

# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Issue 90

June 2020



# DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## 2019-2020

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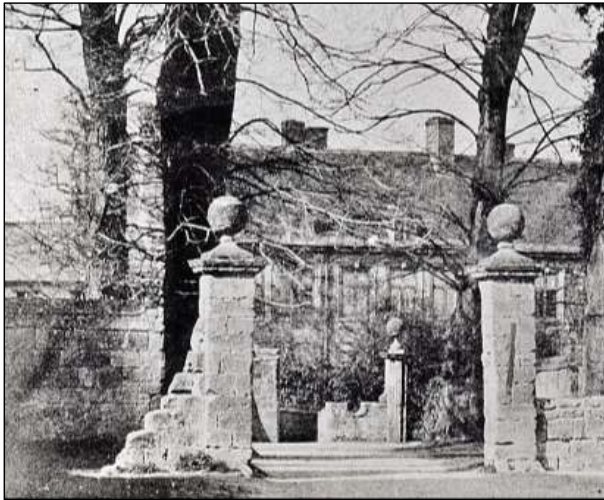
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## COVER STORY: REPTON

Our cover this time features the church of St. Wystan, Repton, with its astonishingly slim spire, Saxon chancel and wonderful crypt, supported on those positively post-Roman, proto-Romanesque spirally fluted columns. It was taken on 8<sup>th</sup> August last year after lunch at the school: further on, you will discover the report of the talk delivered to the Local History Section by Repton School Librarian, Paul Stevens. Derby Civic Society were fortunate enough to enjoy a similar talk by him actually in the library he so efficiently manages one summer evening a couple of years ago; it was a memorable experience.

Perhaps, when our house arrest is ended, we might tempt the architectural section to persuade the Headmaster of Repton to allow a visit to Prior Overton's Tower, where he has his lair, and perhaps visit the hall, too, the original roof of which is still on. Martin Biddle and I were invited to view it around 1982, and we discovered that when the building was given an attic storey in the 1870s, the roof structure, which Martin thought older than the present Carolean building, had merely been raised intact, rather than replaced entirely.



*A picture of Repton Hall, taken by Richard Keene around 1862, in which you can just see the original roof height, including a single, miniscule, attic dormer. From the collection of George Cash.*

[MC]

When I was completing the millennium history of Newton Solney, projected and partly researched by the late Michael Day, I recall stumbling on the snippet in Rhygyfarch's *Vita* of St. David (written, of course, impossibly late, albeit incorporating earlier material) that David had travelled to Repton (which very probably did not exist c. 500) and established a religious enclave there. Well, not impossible for the area was still British then, but try proving that!

I have re-vamped the newsletter a little, and hope members think it satisfactory. Do let me know your views in any case, either directly or via our excellent secretary.

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## FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Firstly, I apologise to members that it has been a long time since you last heard from the Society. We were preparing our usual Spring mailing with the AGM papers and Summer Programme when the Covid-19 pandemic struck, and it rapidly became apparent that we would not be able to hold the AGM as planned on 1 May. Furthermore, the prospects for outings in the summer seemed very uncertain. In this situation, it seemed silly to spend your subscription money on postage just to tell you that the AGM had been cancelled, when you all knew it must have been, to comply with Government regulations; consequently, we have waited for this *Newsletter* to give you an update on what is happening.

Secondly, I should explain why I am the one writing this. Pauline Beswick, who has been our *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* editor for many years, announced some time ago that she wished to retire at the AGM, and Chris Wardle had agreed to take over this important role. At the Council meeting in June, it was agreed to co-opt Chris as Honorary Editor pending his formal election at the delayed AGM, and I was appointed as Chairman of Council in his place. Another appointment made at that meeting was that of Max Craven as *Newsletter* Editor – you are now reading his first issue.

I'd like to thank Pauline for her *DAJ* work over the years – she has maintained a very high standard despite some challenging circumstances. Also, to Chris in his rôle as Chairman of Council and to Dave Bunting, the previous *Newsletter* Editor.

Things remain very uncertain. We have decided not to attempt any of our usual Summer Programme activities, and it remains unclear when we will be able to hold an AGM, or even whether our winter programme of evening lectures in Derby will be possible. As an alternative, we are investigating the possibility of arranging on-line talks using one of the internet video conferencing platforms.

In the present circumstances, a lot of activity now takes place on-line and we are fortunate that we have recently modernised the DAS website at [derbyshireas.org.uk](http://derbyshireas.org.uk) – another excellent piece of work by Dave Bunting. Another of the hats I wear in the society is that of webmaster, and I have been keeping the website up to date throughout, and will continue to do so in the coming months. If you have access to the internet, please do check it out for the latest developments.

We also intend to send regular emails to those members who have agreed to receive communications in this way – if you are not getting these, please go to the members area of the website (the password is **Derbyas&1878**) and fill out the 'Amend Member Details' form to give us your e-mail address and permission to use it (the box to fill in your e-mail address appears when you tick 'contact details change').

I'd like to end with an appeal for help. Many of the people actively involved in running the society have found themselves classified by the Government as vulnerable to Covid-19, due to their age, and this highlights the need to get more and younger members involved. All of the section committees would welcome new blood to bring ideas for talks and outings, but we have some specific roles that urgently need filling – see the HELP WANTED page below.

Ian Mitchell

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## OBITUARY

### ***Brian Read (1940-2020)***

Brian Reed, who died aged seventy-nine on 12<sup>th</sup> April, was a retired railway engineer who joined the Archaeological Society at about the time of his retirement from British Railways Engineering Ltd (as it then was) in 1994. He and his wife Bernice were regular attenders at a majority of the Society's activities, especially visits, for both were also keen walkers and much enjoyed the open air.



Brian Henry Read was born in Cheltenham, to which his mother had been evacuated, on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1940, son of Henry W. Read and Lilian (*née* Spreadbury), his parents having married on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, a happenstance which was marked by a mention (with photograph) in the *Daily Mirror* of the day. He grew up, with a younger brother Peter, in south London where visits to Museums kindled an interest in history. He left school at eighteen and worked with the Distillers' Co., obtaining his HND in chemistry through part time study.

Brian's enjoyment of the open air stood him in good stead in 1959 when he met his future wife, Bernice on a ramble organised by his new employers, British Railways; they married in August 1962 at Kew. Seven years later they moved to Derby where Brian started at the British Railways Technical Centre on a salary of £1,200.

On retirement, the couple moved to Windley Crescent, Darley Abbey and pursued their interest in canal boating and walking and, of course taking part in the activities of the Arch. Soc., not to mention the opportunities offered for travel through their British Rail passes, one of the few perks of working for the nationalised concern. Brian was also a keen reader and bookbinder, a member of their association, the Tools and Trades Historical Society (T&THS) and of the Historical Metallurgy Society, for whom for many years he managed their publications' back catalogue. He was co-author of *Natural Sharpening Stones and Hones* for the T&THS, of which he was a long-serving committee member.

Brian, who will be much missed by his many acquaintances, especially those who are fellow members of this society, leaves Bernice, two daughters, Eleanor and Jane and by grandchildren, Georgie, Megan, Charlotte and Harriet.

