed to be about 3 m wide and the embankment to be about 3 m high with a gentle slope of 1 in 2.3 on one side. A test pit revealed no further sleepers ballast or any other railway traces, other than a levelled trackbed surface. It appears that the embankment at this point was not built up but rather dug down and that the slope on one side is either natural or land has been quarried away.

Much of the route of this early railway survives and further investigation would be worthwhile before these traces are lost due to development.

*Trevor Griffin*



*Excavation on the embankment*

## DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

**Vol 22, Part 1  
Spring 2019**

*'As Poor as a Stockinger', Framework Knitting in Derby 1705–1855 by Alan Cockayne.*

*The Corporation of Derby and the Chamberlains Account Books with bills and receipts in the latter part of the eighteenth century by Anne Bull and Linda Owen.*

*Diary of a Shipley farmer 1867: Part 6: November 15-31 December by Malcolm Burrows.*

An article by Joan D'Arcy on framework knitting in the 2017 Derbyshire Archaeological Journal inspired Alan Cockayne to look up his family's connections with stocking frames and his article, 'As Poor as a Stockinger', Framework Knitting in Derby 1705–1855, gives a brief account of their involvement in the industry set against the wider trade developments over a period of 150 years.

The first of the Cockaynes to enter the trade was 14 year old John Cockayne who, after the death of his father, probably a Derby wool merchant, in 1705, was apprenticed, on 2 April 1706 'in the new trade' to Daniel Oldfield, Citizen of London and Framework Knitter, for seven years. He must have returned to Derby to work as he married Mary Husse in Derby in 1718. Two of his sons, Nathaniel and Samuel, were stockingers, Nathaniel was 'taking on apprentices for framework knitting' in 1740 and Caleb was stated to be a 'stockinger' when he married Dinah Wallis at St. Alkmunds in 1746. The family prospered as framework knitters over the years and acquired a large family house on Bridge Gate. However, the Napoleonic Wars brought inflation resulting in lower wages for knitters. The price paid for making cotton stockings reduced from 17s (85p) per



dozen pairs in 1792 to 8s (40p) in 1829. In 1801, Nathaniel's son, Edward, a framesmith of Bridge Gate, was selling his stocking frames. His son, Jesse, was described as 'a gentleman' and when he died in 1844, the 'genteel contents of the house on Bridge Gate were sold. Luckily for these Cockaynes, framework knitting made them wealthy and they were never 'as poor as a stockinger'. Another of John's grandsons, Caleb, born in 1769, lived at 16 Nottingham Road where he was listed in Glovers Directory of 1842 as a 'Hosier and Dealer in British Lace' and another, also called John, was making bearded needles for the frame-knitting machines in 1835.

When the Town Clerk of Derby, Mr Trevelyan Lee, was moving offices in 1904, a large number of brown paper parcels were discovered. On investigation they were found to contain documents belonging to the Town Council which had been saved from the fire at the Town Hall in 1841, including Account Books, Court Rolls, Fair Books, Court Books, etc. Most were unsorted and in a neglected and poor condition. Mr C.E.B. Bowles wrote an article for the 1904 Derbyshire Archaeological Journal about this unexpected find and Mr I.H. Jeayes, Assistant Keeper at the Department of Manuscripts at the British Museum offered to 'arrange the old documents and books in

the Muniment Room at the Town Council's office and to prepare a rough calendar for 25 guineas plus 5 guineas to cover travel and expenses' in January 1904. This offer was accepted and his Calendar of Records for the Borough of Derby was published in June 1904. The existant documents and books are now in Derby Local Studies Library and Dudley Fowkes compiled a catalogue of the Derby Borough Council records held by the Library in 1997. Over 100 years after the documents were found, in 2011, the Derby Research Group began to transcribe two volumes of the Chamberlains Accounts Ledgers dated 1757-1794 and 1794-1833. The transcription of the first ledger has now been completed and Anne Bull and Linda Owen's article on The Corporation of Derby and the Chamberlains Account Books with bills and receipts in the latter part of the eighteenth century is the first of several which will discuss aspects of Derby's history revealed by these records.

