

DERBYSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



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# 2021

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

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## COVER & EDITOR'S NOTES

**The front cover** is of the south easterly curve of the Crescent at Buxton, by John Carr of York for the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire 1782 photographed on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

The picture was taken when Carole and I went to the Buxton antiques fair, which is always a good event, with plenty of quality items for sale, some remarkably reasonably priced. I say that because we actually bought a couple of things and came back solvent whilst feeling that we had not been made to pay over the odds. Another reason for wanting to go was to see the Crescent, now finally restored after so many years of difficulties. Those members who also belong to the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust will know only too well of the seemingly endless saga; indeed, those of us on the old Council of Management began to despair of the place, long on the English heritage 'At Risk' register and in more than one ownership. Indeed, the part owned by the County Council was the most challenging of all, especially as that authority, when the undertaking began, was in a long period in which it was more obsessed with attempting to discomfort the government of the day than supporting such elitist enterprises as aiding a major restoration project of something built for a duke!

Now it is complete, it is a very fine sight indeed, especially the new-built spa on the NW side which has been done with great tact and makes a new minor piazza using the east wall of The Square (of similar date to the Crescent). This is graced with a brand new bronze statue of Carr in a fitting setting. All this, along with the well restored Thermal Baths, now a shopping arcade, an achievement of the DHBT from over 30 years ago (and which nearly bankrupted the Trust), makes a superb ensemble of the value of conservation and makes one of the finest provincial architectural set-pieces in the county. There is an exhibition in part of it, and, if you are feeling sufficiently plutocratic, the hotel is *very* smart!



*Buxton, John Carr (right) in his new piazza: living proof that neither tall buildings nor gimcrack modernism can hold a candle to well-mannered classical revival where it is appropriate.*



## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN 2021 Annual General Meeting**

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic meant that we were unable to hold the planned 2020 AGM for the society. One year on, we are still unable to hold traditional face-to-face meetings, but with our successful experience of online talks using Zoom, Council decided to go ahead with an AGM in this format. The disadvantage of this is that it potentially disenfranchises members who are unable to join an online meeting, so printed copies of all the AGM papers were distributed with the Spring edition of *Derbyshire Miscellany*, with a voting form to be returned before the event. This approach seems to have worked well; 42 voting forms were received (31% by post, 69% by email) and 40 members joined the online meeting on 21 May.

The most important decision to be made at the AGM was on a proposal to raise the annual subscription. The reasons why this is needed was explained in detail in the AGM papers, so I won't repeat it here. The new subscription rate of £28 per year was agreed (38 in favour 4 against) and will apply from the start of 2022. While this is a substantial increase from the current £18 per year, in future the basic membership will include *Derbyshire Miscellany* which was previously carried an extra charge.

The continuing uncertainty regarding Covid-19 restrictions has again prevented the sections from organising a full summer programme. At the time I write this, outdoor activities for groups of people are now permitted, so we are hoping to take advantage of this to organise a small number of walks within the County. Numbers will have to be restricted and there is a risk of cancellation if restrictions are re-imposed, but hopefully this will give an opportunity for at least a few members to meet up in the open air. Details of the walks and how to book are on a flyer enclosed with the newsletter.

Looking ahead to the Winter Programme 2021-2022, it remains very uncertain whether we will be able to resume traditional face to face meetings. Even when these are legally permitted, neither of the venues that we have traditionally used in Derby have as yet opened for public bookings, and there may be draconian cleaning requirements that we would find it difficult to comply with. Meanwhile our on-line Zoom talks have proved to be very successful, with many appreciative comments from members whose location or personal circumstances prevent them from attending evening meetings in Derby; we have also attracted some new members who joined after watching one of the talks.

With these factors in mind, our strategy for the Winter Programme is that we will hold at least one online talk every month from September to April, and intersperse these with additional talks that may be online or face to face depending on the circumstances and the preferences of the speakers. We hope to send out a printed programme with the Autumn edition of *Derbyshire Miscellany*, but please bear in mind that things could still change and, if at all possible, you should provide an email address to receive regular updates. Every talk is added to the events calendar on the website as soon as a date is agreed with the speaker, so check this out if you would like advance warning of the dates and subjects that are planned.

Ian Mitchell

## NEW MEMBERS

*The Society is very pleased to welcome the following thirty three new members.  
We shall look forward to seeing them at meetings (once permitted!), and urge them to  
make themselves known.*

Mr & Mrs D. Abell of Mickleover, Derbys.

Mrs J. Arthur of Church Broughton, Derbys.

Ms M. Burslem of Rochester, Kent

Ms F. Edmeston of Ballidon, Derbys.

Ms J. French of Sheffield, Yorks, WR

Ms S. Gee of Newthorpe, Notts.

Ms K.E. Harley of Tibshelf, Derbys.

Mr F. Haskew & Dr H. Livingston of Henfield, Sussex

Mr G. Henshaw of Nottingham

Drs D. & A. Hutchinson of Wollaton, Notts.

Mr M.D. Iszatt of Bakewell, Derbys.

Mr C. Lea of Chesterfield, Derbys.

Ms E. Lonsdale of Derby

Mr R. Mee of West Hallam, Derbys.

Mr S. Navid & Mr S. Rumble of Belper, Derbys.

Mrs J. Newton of Etwall, Derbys.

Mr P. Pawelski of Preston, Lancs.

Ms A. Phillipe of Ashbourne, Derbys.

Mrs J.M. Rigley of Ilkeston, Derbys.

Mr L. Saunders of Derby

Mrs & Mr J. Smart of Blakelow, Cheshire

Mr & Mrs I. R. Smith of Bakewell, Derbys.

Mrs J.M. Thompson of Wingerworth, Derbys.

Mr S. Thornley of West Hallam, Derbys.

Mr R. Turner of Littleover, Derbys.

Mr I. Wain of Hemington, Leics.

Dr S.J. Zasada of Chesterfield, Derbys.

## ***SECTION REPORTS***

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP**

**Dana Campbell**

**Work of the Derbyshire Historic Environment Officer: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

This was the first talk that Dr Dana Campbell, the Derbyshire Historic Environment Officer (HERO for short) had given using Zoom yet one would never have known it.

Dr. Campbell began by describing the history of the Derbyshire Historic Environment Records, moving on to the scope and use of the database of which she is in charge, and how she sees the future. The Ordinance survey was the first organisation to record sites and monuments although until 1947 just the location was recorded, and after that, only the most basic information was collected. Local organisations also collected and published data. The North Derbyshire Archaeological Trust which began life in 1973 having been the Chesterfield Archaeological Committee, but they only recorded S&Ms earlier than 1500. The Trent Valley Archaeological Research Committee, an offshoot of the Archaeology Department at the University of Nottingham, now Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust, was established in 1967 they recorded sites and monuments of all ages. Last but not least, our own Industrial Archaeological Section who produced a series of gazetteers (still available).

In 1967 the Derbyshire County Council began recording 'the county treasures', which were 'of Local Heritage interest'. These included not only built heritage and archaeology, but also natural history and landscape. Oxford was the earliest county Dana found to have sites and monuments records, these were begun in 1965, Derbyshire followed suit in the early to mid 1980s when the Derbyshire County Council and the Peak Park Joint Planning Board obtained assistance from English Heritage to fund resources and establish a joint archaeological post with a view to creating an SMR of all heritage assets for all chronological periods (including modern). While researching this, a collection of odd materials was amassed, historic maps, aerial photographs, books, offprints, but there was no formal catalogue system to cope with all the information. To deal with this, internally developed software was produced and computerisation officially began. In the late 1980s, again with the help of English Heritage, a full time SMR post at Derbyshire County Council (the post Dana now holds) and a full time archaeological post at the Peak District National Park were created.

Until the 1990s no planning permission had to include any archaeological evaluation, but with the introduction of the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)16 this began to change and detailed records of all sites and monuments and being able to retrieve them easily became much more important. In the early 1990s the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England which held the SMR records, provided a free computer loaded with their own in-house software and one of the jobs of the SMR officer was to transfer the existing records to this new database but, until the appointment of a County Archaeologist in 1993, this could not begin due to

pressure of work. Thus it was from 1993 that the Derbyshire records were incorporated into the Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Records digital database.

As more information was added to the database, including sources, location of archive and digital documents and finds, its name was changed to Historic Environment Records to reflect this. Nationwide, all records aimed to use a standard terminology and maps so that all the databases can be searched in one search operation. (Details of the standard terminology used can be found at the Forum on Information Standards in Heritage (FISH) at <http://www.heritage-standards.org.uk/fish-vocabularies/>.)