KAR, MC

## HELP WANTED

**We have a number of rôles in the Society that urgently require people to undertake them.**

**If you think you can help with *any* of these, please get in touch, using the contact form on the website, or ring Ian Mitchell on 0115 972 9029 to discuss what might be involved.**

## NOTICES

### ❖ PUBLICITY OFFICER

At present we do very little to publicise our activities outside the membership. To raise the profile of the Society and attract new members we need someone who will take on the task of publicising our events. This would include traditional forms of publicity such as press notices and leaflets, but in the modern world it also needs to include a social media presence. This would be an ideal rôle for someone who is active on Facebook and/or Twitter and would be prepared to post about DAS events on a regular basis.

### ❖ UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME SECRETARY

Most of the society's events are organised by individual section committees, but there is also a need for someone to organise the higher profile lectures we hold at Derby University. These typically happen four times a year, and we aim to cover a range of topics relevant to all sections of the society. The job involves coming up with ideas for topics and identifying possible speakers, then making contact to arrange a suitable date, and making sure they turn up on the night – a good opportunity to meet some of your archaeological heroes.

### ❖ SOCIETY BOOKSTALL

The bookstall selling second hand books and journals is a popular feature of our meetings at St Mary's Church Hall. The team of Joyce Mold and Alan Snowball, who have run this for many years have taken a well-earned retirement, and we need someone to take over. The job involves looking after the stock of books and bringing them along to meetings.

### ❖ THE NEW DAS WEBSITE

The society has had a website for many years, but it was in need of a refresh and putting onto a new platform that would be easier to maintain and update. Dave Bunting has done a fantastic job in putting this together, and after a period of testing it went live from the end of January.

The home page is designed to give a good first impression of what the society, together with short items of news. The top level menu then takes you to the following areas:

**About us** – an outline of the history of the society, the Sections, and the Pilling research grant scheme

**Events** – a calendar of events (sadly empty at present), and links to pages with full details of the summer and winter programmes, the annual trip, fieldwork and



conservation activity and information on non-DAS events, such as those organised by CBA and EMIAC

**Library** – the location and opening hours of the library, and an on-line catalogue of books and journals that we hold.

**Publications** – information about *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, *Derbyshire Miscellany*, the *Newsletter* and other publications. The *Newsletter* and older editions of *Miscellany* are available to download, and there is a link to the archive of *DAJ* on the Archaeological Data Service.

**Join us** – information about membership and a downloadable membership form.

**Members** – a password protected area for members only (the current password is Derbyas&1878) where you can access an on-line form to amend your contact details, and find a copy of the Society's constitution and the form to apply for a Pilling grant.

**Contact us** – a facility to make enquiries on various topics, which are automatically forwarded to the appropriate officer, e.g. use the 'webmaster' form if you have any comments, queries or suggestions for improvements to the website.



## ❖ EAST MIDLANDS INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

The Spring 2020 EMIAC was due to take place at the Peak District Mining Museum in Matlock Bath on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, but had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Anyone who booked should by now have received a refund. If possible, the event will be re-organised to take place in 2021.

The Autumn 2020 EMIAC has been arranged for 24 October in Northamptonshire on a railway topic, but it is not yet known whether this will take place. DAS members will be sent a booking form by email if the event goes ahead.

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### **NEW MEMBERS**

*We are delighted to welcome the following new members:*

Mrs P. Abbott of Ripley  
Mrs G. & Mr J. Baalke of Stanton-in-Peak  
Ms P. Bradley of Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury  
Dr J. M. Carley of Chesterfield  
Mrs K., Mr W. & Miss A. Clarkson of Littleover.  
Mr M. A. Fitchew of Little Eaton  
Mr M. Giles of Loscoe  
Dr J. & Mr G. Hill of Birchover  
Miss A. Oliver of Sinfen  
Mr S. Schmidt of Darley Dale  
Miss K. Topliss of Chesterfield  
Mr S. Walker of Langley, Macclesfield

### **WHERE WAS THE LOST ABBEY AT DARLEY?**

**by Chris Wardle**

Today Darley Abbey is a suburb of Derby, the village having been swallowed-up by the city. The oldest parts of the suburb lie on the banks of River Derwent. Later parts spread up the slope overlooking the west bank of the river rising towards Duffield Road.

Anyone who passes along Duffield Road will be aware of the historic importance of the suburb. Signs proclaim the suburb to be a part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Those who venture down to the Derwent will witness the multi-storey late 18<sup>th</sup> century/early 19<sup>th</sup> century textile mill complex on the far bank of the river. Few will fail to notice the two and three storeyed terraces that dominate the west bank of the river. These are tangible traces of the suburb's industrial legacy.

People who ask themselves why the 'Abbey' element is in the suburb's name, will be forced to look harder for any traces of its importance prior to the Industrial Revolution. One of the few tangible clues to the fact that that, during the Middle Ages, a monastery occupied the site on the west bank of the Derwent is the two-storey stone structure situated close to the river on Darley Street, known as the *Abbey Inn*. The building includes medieval stonework, but alas has not been a pub for a while.





*Darley Abbey: Abbey Inn, east front, May 2020.*

[M. C]



*Darley Abbey, Abbey Inn, south elevation, showing entrance to the upper hall. The modern ashlar marks the removal of an external chimney breast in 1979. Photograph November 2015.*

[C. Wardle]

Another visible clue can be found further up the slope, on Abbey Lane, where a row of cottages, now including the local store, also contains medieval fabric.

*Darley Abbey, converted medieval range on Abbey Lane, from the west, November 2015. [C. Wardle]*



Beyond these clues, an observer will struggle to find evidence that the suburb was the site of an abbey. There is no easy answer to the next question: Where exactly did the abbey church and the cloisters, stand?

In order find an answer, we have first to consider what a medieval abbey was like. An abbey church and its cloister would have been at the heart of the community, enclosed by a precinct wall. Ranged around the cloister there would have been various official rooms. There would have been a chapter house, where the abbey's business was discussed; a dormitory, where the monks slept; a latrine which would have been attached to the dormitory; a refectory, where the monks ate; a kitchen, a warming room and a washroom, together with various store rooms and the abbot's lodgings. Many other buildings would have stood beyond the church and the main cloister. These buildings would have supported the abbey's community and its work. There would have been a mill, a bakery, a brew house, an infirmary and accommodation for guests. There seems also to have been a school and a dove-house, alongside various structures associated with textile production.

The reasons why so few traces of the abbey are evident lie in what happened to the abbey after it was dissolved. In 1538 the abbey was disbanded as part of Henry VIII's policy of doing away with all institutions that came under the control the Pope. Those who still lived in the abbey were pensioned-off, and the abbey's property was passed to commissioners acting on behalf of the Crown.

The most immediate task of the commissioners was to render the abbey church unsuitable for worship, by removing the roof. The commissioners then turned to making as much money as possible. Anything that could easily be sold was sent for sale. This always included the gold and silverware, any marble or alabaster monuments and the timber.