The final part of Malcolm Burrow's transcription of the interesting and informative Dairy of a Shipley Farmer in 1867 ended on a happy note when John Fletcher won 2nd prize for the Best Bull and 1st prize for the Best Fat Pig at the Ilkeston Cattle Show and Fair held on 19 December 1867.

Articles for inclusion in Derbyshire Miscellany should be sent to Mrs Jane Steer, 478 Duffield Road, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2DJ, e-mail: [SteerDerby@aol.com](mailto:SteerDerby@aol.com).

If you don't subscribe to Miscellany, copies of both this issue and back issues are available from Mrs Susan Peberdy, 147 Havenbault Lane, Littleover, Derby, DE23 4AF (£4.25 incl. p&xp). Alternatively an annual subscription to Derbyshire Miscellany, which is published twice a year, is £8.

*Jane Steer*



## Book Reviews

### **Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture**

#### **Volume XIII Derbyshire and Staffordshire**

**by Jane Hawkes and Philip Sidebottom with Martin Biddle**

**Oxford University Press 2018**

**ISBN 978 0 19 726621 2 (553 pages)**

**Price: £100 (hardback).**

This hefty volume is the latest in a series sponsored by the British Academy, described as 'the first comprehensive catalogue of the substantial amount of stone sculpture that survives from the pre-conquest period of England'. The 1st volume (Durham and Northumberland) was published in 1977 but the project stalled until 1988 when volume II, (Durham, Westmoreland and Lancashire) appeared. Since then the pace of publication has quickened. Volume XII, Nottinghamshire, was issued in 2016 and now Derbyshire and Staffordshire are also comprehensively covered.

For each county all known Anglo-Saxon stone sculptures, many previously unpublished or inaccessible, have been catalogued. A lengthy Introductory section sets them into their historical, topographical, archaeological and art history context. Geology and regional distribution are also considered, illustrated with maps and tables.

The Derbyshire catalogue includes the stone cross shafts at Bakewell, Bradbourne and Eyam as well as part crosses, round shafts, columns and grave slabs scattered across the county. The royal ecclesiastic Repton stones, the Wirksworth sarcophagus cover and the Derby Museum collection, including

the St. Alkmund sarcophagus, are detailed. There are fewer sculptured stones in Staffordshire, the highlight sites being part of a shrine panel in Lichfield Cathedral, shafts at Checkley, Ilam and Leek and an ornamented pillar at St Peter's, Wolverhampton.

The authors' carefully considered conclusions are that the great majority of stones were carved from locally sourced material, chiefly Millstone Grit and Sherwood Sandstone, between the ninth and tenth centuries. They identify four groups based upon repeated motifs; Peak, Pennine Fringes, Trent Valley and Dove Valley.

The photographs, sometimes supplemented with historic drawings, are superb and reason enough in itself to justify the high cost of the volume. There is far more that could be written. It is an excellent production.

Volume XIII will soon be available for reference in the Society's library and Philip Sidebottom is booked to give a talk on the Derbyshire part of the project in March 2020.

*Joan D'Arcy*

### **The Old Roads of Derbyshire** **by Stephen Bailey**

**Matador Books 2018**

**ISBN: 978 1789018 431 (164 pages)**

**Price: £9.75**

This is a book in two parts, the first traces the development of roads in Derbyshire from prehistoric routes, through the Roman, pre-conquest and middle ages and into the 18th and 19th centuries. The second explores the Derbyshire Portway in more detail in the form of a detailed walking guide dividing the sixty plus miles of the route into eight stages. At the end of the

book the short final section – Beyond the Portway – identifies three old routes which offer additional rewarding walking and have some historic interest.

The early sections provide an excellent summary of the evolution of the road system in Derbyshire and the users of the roads through the ages. One short section briefly discusses the importance of fords and bridges in the road system, packhorse trains and church paths used to carry the dead to the nearest licensed churchyard for burial. Overall the first half of the book provides an informative introduction to the reader less familiar with the history and development of the roads in the county.