Dana went on to show us the magic than can be worked using the HER database. She took Etwall as an example, and brought up the interactive map homing in on Etwall and with a click of the mouse all the recorded monuments in the village were shown. A further click on one of these takes you to a report which has links to papers, archaeological reports and even Pevsner, if they are available for that particular site or monument. It is also possible to overlay the map on a historic map.

An online version of the database was made available for public use earlier this year at the Derbyshire Historic Environment Records <https://her.derbyshire.gov.uk/> There is also the Heritage Gateway, which includes records from some other counties as well as some of the Derbyshire records. This database does not have the mapping capability but you can search them all in one operation - for Roman roads for example.

At present Dana's aim (with the help of Chris Wardle) is to make the grey literature (unpublished archaeological reports) also available on the database. This is not an easy task as not all these reports have been submitted as they should have been and there was also a large backlog, but getting smaller. However, last year there were over 700 planning applications that required archaeological advice and many of these will produce a report which will also have to be incorporated into the database.

To conclude, Dana encouraged us all to use the database, leave comments (photographs can be added to the comments), point out any errors, add information, but most of all use it, apparently it gets cleverer the more it is used. However when you do visit make sure you have plenty of time, it is addictive.

\*

**Jill Eyers**

### **The Grave Trade or, the Archaeology of Burials, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Dr Eyers began describing how different cultures bury their dead, and how they perceived the afterlife. Bringing in to the talk, the pyramids, and the need to bind the bodies, and bury with them the furnishing they will need for their future. In the UK the long barrows from 6500 years ago. How in Madagascar, the ritual of turning the dead, and after a year re-wrapping them. A fascinating and different talk.

\*

**Tim Bennett**  
**The Elka Project, Ilkeston, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

Tim began by apologising that he was not a trained Archaeologist, but what he lacked in experience, he certainly made up in enthusiasm. He has begun what could be a huge community project, exciting the interest of many with his finds, beginning with an accidental discovery of two ring ditches. Since then, a lot more evidence has been found which points to the likelihood of a Saxon settlement

Tim has submitted all the information to the governing bodies of archaeology, and hopes eventually to reconstruct the site, as a living museum. If you want to know more, take a look at 'The Elka Project' facebook page.

\*

**Chris Wardle**  
**The Origins of Derby, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

This was the most popular of our talks on Zoom during the winter, for obvious reasons. Chris introduced himself as being an Archaeologist, with thirty years' experience. During his career he had looked at the origins of Derby, both, the historical and the strategic location-standing on the Derwent with the Trent crossing, and how it eventually became urban just after the medieval period. Chris introduced Speed's map of 1610 explaining, during this period lots of administrative buildings began to be introduced which in turn created a lot of trade. In earlier Saxon times Derby could have easily fitted in to the inner ring road.

Roman Derby confuses the issue, because of the location of the Roman Fort at Little Chester- quite a way from the original centre, just above the fort there was possibly a bridge to the left of Strutt's Park indicating the alignment to the south via Uttoxeter Old Road towards Littleover. [vestiges of the bridge cutwaters were discovered in the Derwent in 1985 by the Ilkeston sub-aqua club working on the initiative of this Society – ed.] The line to the North indicated the Rykneild Street alignment towards Chessterfield. Evidence of this is recorded by William Stukeley FSA who visited Derby in 1721 and witnessed the Roman defences being quarried away for road buildings.

During the 1960s material was found to the west of Little Chester on Belper Road, suggesting an earlier Fort. Stukeley also recorded Roman activity towards North Street, indicating a likely Roman Bridge over the Derwent.

Not a lot has been found of Saxon remains, but there is documented evidence, early maps, archaeological discoveries, records of re-burials of St. Alkmund are recorded in the *Anglo Saxon Chronicle* the *Domesday Book*, and church records, much enhanced by Raleigh-Radford's excavation on the site of St. Alkmund's church 1966-67.



There is no mention of the capture of Derby (really meaning Little Chester) by the Danes, but there is a description in detail of its recapture by Queen Æthelædda in AD 917. We are told that she lost four of her thanes within the gates. There is no mention of the Danes retaking Derby, but twenty five years later it is recorded in the *Anglo Saxon Chronicle* that Derby on its present site was finally established and rejoicing, in the liberation as one of the five *burhs*, following the battle of Brunanburgh



*'Go get 'em, boys!' - Æthelædda of Mercia in action at Little Chester's fortifications.*

In the Domesday Book commissioned by William 1<sup>st</sup>. considered to be the gold standard of records, Derby is recorded to have 243 burgesses, which was more than Nottingham where there were only 173 recorded. [Derby's mint, established after 921, issued more coin than Nottingham too! - Ed]

Chris went on to describe the topographical evidence, looking at waterways and the causeway named on Speed's map beginning at St. Mary's Bridge, the route following King's Street/Queen's Street/Irongate/Corn Market, St Peter's Street to the south, with the churches of St. Alkmund's, St. Helen's (from 1136 part of the Abbey of Darley), St. Michael's, All Saints, St. James's later part of a cell of the abbey of Bermondsey) and St. Mary's clustering along its course. A sherd of pottery found at the rear of St. James confirmed the existence of the medieval priory. With the dissolution of the Monasteries, this caused closures of Darley Abbey (with the hospital of St. Helen), the Dominican Friary, the Convent of St. Mary de Pratis and the hospital of St. Leonard all in their way vital to the Town's economic growth and social health, creating a huge impact on Derby.

Returning to earlier findings Chris speculated that at one point the Roman bridge over the Derwent at Little Chester collapsed, as a result, a ford was created and 'New' Derby was formed. There is plainly much to be learnt. In Derby archaeology hasn't been important, in other places people were quick to record any archaeological evidence found, but in Derby there was no interest.

Derby had no full time Archaeological staff\* and it was left to museum staff to record anything of any interest. It wasn't until PPG 16 in 1990 when a document was produced by the government stipulating that all planning should include some Archaeology in the planning system.

Janette Jackson.

*\* Note that in fact Derby Museum had a full-time archaeologist in the late Roy Hughes FSA from 1952-1982. From 1972-1979 he was assisted by an Assistant Keeper of Archaeology in Jo Dool, a professional archaeologist, and she was succeeded by Maxwell Craven FSA until 1982, when he succeeded R G Hughes and Ann Donnelly was appointed. Until 1974, the Museum's remit covered the entire county (less the Peak Park), but from 1974 this was restricted to Derby only. Fieldwork only took place when work was scheduled in areas known to be sensitive, and was essentially reactive, although, seemingly, ceaseless, especially when it was cold! After PPG16 the museum's archaeological work formally ceased, and fieldwork taken on by Trent and Peak Archaeology and other agencies. A full SMR was kept.*

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## ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

**Dr John Hunt (Dept. of History, University of Birmingham)**

**Kilpeck Church in Context: A Window on Medieval Mentality: 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2021**

Dr Hunt's talk was informed by his own researches and the work of others into the church at Kilpeck dedicated to St Mary and St David and located nine miles south west of Hereford. In the village of Kilpeck, Herefordshire, the Church is associated with a castle and its defensive defensive features and is thought to have been built between 1120 and 1160. However, this Romanesque Church has a special place in the history of medieval church architecture being a model for the Hereford School of Sculpture, which is also evident in churches across the West Midlands. It features elaborate carvings partly influenced by those in churches in south west France.

At Kilpeck, the Church plan is simple comprising nave, chancel and apse with the carvings decorating the south door, windows and roof line corbels. Dr Hunt illustrated the latter and demonstrated the carvings to be notably intricate with much interlacing, testimony to the skills and imagination of the masons involved and the competence of the local sandstone. The carvings portray a diversity of features including plants and animals such as trees, snakes and deer, symbolic of real and imagined worlds. Corbels, over eighty in number, display human

and animal heads. Some carvings verge on the grotesque while others have an almost pagan feel.



Above, Kilpeck Church from the SW.



Right:  
*Play it again, Sam: weathered grotesque of a musician: probably been to the Red Lion!*

In his closing remarks thanking Dr Hunt, our Chairman emphasised the merit of visiting Kilpeck. This is supported by the internet which also praises the quality of the Kilpeck Inn (formerly the *Red Lion*).

Roger Dalton

[Having been brought up four miles away, your editor can vouch for the delights of both church, inn and castle tump!]

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## DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

In lieu of the unexpected changes to the Society's plans for 2020, and into 2021, all members will now have received their free copy of *Derbyshire Miscellany*, and will also receive the next issue free of charge in the Autumn. As agreed at the AGM on 21 May, the annual subscription is being increased, and *Derbyshire Miscellany* will now be sent to all members twice a year as part of their subscription.