In the case of Darley Abbey, with a ready market for stone in the town of Derby only a mile and a half away, this included much of the building stone. The church, together with most of the principal structures, would have been demolished and the stone dispatched to the town. The

odd structure may well have remained, especially where there was someone who was interested in occupying or using it. Within a relatively short time, the site will have been totally transformed, from a busy religious community, to a scatter of dwellings and empty ruins.

Darley Abbey probably remained that way until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, when banker Thomas Evans, as commissioner in bankruptcy for Heath's Bank in 1779 obtained two mills on the Derwent. With his family he decided to transform that mill into a cotton-spinning mill. They needed a workforce and that workforce required somewhere to live. Hence the two and three storeyed terraces were built. The few medieval ruins that survived, including what became the *Abbey Inn*, were turned into tenements and workshops. As a result, the construction of the industrial village destroyed much of any surviving evidence for the medieval abbey.

Over the centuries few other traces of the abbey have been found. The most notable of these is an enigmatic medieval stone coffin located close to the west end of St Matthew's parish church, a few hundred metres upslope from the industrial village. The presence of a medieval coffin at this location is a mystery, as St Matthew's was built on a prime site and only consecrated in 1819. A medieval coffin could not have been found in the present churchyard, but no one can now say where the coffin was originally unearthed.

There are also reports of the discovery of a number of human skeletons close the bottom of New Road, at the heart of the industrial village. Much of what we know of the discovery of these skeletons comes from unreliable reports of children playing football with the skulls! Until recently, there was little to verify accounts of the discovery of human remains.



*Darley Abbey, St. Matthew: early 13<sup>th</sup> century stone drying coffin now in the churchyard, November 2015.* [C. Wardle]

In the 1960s, the Society conducted excavations a hundred metres or so to the northwest of the area where the skeletons were reported to have been found, in an area where houses were to be built. Unfortunately, no excavation report was ever produced, but it seems probable that no trace of the abbey was identified during the course of these investigations.

In 2018 we finally received reliable corroboration of the reports of skeletons having been unearthed close to the bottom of New Road. A proposal for the construction of further new

houses led an archaeological contractor to open-up a couple of narrow trial trenches on the site. One of these trenches produced no evidence, but the other revealed the head and shoulder portions of two medieval graves. As burials in a medieval abbey were only located either in the abbey church, or else beyond the eastern end of it, this single trench has revealed the first reliable evidence for the site of the abbey church.



*Darley Abbey, plan of the hall 1708, at that stage still a conversion of the Abbot's lodgings. This original hall (demolished 1727) is in the centre, above the word 'orchard'. The Abbey Lane houses are top right. Note the map is orientated with west at the top.*

[Derbyshire Archives]

*Darley Abbey Mills, as depicted on a Bloor Derby coffee can and saucer of c. 1820. [Mellors & Kirk]*



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## ***REPORTS***

### **JOURNAL – Chris Wardle**

Work on the next volume of the *Journal* is underway, but I cannot promise that the hand over between Pauline and me will be without problems. After months during which I had very little contact with Pauline, I received a flurry of e-mails from her at the start of last month (i.e., when the AGM was due to have taken place, and she would have officially stepped-down as editor). These e-mails included the *Guidance for Contributors* document that she was using; an article that one author had submitted last autumn, but with which Pauline had done nothing; and a list of promised articles. Prior to May, a number of other potential contributors had contacted me directly.

At the moment, I have three sizable historical articles and a clutch more are promised. Philip Riden has been most helpful in providing comments and advice on historical articles. Only one substantial archaeological article has been submitted to date, but this needs a considerable amount of reworking before it is suitable for publication. Other than that, I only have a short archaeological note to hand. I suspect that the disappointing number of archaeological articles is a consequence of the lockdown. These days, almost all the archaeological fieldwork carried out in the county is conducted by archaeological contractors, working on behalf of developers. The lockdown has led almost all of this fieldwork to be suspended. All the site staff have probably been furloughed immediately, together with most of the staff and sub-contractors conducting laboratory analysis. At that time too, most of the project managers began working from home. This has meant that only those projects for which all the post-excavation analysis has been completed were likely to be ready for publication. A further complication is that, as the lockdown has continued for many weeks, it is possible that some of the project managers might also have been furloughed. There also needs to be further discussion on the implications to the proposal to cease publication of *Miscellany*.

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### **DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Chris Wardle**

Nothing to report. The meeting that was due to have taken place in May was cancelled.

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### **DERBY CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Joan D'Arcy**

I have no proper report to offer from CAAC as, apart from one round of electronic consultation and another forthcoming, we have not had a meeting since March. The April consultation included an unsympathetic proposal to add a garden room and garage to the much-diminished curtilage of Mickleover Old Hall (1648, LGII\* timber framed and brick-nogged, small manor house). The Committee effectively recommended refusal and indeed, the parent committee duly refused consent.



However, members might like to be made aware of agenda items for the consultation due on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June. One is the conversion to flats of two of a row of five two and a half storey terraced houses adjacent to the former GNR bridge in Friar Gate. The terrace is of 1789 (first appearing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Burdett's Map) with an extra house added at the east end when the railway was put in, when the lot were facelifted, none of which was made clear on the statement of significance, needless to say. Much more damaging is the proposal by the City Council as owners to demolish the former tram (later trolley'bus) shed along with the locally listed courtyard dépôt building adjacent of 1903 by Alexander MacPherson & John Ward, with its John Smith turret clock set in a pretty cupola. The Conservation Officer states that no sufficient reason has been presented for its demolition and I shall object.



*Stores Road, Corporation Depot, 1903 by John Ward & Alexander MacPherson* [MC]

Although members would not know Helen Oakes, she was an integral and much valued member of the much-diminished Urban Design team, but was accidentally killed at home. She was in her fifties, and will be greatly missed

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## **LIBRARY – Anne Allcock**

The library, of course, is currently closed and will remain so until Strutt's Centre is able to open. When this happens, it will take time to make sure the library is safe for people to use in accordance with government guidelines. We will e-mail the membership when an opening date is confirmed. This will also be posted on-line, so please keep an eye on the website for further information.

While the library is unavailable, you can use Booksearch on the library pages. There is no substitute for browsing through the bookshelves, but you can think of Booksearch as a different kind of browsing. You never know what you might find. Instructions for use are on the website but if you are new to using Booksearch then it's probably good to start with title. One word in the title box e.g. barrow, will bring up all the books with that word in the title including barrows.



If you can't find a book which you think we should have, please contact me through the website. This year's *Staffordshire Journal* has just arrived and will be on the shelves when the library reopens. We have also added to the collection *A School in England The History of Repton* by *Hugh Brogan*. Let's hope it is not too long before we are back to some sort of normality and the library can return to its proper use.