Today there is widespread agreement among historians that there was a Portway running northwest through Derbyshire to Nottingham but a great deal of debate about its age and the route. Given this high level of uncertainty about the exact route of the Portway, the author has made a number of assumptions when putting together the walking guide. These assumptions together with the associated reasoning are documented in the eight stages travelling from Nottingham in the south to Hope in the north.

The first two stages take the walker from the assumed crossing point of the Trent close to Sneinton Hermitage to Dale in Derbyshire via the Hemlock Stone at Bramcote. Once in Derbyshire the next two stages progress northwest to Coxbench, across the Derwent valley, crossing the river at Milford, and over the Chevin to Alport Height. Continuing northwest the next two stages guide the walker from Alport Height through Wirksworth to Winster and then north to Ashford-in-the-Water. The final two stages cover the Portway from Ashford to Mam Tor via Monsal Head and Tideslow and finally to the Woodlands Valley and Hope.

The diagrams included for each stage of the route are useful but are not drawn to scale and the walker certainly needs the appropriate OS Landranger sheets to undertake walking any of the stages. There is a useful list of the historic sites along the route of Portway included as an Appendix at the end of the book.

*David Bunting*

## Membership

### New members:

We extend our welcome to the following new members:

Miss L. Hardy of Matlock  
 Ms S. Staley of Wirksworth  
 Mr C. Simpson of Buxton  
 Mr J.S. Child of Sheffield  
 Ms J. Robson of Wirksworth  
 Mr A. Corcoran of California, USA  
 Mr A. Forsyth of Ripley  
 Mrs O. Green of Ripley  
 Ms P. McHale of Ilkeston  
 Mr M. Spencer of Alfreton  
 Mrs J. & Mr P. Barrass of Belper  
 Mrs M. Seaby of Onecote, Staffordshire

### Deaths Notified:

It is with sorrow that we report the death of Mr D. Williams.

*Keith Reedman*





SOCIETY FOR  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
HISTORY &  
ARCHAEOLOGY

# EMIAC 97

Saturday 5th October 2019  
9.30am-4.30pm



## Melting & Smelting

Industrial Heritage Day  
British Steel Conference Centre,  
Brigg Road, Scunthorpe DN15 0BA

### Programme

#### 9.00 Coffee and Registration

#### 9.30 Welcome and Introduction

Talks will include:

'The Changes the Iron and Steel Industry has made'

Presented by Steven Stubbins

The impact of the steel industry on the development of Scunthorpe including aspects of Local Social History

#### Coffee Break

'The Lincolnshire Ironmasters Association and Railway'

Presented by Bryan Longthorne

The structure, development and ownership of the Companies and the origins of different raw materials and their transport to Scunthorpe

'Changes in Steel making Furnaces over the 20c'

Presented by John Hill

How the industry has responded to meet increased demand for high grade steel for a variety of applications.

#### 1.00pm Lunch, Displays and Bookstall

#### 2.00pm

A 15 mile rail tour arranged by the Appleby Frodingham Preservation Society with expert leadership, will give a comprehensive view of today's steelmaking site. The tour will last around two and a half hours and include a tea and coffee break.

#### 4.30pm Close

## EMIAAC BOOKING FORM

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019**  
**Melting and Smelting**

**Please book in advance**

The total cost of the event including the train tour,  
 buffet lunch plus tea and coffee is **£25.00**

*An acknowledgement will be sent by e-mail or post on receipt of an SAE*

Surname ..... First Name .....

Address.....

..... Post-code .....

Special dietary requirements .....

Telephone number.....

Email.....

**Please make cheques payable to SLHA**

If you wish to have a bookstall or stand at this event, please contact Stephen Betteridge

[Stephen.betteridge4@btinternet.com](mailto:Stephen.betteridge4@btinternet.com)

Name of Society

.....

I wish to have display space

for.....

**Please return your form and payment to:**

Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology,

Jews' Court, Steep Hill, Lincoln, LN2 1LS

[www.slha.org.uk](http://www.slha.org.uk) 01522 521337

**The closing date for bookings is 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

(Please note that refunds cannot be made after the closing date)

# **DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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*Official opening of the Library - 26th June 2019*