The Spring 2021 issue represented quite a significant face-lift for the publication which has been published for 65 years. However, the aim and purpose remain very much the same: *'to share knowledge and information about our county's rich heritage'*. With that central theme in common, this could be where the similarities end and there are already a large number of submissions have been received for future issues across a wide range of subjects. If you have any items or articles for inclusion, please email these to [das.miscellany@gmail.com](mailto:das.miscellany@gmail.com) (no postal

address at the present time). All submissions should be accompanied by at least one illustration, with images sent as separate files rather than as part of the text.

Thank you to all contributors to the Spring 2021 issue, and most especially to all members of the editorial team (Jane, Heather, Irene, Roger and Rosemary) who ensured the articles were ready for publication.

### **Vol 22, Part 5, Spring 2021 - Contents**

- *The Holden family of Aston Hall and their archives: Part 2* by Miriam Wood
- *Deincourt family of Park Hall, Morton* by Gladwyn Turbutt
- *Long Eaton House Names* by Keith Reedman
- Book review by Adrian Henstock – *Pecsaetna: people of the Anglo-Saxon Peak District, P. Sidebottom (2020)*

#### *The Holden family of Aston Hall and their archives: Part 2* by Miriam Wood

The concluding part of this article which began in the Autumn 2020 issue, considers the significant expansion of the Holden estate after 1833. Miriam explores how the title deeds and estate records, including items relating to the local plaster/alabaster industry, offer a useful insight into not just the Holdens, but also their tenants, business partners, and friends, as well as highlighting personal items such as bills for cloth and apparel in the 1650s, payments for hats for Napoleonic War volunteers in 1804 and an inventory of heirlooms at Darley Abbey. The Holden estate was sold to W. D. Winterbottom in 1898, and was broken up in 1924. Using the catalogue for this sale, Miriam concludes by providing a snapshot of the estate and the village, with a reminder that a family archive is often so much more than property and immediate family activities.

#### *Deincourt family of Park Hall, Morton* by Gladwyn Turbutt

The manors of Morton, Pilsley, Holmesfield, Elmton and Stony Houghton were granted to William de Aincourt by William the Conqueror. This article particularly considers the estates at Morton, Pilsley and North Wingfield that descended through the junior branch of the Deincourt family resident at Park Hall in Morton, with an abbreviated genealogy. The Deincourt line became extinct around 1350, and the moieties of the manors were inherited by Sir Roger's daughters Alice Longford (later de Barton) and Joanna Revell (later Neville), the latter's heir being Matilda Bussey. The moieties were ultimately purchased, in separate events, by Sir Francis Leake, whose son was created Lord Deincourt of Sutton in 1624 and Earl of Scarsdale in 1645. Consideration is also given to the estate after 1736, when this line also became extinct, the site of Park Hall (with map) and two Deincourt effigies at North Wingfield parish church, also with illustrations.

#### *Long Eaton House Names* by Keith Reedman

Several years ago, after being contacted by Erewash Borough Council about the house names and builders in the town, Keith undertook to document all the surviving names. This short article sets the scene during a period of feverish building activity in the late Victorian and Edwardian period, and takes a look at some of the builders and developers who were hooked

on the fashion for giving their properties permanent names. A full list of the nearly 200 houses is now available online at [www.reedman.org.uk](http://www.reedman.org.uk).

Book review by Adrian Henstock – *Pecsaetna: people of the Anglo-Saxon Peak District, P. Sidebottom (2020)*

The Pecsaetna were a small tribe who lived in the Derbyshire Peak District between at least the 7th and 10th centuries. This review briefly summarises the archaeological and documentary evidence used by the author, and particularly reflects on his suggestion for the region likely inhabited by the tribe.

**Back issues**

Issues for 1956 to 2016 are available to view at [www.derbyshireas.org.uk](http://www.derbyshireas.org.uk). Issues for 2017-2020 are available from Mrs Susan Peberdy, 147 Havenbault Lane, Littleover, Derby, DE23 4AF (£4.25 incl. p&p).

Becky Sheldon

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## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

### Michael Edwards

#### The return of a Cuckoo, 11/12/20

In September 2019 we were able to have a DAS section day on the Chesterfield Canal, enjoying a trip on the open section from Chesterfield to Staveley. We were also able to see the ongoing restoration work and learnt of the reconstruction of one of the canal's original working boats known as a Cuckoo-boat. Michael Edwards, one of the volunteers on the canal, made the brave offer to present the story of the build of the replica boat, which started in 2005 as the first zoom lecture of the season.

The canal runs from Chesterfield to West Stockwith (Notts.) on the Trent and is presently open in two sections, divided by a length of a few miles north and west of Staveley currently under restoration. It was concerned mainly with the transport of coal, clay and stone. One notable job undertaken was the transport of 25,000 tons of stone for the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament sent through the Trent, Humber, North Sea and thence to the Thames.

During the present reconstruction of the canal, several abandoned vessels were found in the bed and it was decided to recreate one of these working narrow boats in 2010. The boats were flat bottomed, 70 ft. long with no engine but a large mast boasting a small sail, which was used on broader waters, such as the Trent. The sequence of building was all recorded on a very good video film which we were shown; the immense effort required in handling the large heavy timbers used was obvious.

It was decided that the construction materials and methods used should closely follow the originals and timber was sourced locally: oak for the thick side planks and larch for the flat

bottom. The side planks were butted together and secured by 360 iron 9in. nails which had to be forged by the volunteers, together with the large brackets securing the sides to the bottom. The sides of the boat are generally parallel but taper in to the bow and stern posts. In order to bend the 2in. by 10 in. planks a steam chamber was built to treat the timbers which are themselves 27 feet long. After 4 hrs steaming the timbers could be bent for a short time using much manpower and fixed together. All the shaping, bending and fixing was carried out by hand using traditional methods and tools and the driving of the 9in. nails shown on the video earned much respect. In time honoured fashion the hull was then caulked and with a coat of Stockholm tar made it canal worthy the boat was launched in 2015.

The boat has been used by the society for passenger trip work on the section of the canal connected to the Trent but cannot be sailed, the increase in regulations and restrictions that practice would bring making it not worthwhile. In service it has to be towed by a powered companion or by a horse on the towpath. It has ventured into the Cromford Canal via the Trent and the Trent and Mersey Canal under tow, visiting Langley Mill for a canal rally.

It is to be hoped that the *Dawn Rose* will seen again in Chesterfield, giving trips along what will be a valuable addition to the canal system.

The lecture went very well and detailed questions on the construction and operation were able to be answered afterwards as part of the Zoom system with great credit to the organisers as the first one in the New World!.

Peter Robinson

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### **Denis Hill**

#### **Wheels of Industry: the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Denis Hill is one of the leaders of a group set up to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of a horse drawn railway between the town of Mansfield and the Cromford Canal at Pinxton in 1819. While there were several earlier railways feeding into the canal network in Derbyshire and further afield, the Mansfield and Pinxton is significant in that it was an independent company with its own Act of Parliament, and most of the route has survived to be incorporated into the main line railway network and is still carrying passengers and freight.

The talk presented the full history from inception to the present day, and the impact on the local economy over the years. The bicentenary celebrations have been supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which has enabled historical research to be undertaken, history display panels to be designed and erected at several locations along the route, and a variety of events to engage the local community. A hardback book has been published and the speaker has donated a copy to the Society's library.



*Mansfield and Pinxton Railway: King's Mill viaduct looking towards Mansfield.*  
[Wikipedia]

Members may also be interested in a series of walks along the route that are being organised this Autumn – see the project website [www.mansfieldandpinxton200.btck.co.uk/](http://www.mansfieldandpinxton200.btck.co.uk/) for details.