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## ARCHITECTURAL SECTION, 2019

Our first talk was after the AGM by Ruth Williams on 'Gems of Staffordshire'. This covered a brief tour of the rural views, from the Roaches to Britain's largest bog, and also mentioning the WW2 Fauld explosion and the vast Staffordshire Hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver items. Important buildings discussed included the ancient High House in Stafford, the largest Tudor town house in England, and Pugin's works at Cheadle – St. Giles Church and Alton Convent – which were visited earlier by the Society. We learned that the troglodyte dwellings at Kinver Edge were inhabited up to the 1960s, while the National Trust's gardens at Biddulph Grange were created to hold James Bateman's plant collection in Chinese, Italian and Egyptian gardens there. Then Lichfield Cathedral and Erasmus Darwin's house were shown, before moving on to Tutbury Church and Castle, where Mary Queen of Scots spent some unhappy time. Abbots Bromley Horn Dance received a mention before the tour finished at what's left of Ilam Hall and the Saxon Church with its saddle-back tower..



*Erasmus Darwin's House, at Lichfield, with the Cathedral's three spires beyond, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2014.*

[MC]

On the first of June we gathered outside the church at Breedon-on-the-Hill in Leicestershire to meet Richard Stone, our guide. An early Saxon religious house was founded here in 675 but was destroyed by the Viking Army in 873. It was re-founded in late Saxon times, and numerous fragments of the buildings are incorporated in the remaining tower and chancel of the Norman church, all that remains of the Augustinian house of 1120. Inside the church are a full set of

box pews and the alabaster table tombs of the Shirleys. The Saxon carvings include a carved frieze from the inside and outside of the Saxon conventual church and several panels of kings and saints, together with a replica of the Angel of Breedon, the original not being on view. In the afternoon we visited Stoneywell Cottage in Charnwood Forest (NT). This 1899 house was designed by Ernest Gimson (1864-1919) for his brother in the Arts-and-Crafts style. It is built of local granite with a Charnwood slate roof replacing the original thatch and seems to positively grow out of the ground. The house is visited by parties of 10 and is best described as 'quirky'. We were later guided round the grounds.

Our next visit on 27 July was to Tutbury Church, when some 20 members were met by John Arnold. The late 11th century priory was founded by Henry de Ferrers and later became the church of a Benedictine priory. The monastic buildings have entirely disappeared and the church lost its chancel and south transept, while a Victorian aisle was added to the north and an apse by G. E. Street completed the east end. The west doorway is superb with seven orders, the second being of Fauld alabaster. Inside, the massive Norman columns dominate, some of which are quatrefoil in section. Refreshments provided a gratifying end to an interesting visit.

On 19th November, Max Craven gave us a talk on Alderman Richard Leaper (1759-1838), a rather eccentric local Derby architect working in the first part of the 19th century. He pointed out some of the typical characteristics of Leaper's designs, generally slightly infelicitous, but characteristic. He also ran through the buildings he designed, mainly Regency villas, those that fairly safely can be attributed to him, like Bladon Castle (and other buildings at Newton Solney) and Mill Hill House and the Particular Baptist Chapel in Agard Street, also in Derby. He explained that research into Leaper's *oeuvre* is hampered by a paucity of records. Though many of his buildings have been demolished (two quite recently), others survive and can be spotted round Derby and its environs.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, just prior to lock-down, John Arnold, who is a committee member of both the Local History, and the Archaeological Research sections presented a fascinating talk 'Alfred the Great and his response to the Great Heathen Army'. John began his talk by mentioning that the idea to give this title to his talk came to him whilst cutting down buddleia. He reminisced on the superb talks on Anglo Saxon England he had had the pleasure of listening to, both in Wantage and Winchester, also describing the magnificent statue of King Alfred, brandishing a sword, erected in Winchester in 1901.

John went on to describe in the time Scandinavian terrorism was rife in 793 the first known raid, on Lindisfarne. Evidence of raids on Monastic tombstones have been uncovered in excavations and reconstructions have been made. These have been recorded in the Robert Colton library collection. Furthermore, Matthew Parker wrote a very detailed biography of Alfred, which contained a description that, whilst in hiding, Alfred was minding a tray of loaves, whilst in abstract thought over the battle to come, when her allowed the loaves burn, hence the well-known incident.

John continued by describing the many battles and negotiations Alfred encountered through his lifetime. Alfred's first decisive victory was the battle of Edington 879, where he made an agreement with the Vikings, creating Danelaw. Many archaeological sites show evidence of this, including Torksey, led by Dawn Hadley and Julian Richards, and Repton, by Martin Biddle and the late Birthe Kjolbye-Biddle and more recently by Cat Jarman.

Perhaps the death of his three brothers, who preceded him as kings of Wessex, emboldened him and resigned him to his coming responsibilities. Alfred acquired a reputation for learning and clemency – he later was endowed with the epithet 'The Great', defended his kingdom against the Vikings and became the dominant ruler in England. Alfred also oversaw the conversion of Viking leader Guthrum to Christianity and promoted himself as defender of all Christian Anglo Saxons against the pagan Viking threat. He was the initiator of the Anglo Saxon Chronicle as we have it, which provides much of our knowledge of that era today. Seven of the nine remaining versions of the Chronicle reside in the British Library, one in the Bodleian Library Oxford, and one in The Parker Library at Corpus Christi College Cambridge.

Alfred died in 899 aged fifty. He suffered from illness throughout his life, today believed to have been Crohn's disease, and was succeeded by his son Edward.

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## **INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION, 2019**

The talk after the 2019 AGM was from Lynn Willies describing the history of Magpie Mine at Sheldon and 50 years of conservation and research undertaken on the site by the Peak District Mines Historical Society.

The section's annual coach trip took in to two interesting and contrasting museums in Lancashire. Our first destination was Morrison's supermarket in Bolton, built on the site of the enormous Atlas Mills complex. The one original building remaining on the site, a former cotton store, is now Bolton Steam Museum, the home of the Northern Mill Engine Society, with 27 stationary engines of all shapes and sizes beautifully restored, with many in working order. After lunch we moved on to Helmshore Textile Museum in the Rossendale valley. The museum is based in two adjacent mills on the River Ogden. Higher Mill was built in 1796 and Whitaker's Mill followed in the 1820s. During the life of these mills, both wool and cotton were processed there, and this is reflected in the museum displays.

For the first time in a number of years, the IA Section summer programme included a walk exploring a local area. The party met at Upper Hartshay, on the Heage to Ripley road, from whence Trevor Griffin led us on a circular walk, first north towards the course of the Cromford Canal, and then south to Morley Park ironworks. The objective was to view as much as possible of the route of a railway built in around 1840 to link the ironworks to the canal.

Steady progress is being made with the restoration of the Derbyshire section of Chesterfield Canal, with a new lock and basin recently opened in Staveley along with a visitor centre incorporating a café known as the 'Hollingwood Hub'. In September, members of the section had the chance to view these achievements on a trip along this stretch of canal in the narrow boat 'Madeline' which is operated by the Chesterfield Canal Trust. Because the boat only accommodates 12 passengers, we booked it for a morning and an afternoon trip; between the trips there was an opportunity to hear a talk about the recent restoration work and plans for the future.