Peter Robinson

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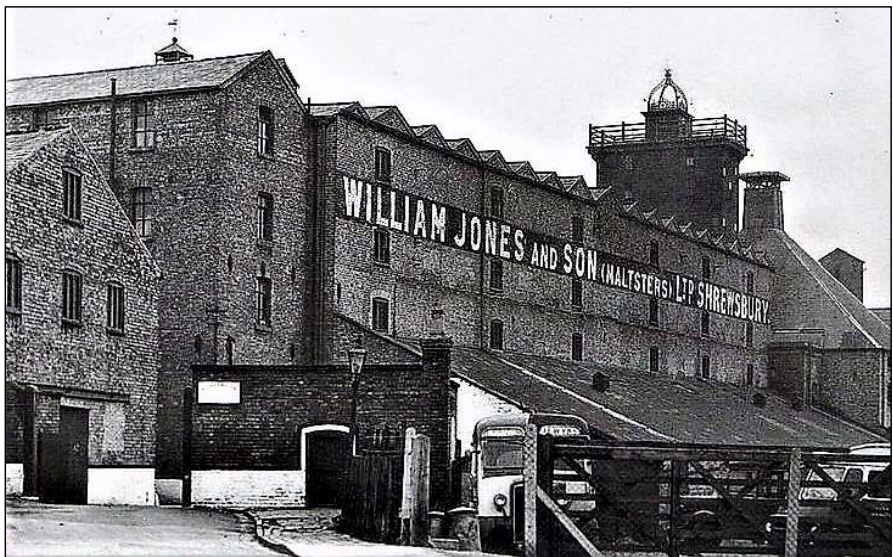
**Richard Benjamin**  
**Ditherington Lax Mill, Shrewsbury 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021**

Richard, a coordinator for the Friends of the Flax Mill, gave a talk to 45 DAS members on the long history of the Ditherington Flax Mills in Shrewsbury. The mill was built in 1794 by a group of businessmen to prepare linen thread from flax, following the earlier opening of a mill at Castlefield in Shrewsbury. The promise of two new canals in the area which could supply coal, flax and water to the site encouraged the building of a new large mill at Ditherington and Charles Bage was employed to make the design. Charles, son of pioneer novelist, Derby-born Robert, was a friend of Erasmus Darwin FRS and William Strutt FRS, the latter having built a ‘fireproof’ mill in Belper and another in Derby (which burnt down). The new mill used much of the same engineering as Strutt’s but with additional refinements. The construction used a framework of cast iron pillars and beams clad with brick, five stories high. A steam engine provided power and was supplied by two boiler houses. Support buildings were provided such as a dyeing house, two apprentice houses and a range of stables and pigsties. The building had a good number of windows to provide light for processes going on inside and boasted a five-storey privy extension flanked by the two boiler houses and fitted with early flush toilets (another Strutt enthusiasm, borrowed from the pioneering work of John Whitehurst FRS), probably good in the winter but poor in the summer!

About 400 people were employed in 1813 rising to 800 in 1845 and this demanded an increase in the power available. Five new engines were therefore installed, in 70 years operation increasing power from 20 horsepower to more than 50.

Flax was processed to produce thread, the best fibres being around 4ft. long which were then made into thread called line, which could be made into cloth called linen and the shorter fibres called tow for rope. No weaving was carried out on site and a large part of the market was for thread to make sails for the navy. Changes in markets for linen goods and competition from other firms eventually caused a decline and the mill shut in 1886.

The site was purchased in 1897 by William Jones of Shrewsbury and adapted to become maltings, taking advantage of the canal and the railway line which had been built with a spur onto the site to bring barley in and take the malt away. There were changes to the appearance of the building, many windows being removed or blocked and the survivors reduced in size to be able to control the temperature in the building, necessary in the malting process. All the flax processing machinery was removed and a malting kiln installed on the site of the boiler house.



*Ditherington Flax Mill, c. 1960, many windows elided, still bearing the William Jones name.*

[W. Frew]

The business again went bankrupt in 1933-34 but production was continued by the Alliance Insurance Company. The Second World War brought a temporary change of use to a military barracks for basic training, electric lighting was installed and there was much graffiti and repainting. The end of the war saw the return of malting and the construction of two very large concrete silos on site to store the malt with the business by then owned by Ansell



The mill was shut in 1987 due to the confined site and aging plant and stood derelict until 2005 when it was purchased by English Heritage and the local council. It was listed Grade I thanks to its pioneering construction, being the first iron-framed building to be built in the world. The Friends of the Flax Mill was formed in 2010 to support the development and restoration and £30,000,000 has been granted for the restoration and continued use of the building. The ownership of the site passed to English Heritage in 2015.

There have been several excavations made to investigate the original mill and buildings and it has been found very helpful that the original mill was built in the time of the ‘brick Tax’, using oversized bricks; these provide a very good indication of age when uncovering early brickwork. The original design of windows have been refitted and restoration of the engine house and malting kiln continues with the aim of opening a visitors centre and exhibition on the ground floor next year and turning the upper floors to commercial use.

A very interesting talk covering a site which will be well worth a visit

Peter Robinson

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**Andrew Blayney**  
**Bristol Harbour Underfall Yard, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

As a change from the virtual talks using Zoom that we have been getting used to during the Covid-19 restrictions, the Industrial Archaeology Section took up an offer from the Underfall Yard Trust for a virtual tour of the historic part of Bristol Harbour that they look after. Using Zoom, we were able to see real time video images from the smartphone of Andrew Blayney, the Trust’s Heritage, Learning and Volunteer Manager, as he walked around the site and into various buildings, giving us a running commentary on what we were seeing.

Bristol’s ‘floating harbour’ is a result of an initiative by William Jessop in 1804-1809 to provide dams, sluices and locks so that ships could stay afloat in the centre of Bristol despite the enormous tidal range of the River Avon. Most of the area around the harbour has been redeveloped with housing and leisure replacing industry, but in the area known as the Underfall Yard, a number of original buildings remain. Our tour included a chance to see:

- The sluices that are still used to manage the water level in the harbour and to prevent the accumulation of silt.
- A workshop with wide range of belt driven machines, still connected to the original steam engine and boiler.
- A hydraulic power plant that powered swing bridges and lock gates in various places around the harbour.
- A patent slipway that is still in use for boat repairs.

During the tour Andrew demonstrated some the machinery, so that we were able to see and hear it in action. We also got a good impression of the Underfall Yard as a living place with

people coming and going and boatbuilders at work. Not quite the same as a real visit, but a good substitute in the current circumstances.

Peter Robinson

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### **Bennerley viaduct progress**

Great progress is being made on the £1.4 million project to restore the 1878 wrought iron viaduct that carried the Great Northern Railway over the Erewash Valley at Ilkeston. The project is led by the viaduct's owner Railway Paths Ltd. with support from a wide range of funding bodies and the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct, which is now a registered charity. The Friends recently held their AGM on Zoom; this report is based on presentations at that meeting.



*Looking west across Bennerley viaduct from the restored eastern abutment.*

*[Drone photographs by Paul Atherley for the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct]*

Phase 1 of the project has been to undertake critical repair works required to prevent future deterioration of the structure. The original wrought and cast ironwork is in remarkably good condition but there was significant deterioration of brickwork on the pier bases and abutments, and this has been carefully restored using lime mortar, and original bricks where possible.

Phase 2 was the construction of paths to allow public access to the deck of the viaduct. At the western end this is a ramped path linking to the Erewash Canal towpath, with a gentle gradient that will allow access for cycles and wheelchairs as well as pedestrians to reach the top and

take in the views across the valley. At the eastern abutment, a stepped access has been provided (the original railway embankment has been removed), which will allow a circular route over and under the viaduct for pedestrians.



*The new western ramp linking the viaduct to the Erewash Canal towpath*

*[Drone photographs by Paul Atherley for the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct]*

Phase 3 will be the construction of a level walkway across the viaduct deck (the original surface was railway ballast over corrugated iron troughs). This is taking place over summer 2021, and it is hoped that by the autumn everything will be complete, ready for a grand opening. Once that has happened, we shall look forward to a DAS visit as a follow up to talk we heard back in 2019.

The Friends organisation have ambitious plans for the future, with a wide range of activities to celebrate the history of the viaduct and the natural environment of the river valley beneath it. In the longer term this might include some sort of visitor centre in the vicinity, and a ramped access to the Nottingham Canal at the eastern end to provide a fully accessible route across the valley.

Ian Mitchell

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## **LIBRARY NOTES**

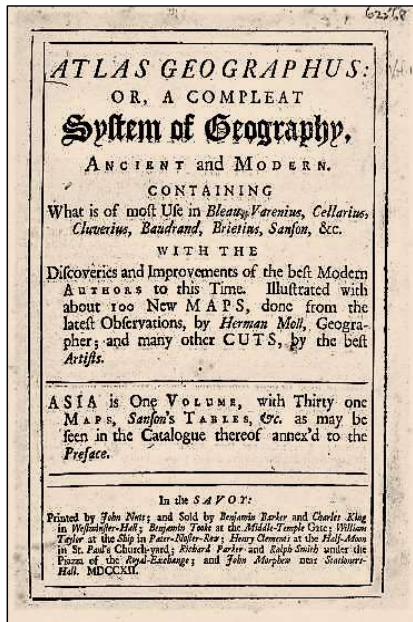
It was a great feeling when, on the 19<sup>th</sup> May, the Library opened its doors for the first time since March 2020. A clean and sort out the week before ensured we were ready for visitors. Despite the extended closure the books, apart from being dusty, were all fine and it was so satisfying to be able to bring them back to life.

Under the present covid restrictions we are allowed six at a time inside and I am pleased to say that on both the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> May, we had maximum numbers with 29 books being issued.

The opening time on Wednesdays has been extended by half an hour which gives more time for browsing! Saturdays remain the normal 2 hours. Opening days are the second Wednesday of each month from 1.30 until 4pm and on the last Saturday from 10 am to noon of each month; these dates are on the events calendar on the website. Members will soon be receiving by email a regular Library newsletter, the first of which was sent just before we opened. This is a new initiative and we hope you will find it useful and informative.

The Library has been privileged to receive two bequests recently. From the late Joan D’Arcy came *Pike’s History of Derby – Unpublished Manuscript of 1825* and *The Corpus of Anglo Saxon Stone Sculpture Volume X111 – Derbyshire and Staffordshire – Jane Hawkes and Philip Sidebottom*. This 500-page book with over 650 images is the first comprehensive survey of Anglo-Saxon and Anglo Scandinavian Sculptures in Derbyshire and Staffordshire since the 1940s.

The late Margaret Mallender bequeathed her late husband Michael’s 2 volume grangerised copy of *Glover’s History of the County of Derby 1829*. Copious illustrations of Derby and Derbyshire were bound into the volumes in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the technique being known as grangerising – after James Granger (1723-1776). The volumes had originally belonged to William Wilkins and then to A. E. Goodey. Ray Marjoram, our retired Librarian has kindly given us *Burke’s History of the Commons* Vol 1 (of four) London, 1836 (essentially the first volume of the *Landed Gentry Series*) and a volume of *Atlas Geographus – or, a Compleat*



*System of Geography Ancient and Modern for Great Britain and Ireland*. This volume has information on Derbyshire although the date of this particular volume is as yet unidentified, possibly mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. In addition, William Featherstone, also a member, has generously donated three boxes of books for the use of the library, either to be added to the collection or sold. Please do consider us if you are downsizing your library!

The books from these bequests and donations are of historic value and interest to the Society and we are most grateful to have been given them and send our thanks. If you’d like to come and have a look at any of these books, please contact me and I can arrange to have them on display for you as, for the present, they will not be permanently on the shelves. Contact details are at the front of the newsletter.

We continue to up-date the collection and details of new additions will be added to the website and noted in the Library newsletter. The library is in the next chapter of its interesting history

and we do hope that you will come and visit. Whatever your area of interest in Derbyshire, there is always something to find on the shelves.

Anne Allcock.  
Hon. Librarian

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## LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

Richard Bates

**Florence Nightingale: Derbyshire and the Home, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2021**

On another very cold February evening in the midst of the third Covid-19 Lockdown, 86 people gathered in their cosy homes around their 'devices' to watch and listen to a talk by Richard Bates (University of Nottingham) about a book published last year. The book was *Florence Nightingale: Derbyshire and the Home*, co-authored by Richard with three others who are members of two different Departments of the university. It was published to coincide with the bicentenary of the birth of Florence on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020.



*Florence (standing) and Parthenope Nightingale photographed in the gardens at Embley Park, 1874. Their father designed Embley Park himself and enlarged Lea Hurst to his own designs, too. [Private collection]*

Richard told us about other events that were planned alongside the launch, for example, websites, blogs and an exhibition on the university campus. There are also walking/driving tours and the Lea Wood trail that can be downloaded, as well as a virtual tour. Much research was carried out at Claydon House, Bucks (NT) - once the home of Florence's elder sister, Parthenope, Lady Verney - where the family archive is kept.

Sections of the talk focused on childhood homes; health and homes as well as homely institutions. Other chapters in the book are about The Home Front; Home and Empire and Spirituality. Richard gave us a detailed overview of how, through lead mining interest in Derbyshire, the Nightingales acquired their fortune and about the setting up and building of their homes at Lea Hurst near Cromford (15 bedrooms) and Embley Park, Hampshire (now a school). Elizabeth Gaskell, the novelist, wrote about Lea Hurst that it had 'stone-coloured walls and was trellised over with Virginia creeper.' It was affectionately known as 'dear little Hurstie.' The Victorian upper-class home was an idyllic place created by the women of the house. Florence was home educated by her father, who taught her half a dozen languages; he hired a mathematics tutor and she also gained management skills. She also accompanied ladies who visited the villagers recovering from illness. Parthenope wrote 'Flo has been very busy paying visits in the village.....' Florence also made visits to industrial workers around the County.



*Embley Park, photographed from the SW, 1875.*

[M. Craven]

At the age of 22 she wrote a short story *Cassandra*, which was a criticism of the way women were brought up within the home and illustrating gender differences. She was annoyed that she could not do practical things and felt that marriage would be the same. Later, she travelled

to Egypt and on a visit to Greece experienced religious visions. She also travelled widely in Germany, where there were religious houses for the sick like Pre-Reformation England, as well as schools.

At this time nursing was not 'respectable', leading to Florence to question the bridging of the gap between being an upper-class woman and having a professional career. She wrote 'my vision is a secular sisterhood' – she wanted to introduce a hierarchical family not answering to doctors or priests and to keep some of the home aspects. She created a Nightingale Home so that nurses did not live on the wards.

The book illustrates the contrasts in Nightingale's life – a privileged upbringing and a life devoted to service in the community, combined with her religious fervour. She wanted to 'find home at work.'

Norma Consterdine

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### **Mark Dawson**

#### **Food and Drink in Tudor and Stuart Derbyshire: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

I'm a convert to Zoom talks. This one was excellent. Mark based it on records such as Probate Inventories, household accounts and Quarter Sessions records etc. These allowed Mark to attempt research into the food of all classes. Far too many speakers concentrate on the enormous multi-course meals consumed in the great houses, the poor relying on the dole cupboard, yet the early modern period saw considerable diversity in food and drink between the counties. In Derbyshire there was also diversity between north and south.

Mark looked at 306 Probate Inventories between 1540 and 1700. This approach covered parishes such as Brassington and Chesterfield in the north and Chaddesden and Church Broughton in the south west. Inventories are invaluable as they mention kitchen items and livestock which give clues about diet. But, of course, few low-status people appear in inventories as they owned so little of real value.

Most Derbyshire Inventories reveal involvement in farming: 89% have animals, 66% crops. Derbyshire was very much a mixed farming county. Even in towns, people had livestock and crops. Grains were vital as they formed much of diet. Wheat was not affordable for most, though and poor people relied on rye bread, some rye coming in via Bawtry, from Poland. Rye bread lasted longer and put together with wheat, made Maslin bread, a staple for all classes. Loaves were enormous, weighing up to 14g. Ovens existed only in the better-off households, so most people bought from a baker. Oats for oatcakes did not rely on an oven, but on a bake-stone. Derbyshire oat-cakes offered good nourishment, were 16 to 18 inches in diameter and ¾ inch. thick. Often, they were served with an onion broth.

Water was drunk, but only when people were sure of its purity. Beer and ale were the chief drinks. Beer, made with hops, which lasted longer than ale, replaced ale for the younger

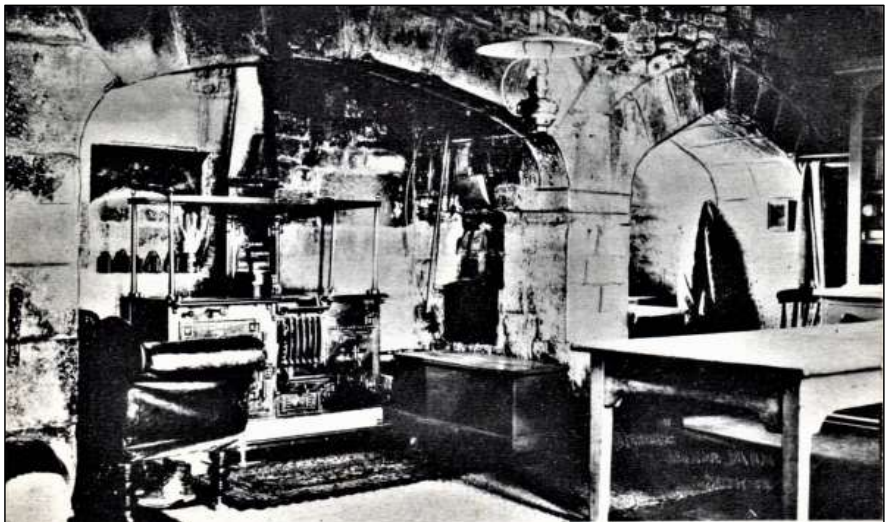
generations. Alehouses were everywhere; Derby had one for every 55 inhabitants. Derbyshire beer was seen as very good. Celia Fiennes, writing in 1698 said of Chesterfield,

‘In this town is the best ale in the kingdom. It is generally esteemed.’