The Winter Programme began with a talk from Philippa Puzey-Broomhead of Trent and Peak Archaeology, on 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century archaeology discovered during construction of improved flood defences along the River Derwent through Derby. This was followed by Philip Riden on the topic of Railways and the timber trade, describing how the construction and maintenance of the UK railway network in the 19<sup>th</sup> century generated a considerable demand for timber, especially for railway sleepers.

In January 2020, Peter Moseley spoke about the ornate cast iron Friar Gate Railway Bridge constructed by the local firm of Handyside on the former Great Northern Railway's line through Derby. Disused since 1967, but prominent in the streetscape, it is now in desperate need of restoration; an active 'Friends' trust is campaigning to this end.



*Friar Gate, GNR bridge, east side, 1966, from a slide taken by the late Roy Hughes. Love the Philip Marlowe character in the foreground complete with shades and snap-brim trilby! [MC]*

The section continues to care for Morley Park blast furnaces, with our usual ‘spring clean’ to tidy the site and repair fences. This year we have successfully applied to Historic England for a grant to install steel grilles, to prevent accidental or deliberate access via the top of the furnaces.

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## **LOCAL HISTORY SECTION, 2019**

Our first lecture of the year was on 15<sup>th</sup> February, when Trevor James spoke about his research into the reasons behind Church Dedications. Some concerned tribal territory, e.g. St Oswald’s at Ashbourne, a dedication to a northern saint, some were occupational, e.g. St Bartholomew, who was the patron saint of leatherworkers. Some were associated with charters for fairs and markets given before the church was dedicated. Some were locative, e.g., St Anne, who was associated with wells, whilst others were on pilgrim routes – several churches dedicated to St Chad were on a pilgrim route to Lichfield. After the AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Rita Bailey told us about the Derby Isolation Hospital built in 1883, north of Derby on the boundary between Chaddesden and Breadsall, to treat people with infectious diseases within the borough. The hospital expanded over the years and additional wards and staff quarters were built. In the 1920s a Bowling Green and tennis courts were added. Records of early treatments reveal patients in beds wheeled onto, open verandas, even in cold weather.

The first summer visit on 18<sup>th</sup> June was to St John’s Church, Mickleover where the vicar, the Reverend Peter Walley, gave us an illustrated talk on the history of the church. The present church was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century with 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration by H. I. Stevens. The chancel is 14<sup>th</sup> century, with a priest’s doorway and a stone lectern on the north wall; the octagonal shaped font is also 14<sup>th</sup> century. On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June, we visited Castleton and were shown the site of New Hall, built around 1550 and evidence for the original settlement at Castleton pre-dating the 12<sup>th</sup> century castle. On Spital Field, above Castleton, Sheffield University were excavating the possible site of the medieval hospital of the Blessed Mary of the Peak. The third visit, on 14<sup>th</sup> August was by coach to Hartlebury Castle, Worcestershire. Hartlebury Castle was originally built in the thirteenth century as a fortified manor house for the Bishops of Worcester. In the Civil War much of the medieval structure was destroyed and was rebuilt in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. When Bishop Hurd became the owner in 1781, he built a library for his collection of rare books. We were privileged to be given a tour of this library, threatened with sale and dispersal by the Church Commissioners a decade ago and saved by a nationwide campaign and the establishment of a trust.

The first lecture of the 2019 – 2020 season was on 1<sup>st</sup> November: 850 Years: An Introduction to Repton School and the Augustinian Priory by Paul Stevens, the Librarian and Archivist at the school. An Abbey was established in the 7<sup>th</sup> century but destroyed by the Vikings who set up their winter camp here in 873-874. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century an Augustinian Priory was founded by Maud, Countess of Chester. After the Dissolution, the new owners, the Thacker family, destroyed the Priory Church. Later, in 1559 Sir John Port of Etwall founded a Grammar School for boys in the Priory Guest House. We also heard about succeeding headmasters of the school and Dr Pears, one of the great reforming headmasters of the nineteenth century.

On 8th November Dr Ian Mitchell was to give his lecture on The Retail Trade in Derby. Severe flooding in Derbyshire caused traffic problems in Derby City centre and only eleven people managed to get to St Mary's Church Hall and the speaker coming from London arrived late. But he gave an abbreviated talk. In the 1700s goods were sold at Fairs and Markets. Specialist shops began to appear in Derby in the early 1800s grouped around the Market Place. He described how the shopping centre moved south along St Peter's Street and eventually to the Intu Centre half a mile from the Market Place.

During the year, the compiler, Jane Steer, and the editorial panel, Irene Brightmer, Roger Dalton, Joan D'Arcy and Heather Eaton produced two issues of *Derbyshire Miscellany*. The Spring 2019 issue, Volume 22: Part 1, contained three articles: 'As Poor as a Stockinger; Framework Knitting in Derby 1705 – 1855' by Alan Cokayne, '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 and Malcolm Burrows' 'Diary of a Shipley farmer 1867, Part 6: November 15<sup>th</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>.' The Autumn 2019 issue, Volume 22: Part 2 contained two articles: 'The Glossop Easter Books' by Derek Brumhead and 'Charities Administered by the Corporation of Derby in the latter part of the Eighteenth century,' Part 1 by Anne Bull. There was also an advertisement for the sale of the Heights of Abraham in 1838.

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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP, 2019**

Our first talk of 2019 was given by Dr. Richard Thomas on 19<sup>th</sup> January. This is an ongoing project to find the ruins of Lady Jane Grey's childhood home within Bradgate Park. Excavations had revealed a series of, 'stone structures', that lie under the standing ruined brick building of Bradgate House; he is currently trying to date their construction, and when they were demolished. Richard hopes to find evidence of the living standard of one of the most important families in Tudor times.

Following our AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> March, we were given a very enlightening talk by Denice Grace on a new project led by the Belper branch of the University of the Third Age, in their search for Belper Manor House. The Mansion is first mentioned in 1296, described as a Hunting Lodge and as having a deer park but by 1563, no deer were recorded and by the early 1800s, Steven Glover wrote, '...fragments of old walls, were all that remained of the Manor House'. In concluding, Denice told us that the remains of the building they had excavated must have belonged to an 18<sup>th</sup> century blacksmith's forge and although not the Manor house, was more than likely to have been on part of the original medieval site.

During May, some members took part in field walking at Radbourne. This was the second visit made to this site and over 100 finds were bagged, chiefly pot sherds and clay pipe fragments, provisionally identified as 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century; a full report is still pending. A possible Roman sherd was found. Many thanks to Leo for allowing us to walk on his land at Foxfields Farm.



Our first summer visit, on 15th June, found us in Ticknall, visiting Ticknall Archaeological Research Group, where we met Sue Brown. Sue told us that they were grateful to have been given the chance to dig on the site, as it belonged to the National Trust. The excavations had begun in 2011 with a trench trial that had produced some interesting pottery; further discoveries in 2016 and 2018 had revealed Cistercian and early Midland purple sherds. Other findings included saggars, squeezes and burnt red clay, all of which indicated that a kiln must have been close by.