The better-off brewed at home. Inventories show that 25% of those recorded had brewing equipment at home.

Dairy production became more common in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Inventories show that SW. Derbyshire was a major producer of cheese, which tasted much like that from Gloucestershire. Ticknall ware was much used by dairy producers who bought sturdy pancheons. Beef and more commonly mutton were consumed throughout the year. Pork was much more seasonal, being consumed much less in summer, as it tainted quickly. Many inventories record bacon hanging from roof-beams, even in gentleman’s houses. Of course, meat could not be consumed on fast days, which constituted 40% of the year, up to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Fish, largely salted and pickled, replaced meat. Salt cod, served up with mustard was very popular. One surprise is that fresh sea-fish came in from Bawtry too. The Vernons at Sudbury bought ‘all kinds of sea-fish’.

Did they consume vegetables? Maybe the rich despised them as ‘poor man’s food’, but gardens gave seasonal variety. Parsnips, carrots and cabbages helped in winter. Radish, peas and beans in summer. The Hardwick accounts show the variety of seeds bought, presumably for the kitchen garden. Potatoes do not appear as a field crop until the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Hedgerows, fields and moors provided free food for rich and poor alike. Cowslips were picked for the Manners family and other gentry paid their servants to pick bilberries. What a job! Crab-apples were essential as they made verjuice, vital for cooking.



*Dethick Manor: surviving late 15<sup>th</sup> century kitchen, from a postcard, posted 1908.*

[M. Craven]



Kitchens were not common, less than 25% of inventories mention them. Boiling was by far the most common method of cooking. Pottage, a thick soup made by boiling vegetables, grains and, if available, meat or fish, was a staple food for many. Dietary advice was that two meals a day were adequate, meaning lunch and dinner. This was almost certainly not followed by manual workers who worked long hours, from dawn (4 am in summer) until dusk. They had breakfast and then through the day consumed snacks to fortify themselves against the harsh conditions many endured. Have you ever tried Derby biscuits? They were very popular and simple to make. But as they were made with currants and much sugar, an expensive item; they must have been a special treat. There is a You Tube video that shows you how to make them.

This was a lively, entertaining and academically sound talk. 56 people watched and there should have been more. Or were you all having a late dinner?

Mick Appleby

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**Rebecca Sheldon**  
**History of Record Keeping in Derbyshire: April 14<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

The documentary resources held the Derbyshire Record Office (DRO) are usually a core part of any research and many of us are familiar with the records that are of interest to us. What is less familiar, rarely thought about or even known about, is the manner in which those collections and indeed the Record Office itself came into being: what was behind it all and who was responsible. Becky Sheldon, a familiar face at DRO and an archivist there for 12 years has now redressed this aspect in her very clear and informative presentation.

Becky introduced the record collections that formed the core of the early record office, firstly the Quarter Sessions. Later they were joined by Bolsover parish Overseers' accounts and various family archives, together with the archives of the Turnpike Trusts transferred from various firms of solicitors.

The very beginning of the awareness of the value of Derbyshire records lay with the County Record Commission led by Colonel Colville<sup>1</sup> to enquire in 1872 as to what records the County had, which was mostly the Quarter Sessions' records. The basement of the new County Offices in St Marys Gate was designated as record storage and used from 1910 until the move to Matlock in the 1950s.

In 1922 the Dakeyne genealogical material had been offered to and rejected by the British Museum who had suggested the archaeological society. However, the donor wanted the material to go where it would be accessible to all, not just members so the society suggested the county council. Thereafter, things began to speed up. In 1925 copyhold tenure was abolished, leading to the Master of the Rolls to appoint designated repositories for manorial records. Derby Borough Council, which in 1923 applied for this status but not the County.

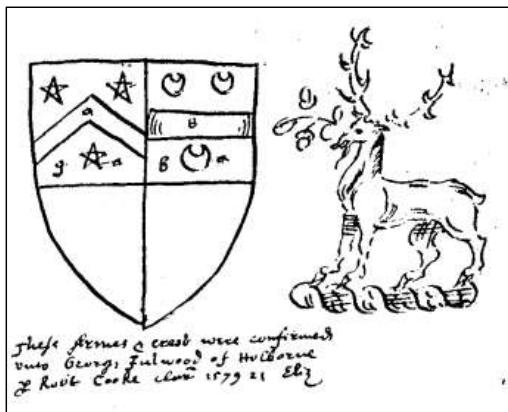
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<sup>1</sup> Col. Charles Robert Colville, DL JP, MP of Lullington Hall, High Sheriff of Derbyshire 1875 (1815-1886)

Shortly afterwards, though, the County Library Service was created with Edgar Osborne as Librarian. His interest local history led to him collecting a great deal of books and manuscript material which was transferred when the Record Office was created decades later.

The severe flooding of Derby in May 1932 which destroyed a number of important records (which had survived the Guildhall Fire of Trafalgar Day 1841!) raised the interest of the County and Borough Councils in safeguarding records they felt to be at risk. Also in that year, the British Record Society was founded, not to keep records but to list them for researchers. In 1938 Derbyshire County Council published a handbook celebrating the 50 years since the council was formed and announced their interest in preserving ancient documents in danger of being lost.

In the 1940s the records of the Burdett, Gell and Beresford families were deposited, mainly due to the efforts of Mr Skinner the County Clerk, for the county had begun to be proactive in collecting material for preservation. The first move in creating a record office came in 1949, when John Wild, who had a legal background, was appointed as a Records Clerk. Uncertainty exists though as to whether or not this was the true beginning of the Record Office and what Wild's duties actually were. Becky has written an article for the next DAJ which will enlighten us on this and how the archive service developed



*Former Derby City Library MS 6341 (Chaloner's copy of the Derbyshire Visitations of 1584 and 1611 with emendations to 1613) showing the tricked arms and crest granted 1579 by herald Robert Cooke, Norroy, to George Fulwood of Holborne (London) and Middleton-by-Youlgreave: gules a chevron between three mullets argent quartering azure; crest: on a wreath of the colours a stag at gaze in its mouth a sprig of oak leaved and fructed proper.*

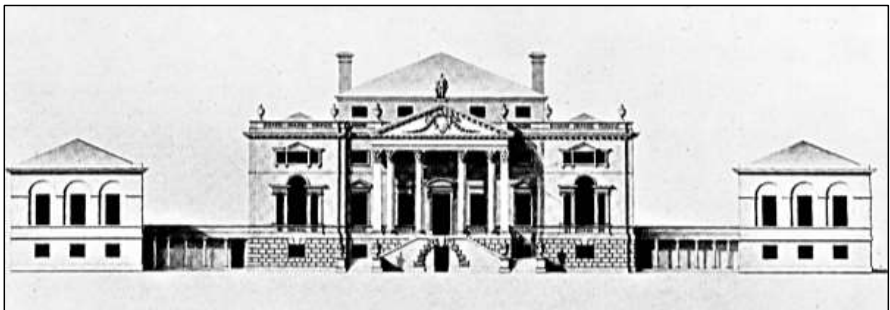
The 1950s saw more material being deposited with the Council, with Edgar Osborne contacting families and visiting their collections, although even in 1951 Derbyshire had been criticised for not having a Record Office, despite material being collected. Not all came the Council's way, though, for instance the English Sewing Cotton Company (Strutt) material went to Manchester, but the most significant collection of the decade was the Gresley deposit.

It was in 1962 that Joan Sinar was appointed the first Derbyshire County Archivist and established the Record Office that we know. Responsible for the collections already mentioned, Joan worked enthusiastically on building relationships with people to obtain private collections and parish council records which had started to come in. She contacted many local landowners

and this was when the large deposits of the Walker-Okeover and FitzHerbert families came in. She was always publicising the Record Office and an article in the *Derbyshire Times* brought in the Pashley collection (which includes a 1691 map of Castleton surveyed by John Flamsteed's assistant Luke Leigh, no less!).

By 1963 there was very little in the way of church records as the parish had to have the Bishop's permission to deposit, as Ashover, the first parish wishing to deposit, discovered. In 1969 Derbyshire was appointed a Diocesan Record Office and since then the parish registers and other parish material has flooded in. Deposited school records at this time were only for those which had been closed, however this changed in 1969 when in one month over 50 school boards deposited their records

From then on it seems to have been a continuous stream. The 1974 local government reorganisation with local authority records, more family records, more parish registers, nonconformist registers. In the 1985, the Harpur Crewe archive was deposited when the National Trust took over Calke Abbey; records from the Planning department started to come in, including the Ordnance Survey maps. 1996 saw the re-elevation after 22 years of Derby as a Unitary Authority and the decision that Derby Local Studies library was no longer to keep manuscript material, much of which has moved to the record office. In the new millennium, the English Sewing Cotton archive was repatriated from Manchester, and several collections from Sheffield Archives, medieval charters from Chesterfield Museum were also added, amongst others. In all nearly 3,000 collections have been received since 2000.



*Calke Abbey: 1772 elevation of unbuilt south front of proposed new house, firmly identified by architectural section chairman Edward Saunders as in the hand of Joseph Pickford of Derby.*

There was a good audience for this excellent talk with several questions, not least why the pre 1858 wills were not at Matlock – the answer was that historically they were the records of the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, now housed at Stafford Archives and that wherever possible archivists don't split up collections. They are available online (Find My Past) anyway. This was a memorable, valuable and enjoyable talk.

Sue Brown

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## BOOK REVIEW

Robin Fleming, *The Material Fall of Roman Britain, 300-525 CE* (June 2021, University of Pennsylvania Press) £36. Available through online orders through [combinedacademic.co.uk](http://combinedacademic.co.uk). A 25% pre-publication promotional discount for members is available if you order before 11.59pm (23.59hrs) on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 quoting discount code CSS21MRRB.

It is relatively easy, in our materialistic age to understand how much the things in our lives make us. It follows, therefore that losing whole categories of things in a relatively short period of time – which is what Fleming, Professor of History at Boston College, considers happened in Britain in the half century between around 375 and 425 – would have meant not only that the people living through this period experienced crippling economic and political dislocations, but that these losses would have had a profound impact on the people living through them. Fleming points out that such a shift would be foundational in the making of a brand-new early medieval world.

Although lowland Britain in 300 had been as Roman as any province in the empire, in the generations on either side of 400, urban life, the money economy, and the functioning state collapsed – and a wealth of knowledge disappeared. No other period in Britain’s long history witnessed the loss of so many classes of once-common skills and objects.



In the book, Robin Fleming considers how the vanishing of Roman-style material culture impacted the fabric of ordinary people’s lives, from domestic labour to death rituals to the experience of social difference. Fleming tells the story of the people living in this period who never appear in histories or hagiographies, people who made up the majority of lowland Britain’s population, and who stood behind much of Britain’s transformation from Roman to early medieval.

Strangely, no sooner had Robin Fleming got into print, than we discover, at Chedworth villa, a sequence of tessellated floors which cannot have been laid before 428, and the knock-on from that is that several other villa mosaics in Somerset and the Cotswolds have also to be re-assessed. Furthermore, the work of J P C Kent and Sam Moorehead, especially on clipped siliquas, strongly suggests that money was circulating at least into the 430s, if not beyond; it just wasn’t being replaced. Having just had *Magnus Maximus: A Neglected Roman Emperor and his British Legacy* accepted for publication, I was lucky enough, in my fairly detailed consideration of life in Britain after 388, to be able to devote some attention to this period, which I consider more nuanced and which clearly seems to have extended far longer than Fleming’s half-century might suggest.

That said, this is excellent stuff and with a 25% discount available, what, as they say, is not to like?

MC

## OBITUARY

### John Tarn FSA



I was saddened to read, in SALON, the fortnightly Newsletter of the Society of Antiquaries, of the passing of Emeritus Professor John Tarn KStG, OBE, DL, FRIBA, FRHistS, FSA, FRSA, Hon LLD, who died aged 85 on Sunday, 8 November 2020 following illness over recent months. Whilst I am unsure whether he was a member of our Society, he was an architect, an influential chairman of the Peak Park Planning Board and a long-time Derbyshire resident.

Respected for his architectural work, Professor Tarn served in the Royal Institute of British Architects from 1968 to 1992, taking up various important memberships of Committees and Panels under the Institute. Professor Tarn has also served as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Architects' Registration Council of the United Kingdom, President and Vice-President of the Liverpool Architectural Society and Chairman of Riverside Housing Group. In 1992, Professor Tarn received an OBE for services to architecture. Internationally, Tarn served as a member of The Chinese University of Hong Kong's Architecture Academic Advisory Committee when the Committee was established in 1988, and took up chairmanship of the Committee from 1992 to 2002. He was key to leading the committee to launch the Department and vastly developed the architecture programme at the University.

John Nelson Tarn was born on 23 November, 1934 at Tynemouth, son of Percival Nelson Tarn, later of Claro, Yorkshire NR, and grandson of a Wallsend-based merchant marine engineering officer. After schooling locally, he went up to Durham, where he obtained a Bachelor of Architecture degree with first class honours in 1957. John furthered his academic career, later being awarded a DPhil. in architectural history from Cambridge in 1961.

Following his first lecturing position at the University of Sheffield in 1963, Professor Tarn's connection to the University of Liverpool came in 1973, when he joined the University as its Roscoe Professor of Architecture. The same year, he married at Durham, Deane Barbara Walls, who pre-deceased him in 2004. Tarn remained *en poste* at Liverpool, also serving as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Acting Vice-Chancellor, until his retirement in 1999 when he became Professor Emeritus and was awarded an honorary LLD. He also continued to support the work of the University and during his 12 years as Chairman of the Friends of the University of Liverpool (2001-2013), he supported fundraising for many student groups there.

Outside the academic world, Tarn volunteered his expertise in art and architecture to the (Roman Catholic) Archdiocese of Liverpool in the early 1970s. He went on to produce the first set of guidelines for Church reordering in the Archdiocese and helped implement many of the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council relating to church buildings, working closely

with the Historic Churches Committee. For his outstanding contribution to church architecture and Catholic heritage, Professor Tarn was honoured in 2016 with the with a Papal Award by Pope Francis.

From the point of view of the Archaeological Society John Tarn exhibited a great fondness for the Derbyshire, devoting 20 years to chairing the planning committee of the Peak District National Park Authority and being the author of *The Peak District National Park: Its Architecture* (Bakewell 1971). Here, it must be admitted, he evoked some controversy, one of his *dicta* being ‘honesty’ in restoration and conversion of traditional buildings. He would, for instance, insist on the use of plain glass in an empty window space, even when it was demonstrably obvious that a more traditional form – stone or timber mullions, iron casements – would be visually and historically more appropriate. This rather absolute view, which was much in the *zeitgeist* of the era of his architectural training, is today much more nuanced, but I twice received adamant letters from him in the early 1980s when daring to object to specific cases! Nonetheless, his devotion to the area was profound and he also served as Vice-President of the Friends of the Peak District. Indeed, he lived for a number of years in Darley Dale, before his death earlier this month.

He will be remembered for his public service, his passion for education, his dedication to architecture and his keen interest in philanthropy.

MC

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### David Hancock

We have also been notified by Di Hancock that her husband, Dave died aged 90 after a short illness on 18<sup>th</sup> April, having become rather frail through the year preceding. Di has asked us to let members know and has provided a just giving link which will channel donations to his favourite charities, for those members whom might like to make use of it.

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## DERBY'S MUSEUM OF MAKING Derby's Silk Mill re-born

by Maxwell Craven

At the end of last month the brand-new Museum of Making threw open its doors to visitors from Derby and beyond, showcasing the region's 300-year history of making and celebrating its rich history of innovation. It supersedes the Derby Industrial Museum, opened in 1974, where one of my first tasks when I joined the staff there in 1974 was to paint dioramas of coal mining (needless to say I was told to do it in Indian inks, not colour!

A word of caution, though. This report might be uncharitably interpreted as partisan, as I am not only an ex-member of staff, but have been a member of the Derby Museums' Board of Trustees since we took over from the Council in 2012.



*The silk Mill, Museum of Making, just prior to opening, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021 [M. Craven]*

As members will, I am sure know, the silk mill replaced Cotchett's failed silk mill of 1702 and was built 1718-1721 to the designs of Thomas Steers and George Sorocold for John and Sir Thomas Lombe, whose crest and monogram crown the overthrow of the fine wrought iron gates made in 1724 by Robert Bakewell (his initials were re-discovered on a vertical bar during recent conservation works). The gates are listed grade I and have been

returned to their original position. It was later managed and owned by Joseph Wright's half-brother-in-law, Lamech Swift. This new visitor attraction is of course located in the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of the key sites of the industrial revolution, something that will appeal to visitors from far and wide. It is claimed as the world's first factory – we used to define such as a place where all processes of manufacture are performed under one roof using a common source of power, but the is hyperbole, for there have been factories elsewhere in the world since Roman times.