Following our winter talk, we had been invited by Dr. Richard Thomas to see the excavations at Bradgate Park, which we did on a glorious summer day in June. The ongoing excavation was the last of five, part of a University of Leicester Field School project, to reveal more about the impressive brick walls of the ruined building. A trench had been dug forward of the standing wall and had set history on its head by revealing an earlier stone phase which is now thought to be the house where Lady Jane Grey (1537-1554) grew up. We also visited an adjacent domestic chapel where Bess of Hardwick married her second husband, Sir William Cavendish on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1547.

On 24<sup>th</sup> August we enjoyed a day conference with the Little Eaton History Group, and guest speaker Mary Wiltshire, who spoke on the Medieval landscape around Little Eaton. We also enjoyed talks given by Bill Hutchinson, the chairman, and our own Joan d'Arcy, on 'The Manor of Little Chester'. After lunch, we had the choice of visiting the mill or joining a guided walk around the village.

Our final summer visit 7<sup>th</sup> September, our coach trip took us to Tattershall Castle, with our very knowledgeable archaeologist James Wright. We learnt that the original crenellated Manor House had been built by Robert de Tateshale in 1231, under a licence from Henry III. It then passed on to Ralph, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Cromwell in 1433, when he became Lord Treasurer to Henry VI. Cromwell, deploying his newly acquired wealth, upgraded the crumbling ancestral seat and built the great brick tower. The visit to this impressive giant of a castle left us without doubt that Ralph Cromwell intended to show how rich and important he had become. The building was later restored, as were Montacute and Bodiam, by Derbyshire's first great enthusiast for architectural conservation, Marquess Curzon.

Our final speaker of the year, Ian Ross, enlightened us with a talk, 'Lifting the Lid on Lidar', which acronym stands for Light Detection and Ranging, and has been found to have been exceptionally useful in archaeology, as it measures the distance accurately between a laser source. The Lidar data will provide a digital surface, 'or elevation model'. This modelling has been useful in looking at Palaeolithic remains in field, and in the seabed. Ian is a member of the, 'Ice Age Journeys', project.

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

*Un-audited financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.*

DAS statement of funds 2020				
<b>Monica Pilling Account</b>				
Balance at 31.12.19			£32,736	
Grant to Castleton His Soc			£1,000	
<b>Balance 29.2.20</b>			<b>£31,736</b>	
<b>Pamela Staunton Bequest</b>				
Balance at 31.12.91			<b>£133,764</b>	
<b>Special Speaker Fund</b>			<b>£816</b>	
<b>Visit Surplus</b>			<b>£4,901</b>	
<b>Bank Balances</b>				
COIF 001			£26,056	
COIF 002			£3,508	
Nat West	05/02/2020		£17,201	
CAF	01/03/2020		£5,662	
<b>total</b>			<b>£52,427</b>	

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## DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY – A Taster

*Jane Steer*

### **Vol 22, Part 3, Spring 2020 – Contents**

*New evidence that the South Derbyshire village of Twyford was once the site of a Hospitaller Bailiff's house*

Joan Davies

*Derby's Canadian Pioneer - Rev George William Taylor*

David Parry

*The Depot Silk Mill in Derby and the Gibson and Ronalds families*

Beverley Ronalds

*Tracing the 12th century foundation of Becket Well, Derby*

Joan D'Arcy

*A Destructive Fire in Derby at Davenport's silk mill*

*Dale Abbey Iron Works.*

**Joan Davies** found a thirteenth century document concerning arable land in Willington which, as she explains in her article on *New evidence that the South Derbyshire village of Twyford was once the site of a Hospitaller Bailiff's house*, adds important new information to the history of the medieval Hospitaller estate in the South Derbyshire parish of Barrow-upon-Trent which then included Twyford, Stenson, Arleston and Sinfin. One of the witnesses was described as Henry 'of the camera in Twyford'. A camera was the term used for a small Hospitaller estate and would have been administered by a bailiff. It is most likely that Henry was the bailiff of the camera and that he lived in Twyford, probably in the house now known as Old Hall Cottage



*Twyford Old Hall, oil painting of 1871.*

[Roger Pegg]

**The Rev George William Taylor** (1854-1912) was the son of William Taylor, a silk manufacturer at the Derby Silk Mill. A brief story of his life in Canada is told by David Parry in *Derby's Canadian Pioneer - Rev George William Taylor*. Not only was he the first minister to be ordained in British Columbia rather than in England but he also became a well known Canadian scientist and founder of the Pacific Biological Station in Departure Bay, British Columbia. As well as Taylor Bay on Gabriola Island, he had an insect, a mollusc and a sponge named after him.

**The history of the Dépôt Mill** and its owner, Ambrose Moore, was related in *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 20, Parts 4-6. In her article on *The Depot Silk Mill in Derby and the Gibson and Ronalds families*, Beverley Ronalds, who lives in Australia and is a descendant of the Ronalds family, throws more light on two other interrelated families and their varied fortunes at the mill. The Gibson family was Moore's foundation partner while the Ronalds family was a subsequent occupant. Because the Depot Mill was established to throw rather than manufacture silk, the article looks at the opportunities and pressures in this segment of the silk industry during the period of the involvement of the two families. The quite different views of

the Gibsons and Moores regarding the causes of the financial changes they experienced, and their acceptability, are explored. Other business risks independent of the silk sector are also seen to impact on the Ronalds family in particular.



*Normanton Road, Derby: Depot Mill in about 1880, when operated by the Star Tea Company and before conversion into a brewery in 1884 by Messrs. Offiler.*

*[W. W. Winter]*

**Joan D'Arcy's article** on *Tracing the 12th century foundation of Becket Well, Derby* had its origins in an objection by the Derbyshire Archaeological Society to a planning application in 2019 for the redevelopment of Duckworth Square. Becket Well was once a notable local landmark in Derby, readily recognisable by its quaint stone conical cap. It stood near Becket Well Lane in an area of rising ground to the south of the Markeaton Brook, now culverted under Victoria Street. From the 13th century, this area was known as the Newlands and was given to Darley Abbey by Peter de Sandiacre in the late 1170s. The canons developed the area, creating tofts or messuages with garden plots, many with appurtenances and some with houses or other buildings to form a new suburb.



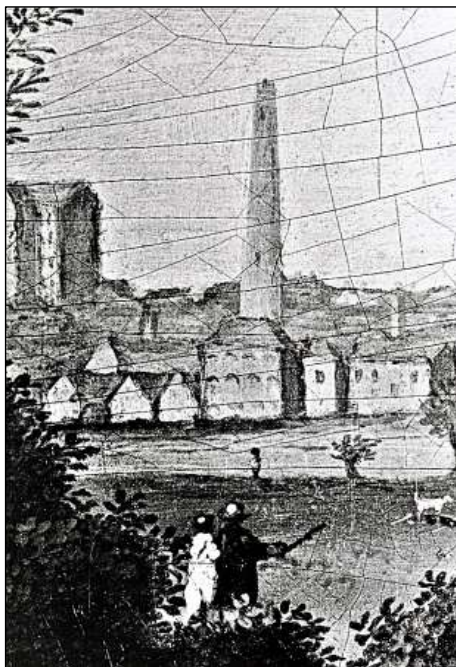
*The Becket Well head, as re-erected in 1964 at The Croft, Poyser's Lane, Kirk Langley.*

*[Rightmove]*

The well was excavated in 1889 and some of the stonework was dated to c1250 indicating that it had been built to supply water to the new suburb. Before its destruction it was referred to as a 'bucket' well in its Grade II listing but evidence is produced to show that it was most probably a holy well named after St Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury who was murdered on 29 December 1170.