This seems now no ordinary museum. It has been created and built by the people and industries of Derby, with hundreds of local volunteers helping to shape and design the way the museum will work for visitors. It will also tell the story of making in the region to help inspire visitors to unleash their creativity and start making. A new ‘civic hall’ has been created on the site of the former mill race, which is overlooked by a seven tonne Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engine suspended above visitors’ heads

Visitors will be able to make their own bespoke trail through the amazing 30,000 collections, which are displayed and shared in unique ways, for all the storage, for decade hidden in store-rooms are now stored on display. The much admired and spectacular Midland based model railway is located in the Railway Gallery in what used to be Sowter’s Mill on the NW angle of the original building.

As well as being an exciting new visitor attraction, the Museum of Making will also provide a range of versatile spaces for locals and visitors alike. From fully appointed and publicly accessible workshops (packed full of equipment for any making project including a CNC machine, laser cutters and textiles) where people can actively create and make, to ‘The River Kitchen’ - a stunning new setting to meet friends where one can eat and drink overlooking the banks of the Derwent. A new viewing gallery at the top of the museum’s tower which looks out across the city and the beautiful Derbyshire countryside

The new museum will also be the home of the Institute of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Maths), a key educational resource for Derby and the wider UK generously supported by Rolls-Royce. New start-ups and makers will also have access to a new co-working space called ‘The Prospect’, wherein young people will be inspired to come up with new ideas and solutions to problems when the Midlands Maker Challenge competition is launched in 2021 (generously supported by Midlands-based IMI plc.).

The Museum of Making has been developed by Derby Museums, an independent charitable trust that also manages the Museum and Art Gallery and Pickford’s House in Derby. This £18m project has been funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, the City Council and a range of trusts, foundations and businesses.

Currently it is advisable to book through the website [info@derbymuseums.org](mailto:info@derbymuseums.org) or telephone [01332 641901](tel:01332641901) due to social distancing, but this should soon be un-necessary. Entry is free (of course) but special exhibitions are charged for where they occur.

Although I was to some extent involved in the earlier stages, I was astounded at the quality of the finished product; it was far more impressive than I could have anticipated. Go along, and see for yourself!

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## SUMMER PROGRAMME 2021

### **Stone quarrying on Craken Edge, Tuesday 22 July 11.00am (Industrial Archaeology Section)**

Anna Babcock (Cultural Heritage Manager with the Peak District National Park) will lead a walk to view remains of stone quarrying on Craken Edge, north of Chinley in High Peak. Stone was extracted on the surface and underground for roof slates and flags from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Remains include trackways, quarry faces, adit entrances, ruins of buildings and a winding house for a gravity worked railway incline. The history and a recent survey of the site was described by Elin Price at Derbyshire Archaeology Days earlier this year; a recording of her excellent talk is available to watch online, follow the link from our website at <https://www.derbyshireas.org.uk/diary/non-das-events/>. There is also a paper by Derek Brumhead in the 2019 DAJ about the unusual land ownership of this area 'The Chinley Neighbourhoods and Slate Breaks'.

This will be a relatively strenuous walk of about 4 miles with some steep climbs over rough ground, and exposed to the weather, so please come suitably shod and dressed.

**Meet** at 11.00am at Chinley railway station car park SK23 6AR. There is a train arriving from the Sheffield direction a few minutes before this, so a day out by public transport using a Derbyshire Wayfarer ticket is an option to get there. We expect to be on the hill for about 3 hours, so bringing a packed lunch would be a good idea.

### **Milford village, Saturday 14th August 2.00pm (Local History Section)**

Jane Whitaker will lead a two hour walk round Milford which will take in its prime industrial and residential sites, including the few structural remains of the mill buildings. We will look at some of the remains of inventive genius, William Strutt's, designs for fire-proofing the mill. We will view some of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century housing, built for the workers and maintained by the Strutt family for nearly 200 years. Along the way we will hear about the lives of the mill workers and about some of the incidents that occurred in the village, from the brutal murder of a small child to the tragic accident that ended the life of one of the Strutt family and the Milford night watchman employed by the Strutts to keep order at night. There are tantalising remains of other local industries to be seen, such as framework knitting, nail-making, quarrying and farming, as well as many small remnants of the paternalistic care that the Strutts took of their employees, such as the pavements, allotments, gas lighting, water pumps and provision for leisure. Time permitting, we will view the elegant Stephenson railway tunnel entrance and bridge and hear about the problems of putting a railway through the narrowest part of the Derwent Valley.

**Meet** at 14.00hrs. on 'The Triangle' garden opposite the Strutt Arms, entrance on Chevin Road. Street parking is available on the A6 opposite the Strutt Arms DE56 0QW, on Chevin Road or in the pub car park, if you are eating or drinking there prior to the walk.

**Railways and Canals of the Trent Triangle, Saturday 11 September 2.00pm  
(Industrial Archaeology Section)**

Ian Mitchell will lead a walk looking at canals and railways between Long Eaton and the River Trent. This area has been an important transport intersection since the connection from the Erewash Canal into the River Trent opened in 1779, and when the Midland Counties Railway opened in 1840 this was where the lines from Derby, Nottingham and Leicester met in a great triangular junction. A railway to canal interchange facility was developed, and in 1862 a railway station known as 'Trent' was built specifically for passengers changing trains. The station closed in 1967, but most of the canal and railway lines are still in use today, and many of the early features survive

This is a four mile walk about 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours on canal towpaths and pavements, flat terrain and just one stile.

**Meet** 2.00pm outside the Steamboat Inn beside the Erewash Canal at Trent Lock (public car park nearby at NG10 2FY).

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***BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS***

Numbers are limited on all the walks, and places will be allocated by a random ballot from the applications received by 16 July. Later bookings will be accepted if there are remaining unfilled places. Please book with the information requested on the form below by email to [visits@derbyshireas.org.uk](mailto:visits@derbyshireas.org.uk)

or by post to:

Ian Mitchell, Old Stores, 138 Church Street, Bocking, Braintree CM7 5LA

Members are advised to assume they have a place unless they hear otherwise, but please provide an email address or telephone number so we can inform you if you are unsuccessful or of any change to arrangements.

Please bear in mind that arrangements may have to be cancelled or amended if there are changes to Covid-19 restrictions.

Name and email or telephone contact details	Number of places required
	Craken Edge
	Milford
	Trent Triangle

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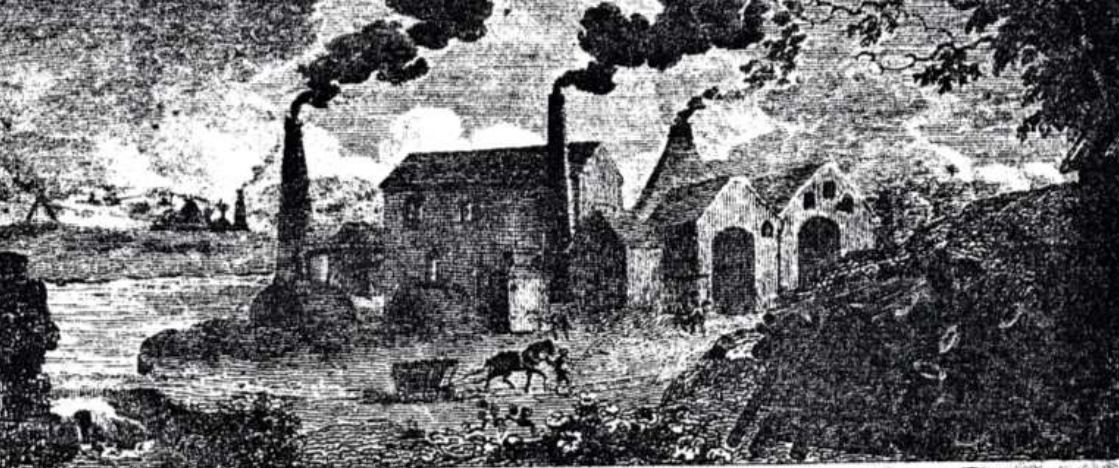
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**Rear cover:** *above:* Samuel Oldknow's Mellor Mill (now in Cheshire) built 1793, probably to the designs of George Rawlinson of Matlock Bath and destroyed by fire 99 years later. From an oil of 1802 by Joseph Parry which sold at Sothebys, 1997. [*Sotheby's*]

*Below:* trade card of George H Barrow Ltd. Staveley, probably late 1840s. [*Bamfords Ltd.*]



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