**A destructive fire.** On 23 June 1852 the *London Illustrated News* carried a story about *A Destructive Fire in Derby at Davenport's silk mill*. There was also a report on this fire in the *Derby Mercury* on 20 June which gave details about the construction of the pioneering ‘fireproof’ mill of 1791 which was designed by William Strutt FRS and long belonged to his family. The mill was leased by Joseph Lancelot Davenport, a silk manufacturer who exhibited at the Great Exhibition in 1851. He lived at Wilderslow, 3, Osmaston Road, Derby (LGII and later the School of Nursing at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary), currently in severe delapidation as on the HE ‘At Risk’ register.

*Strutt's Fireproof Mill, Mill Ground (later Albert Street) as depicted (left) on a Derby Bloor ceramic plaque painted by William corden 1818; centre the Shot tower. [MC]*



- 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&p).
- Alternatively, an annual subscription to *Derbyshire Miscellany*, which is published twice a year, stands at £8.

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## ENQUIRY FROM WEBSITE

*From Graham Cole of Mickleover, courtesy Jane Steer:*

I would like to find out about the development, history and ancient history of Mickleover, in particular, Brierfield Way, which has some interesting features. It appears to have been a defence boundary, a ridge looking to the east. There are mature oak trees the length of the city side of Brierfield Way. These were planted perhaps a century ago, along and between the Mickleover boundary and A38 road. It would be interesting, as I said above, to find out the various histories of the area including the “oak tree ridge”

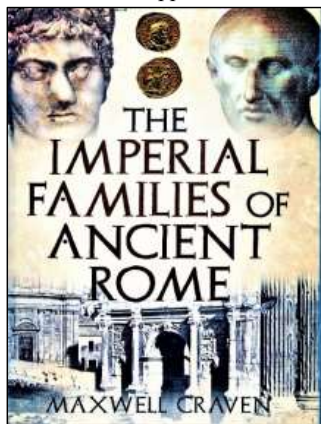
Are you able to help me in this quest please?

Graham Cole,  
[graham\\_cole2@sky.com](mailto:graham_cole2@sky.com)

[see page 28 – ed.]

## BOOK REVIEW

Maxwell Craven: *The Imperial Families of Ancient Rome*, Fonthill, Stroud (2019), 10 x 7in, hard bound, 655pp, ISBN 978-1-78155-738-9, £40.



This is a substantial book and perhaps not for the faint-hearted, Roman Emperors being what they are (or were). It is also fairly specialist: Romanophiles and anoraks only, I suspect.

It deals with a subject not previously tackled in one work: the ramifications of the Emperors' families (as far as they are known – which is a deal further than I, for one, had realised). Whilst it is not for the faint hearted, it is still well written, meticulously researched and illustrated with 70 family trees covering the reigns of Julius Caesar (49-44BC) to Maurice (582-602).

What you get is a 44-page introduction to enable the interested layman understand the origin and evolution of the Empire, its political institutions and other necessary explanatory material. There is then a prologue dealing with Caesar and thereafter each emperor gets a potted (and very readable) biography and account of his reign, with all essential details like full name (and changes), styles, offices held and so on. Then follows the genealogical table – beautifully drawn by the author – followed by a 'Brief Lives' section, meticulously sourced, with potted biographical notes of most of the relations shown. Regrettably, there are no illustrations, although the cover is adorned with three right rogues: one madman (Domitian), one proto-Brexiteer (Carausius) and one class-A persecutor of Christians (Decius).

Usurpers (here referred to as Imperial Claimants) are dealt with as they occur, and C. innovates by attempting to re-define the numerical sequence of the emperors to include the upstarts. Thus he heads up Caracalla as 'Antoninus II (known to history as Caracalla)', so even if you do not take to the idea, you won't get lost. He ends with some appendices, e.g. one of Magnus Maximus' legendary British connections, another about the possibility of genealogical continuity.

Even if you find the detail of the Brief Lives too much, to read the imperial biographies on their own provides a very readable and relatively comprehensive political history of the Empire, well observed and well up with recent scholarship. It also underlines how more closely emperors were related to each other throughout the 650 years. The quality of production is excellent, the only quibble is that I counted a dozen typos which, I suppose, in 650 odd pages, is not *too* bad!

RS

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## DERBY MUSEUMS TRUST

I feel sure that most Archaeological Society members will know all about Derby Museums, but in the absence of any superfluity of material for the current *Newsletter*, I thought it might be helpful to say something, for the Museums at Derby have been run by an independent charitable Trust since October 2012, and that trust has wholly transformed the museums: the original museum in the Wardwick (opened 1879), the Silk Mill (opened 1974) and Pickford's House, opened in 1988.

When your editor was appointed to the staff of the Museum in 1974, there was a purchase fund of £10,000 per annum, which, apart from the cost of buying the odd Joseph Wright (which even then were way beyond our means) did us very well. Yet over the years, ceaseless reductions were made, although a change of control in 1988 temporarily halted the decline, soon afterwards negated by the Council having to match-fund the Pride Park re-generation scheme. By the time I was made redundant and my four-man department abolished in 1998, the purchase fund was zero and had been since 1992, following yet another change of control.

At that time, many Museums were looking to move to independent trust status, and as chairman of the Friends of Derby Museums from 1999, I initiated a campaign to try and persuade the Council to take such an idea seriously. After all, we reminded them, although they would require continuing core funding, the whole running cost of museums would be removed from the balance sheet, including the administration and office costs. The Council would continue to own the collections and the buildings (for the maintenance of which they would continue to be responsible) and an independent trust would recruit staff and run the organisation, raise money, add to the collections without any veto, and so on.

This was consistently stone walled, despite a serious attempt to close Pickford's House for good in 2006. However, at a manifesto meeting in 2008 we managed to get the local Conservatives to adopt a plan to vest the Museums into a trust and, having won shared power at the following election and much to everyone's surprise, proceeded to put the idea into action, headed by Alan Grimadell as cabinet member. By the time the Conservatives lost control again in 2011, things were too far advanced to be reversed, and the Derby Museums Trust took over the following year, with a promised protected subvention from the Council and another from Arts Council England. At that time, we were generating a paltry 2% of our own income.

I was lucky enough to be nominated the Friends' representative on the Trust from the start, which was very effectively chaired until 2016 by Peter Smith, a local solicitor. Since then, the council (of all shades of political kidney) have been cutting their share of our grant, despite our having secured a £13,000,000 NLHF grant (£16,000,000 total) to re-vamp the Silk Mill as a Museum of Making due, until the current pestilence, to open in September this year. Now it looks as if it will have to wait until early next year. Recently the Council wanted to cut our subvention entirely, which would of course, result in the Arts Council pulling their funding and the NLHF to stop their grant, thus halting all development for good. When we informed them the cost of mothballing the entire museum, the idea was dropped, but it puts our excellent

executive director, Tony Butler, in an invidious position in that every year when the budget round begins once again, he has to go cap-in-hand to the elected members to beg for the subvention to maintained at present (depleted) levels at the very least. Another problem is that Councils of both main parties have floated the idea of selling parts of the collections to meet funding shortfalls, largely of their own making, usually enthusiastically supported by the local paper. Each time, the pointless short-termism of such notions have to be again laboriously explained.

Nevertheless, huge strides have been made. Both Pickford's house and the Wardwick Museums have been much improved, the latter immeasurably. The old natural history gallery off the reception area on the first floor has been transformed into a natural-world themed space, wonderfully presented for learning and enjoyment. The recent natural history gallery is now a World Cultures Gallery, in which all the rich ethnic collections have been re-presented after been confined to store when we re-presented the archaeological gallery which they shared in 1982-84. Nearby a completely revamped Military Gallery celebrating the 9<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> Lancers, the Derbyshire Regiment (95<sup>th</sup>, later 45<sup>th</sup> /95<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters, now 2<sup>nd</sup> bn. the Mercians)



*Derby Museum, Wardwick: the new Natural History section.*

[MC]

The council's desire for cuts also led to a reduction in the libraries, resulting in the library's section of the 1879 building becoming empty. The Trust jumped at the chance to take this over, for we had been growing our income very considerably since 2012 by using the spacious ground floor gallery of the Silk Mill for hire for weddings, Bar-Mitzvahs and funerals (as it were), but once work began on transforming the Silk Mill, we lost this space and, keen to maintain self-generated income at its new, much higher, level, we are currently using it for corporate and family events, too. If the Council will allow us to retain it long-term, we see an important opportunity to rationalise and greatly improve the displays on this site.

The *esprit de corps* built up over the past five years, after an admittedly difficult start, has been a wonder to behold, and under our current chairman, Elizabeth Fothergill CBE, the trust has firm plans to continue development over and beyond the opening of the Museums of Making (whenever that may be).



*Fundraising fun: The November 2017 Enlightenment Ball at the Silk Mill*

[Derby Museum Friends]

For those interested in archaeology, the gallery our team put in place in 1984 has yet to undergo a radical re-vamp, although the rather convoluted route through it, insisted upon by the director of the day, has been elided and the centrepiece is still Ealdorman Aethelwulf's magnificent interlace sarcophagus (still stubbornly and inaccurately purporting to be that of St. Alkmund!) and the wonderfully Merovingian image of King Aethelbald of Mercia carved upon the surviving fragment of the Repton cross shaft, unearthed by Martin Biddle, who also opened the gallery in 1984.

The remainder of the Museum is worth a visit and, by the time you read this, visits should again be possible, including Pickford's House and its Georgian garden. The Trust needs all the support it can get, so do not hesitate, even in these straitened times, to risk joining the Derby Museum Friends (as that body is now called) or supporting us in any way you can.

MC

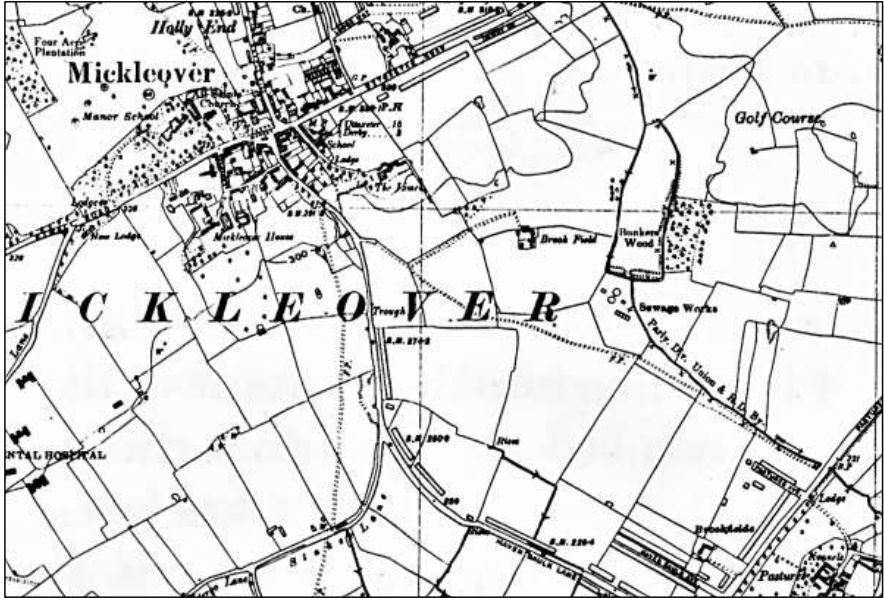
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## **OO-ER!**

'...every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building renamed...'

From George Orwell's biting critique of the Soviet Communism's attitude to the past, from his prescient novel, still horrifyingly relevant, *Nineteen Eighty Four*.

## MICKLEOVER



In case it helps Mr. Cole's enquiry, I have found a 6in: 1ml. map of Micklegate c. 1924 and have cropped it to show the Briarfield Way area. I did think the route of Briarfield Way was dictated by the ha-ha of The Limes (below), but I see from the map that this was perfectly straight. The surviving trees were probably part of the landscaping of the house, attributable to Richard Leaper and built in 1825. I have a nasty feeling that all other features, including the sweeping curves of Briarfield Way, are the result of the predilections of the engineers who put the A38 through in 1970! My book *An Illustrated History of Derby's Suburbs* (Breedon, Derby 1996) gives a broad-brush idea of Micklegate's history; Derby Local Studies Library have a copy (when you can get in!) and much more besides, including all the early maps you need.

MC



*Micklegate, The Limes, south front, with the Ayre family on the terrace, c. 1880, photographed by Richard Keene. [MC]*

## **DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY SECTION OFFICERS 2019-2020**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP**

Chairman	Ann Jones
Secretary and CBA representative	Janette Jackson
Programme Secretary	Anne Haywood
Treasurer	John d'Arcy
Fieldwork Officer	David Budge
Council Representative	Joan d'Arcy

### **ARCHITECTURAL SECTION**

Chairman	John d'Arcy
Secretary	Alison Haslam
Treasurer	Malcolm Busfield
Programme secretary	<i>sede vacante</i>
Council Representative	John d'Arcy

### **LOCAL HISTORY SECTION**

Chairman	Joan d'Arcy
Vice-chairman	<i>sede vacante</i>
Secretary	Joan Davies
Treasurer	Norma Consterdine
Council Representative	Susan Peberdy

### **INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION**

Chairman	Ian Mitchell
Vice-chairman	Anne Allcock
Secretary	Jane Heginbotham
Treasurer	Alastair Gilchrist
Programme Secretary	Peter Robinson
Council representative	Peter Robinson

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