

DERBYSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Issue 91 Winter 2020/2021



DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2020-2021

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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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EDITOR'S NOTE:

It is difficult to put together a newsletter that is primarily intended to convey to all members of the Society reports of all the recent events that have been mounted and to add notices of all those forthcoming, thanks to the chaos inflicted by the infection. Normally, our calendar is full, each section sponsoring three or more activities every six months, but the continuing plague, which has so comprehensively circumscribed our lives, has made much of what had been planned a year ago almost impossible. Nevertheless, we carry a couple of reports of immediate pre-pestilence events which – fortuitously as I now realise – managed in the confusion of hand-over to miss the summer *Newsletter*. Yet the architectural section managed to enjoy a successful visit to long-threatened Wingfield Station at South Wingfield, despite a curb on overall numbers and social distancing, which is a great credit to them as well as to the DHBT for being prepared to arrange it. Furthermore, events have been held by *Zoom*, too.

There are a few announcements, too, for Chris Wardle has succeeded Pauline Beswick – once my opposite number at Sheffield City Museums when I was at Derby – as honorary editor of our *Journal*. It is a pleasure to be able to carry a tribute to her efforts over more than two decades in knocking so learned and prestigious a publication into shape every year, not to mention cajoling contributors, dealing with the grants and so on.

Other than these few current matters, I have endeavoured (with some help) to find a few pieces to maintain the interest of members during what appears to be something of an open-ended close season. Should anything within these pages provoke any comment, please do not hesitate to send them in to the editor.

Indeed, we did receive a very helpful letter from Jane James concerning the last edition's endpiece concerning Mickleover, which also appears below.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

by **Tony Brooks**

Following on from our chairman's appeal earlier this year for someone to help setup and use Twitter to advertise the society and its online talks, I volunteered; the Twitter account is now ready! This is my appeal now for ideally two more volunteers to help me with this role. I don't expect it to be difficult or demanding as it's no more complex than sending an email, but I would like some additional volunteers to take over publishing Tweets as cover for when I'm unavailable. I'll provide you with help & any support needed.

The Society's Council wishes to meet our public commitment as a charity, by publicising our talks to an online audience for free. Many Archaeological Societies and The Peak District National Park amongst other organisations publicise their talks this way.

All offers of help or questions to [DAS twitter@derbyshireas.org.uk](mailto:DAS_twitter@derbyshireas.org.uk)

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: *High Peak Trail, winter 2010, from a slide taken by the late Michael Mallender; photograph courtesy the late Margaret Mallender.*



Excavations on the alignment of Long Lane, east of Mackworth churchyard, looking south, September 1980: Messrs. Allsop (2nd left) Brady (3rd Left), Craven (4th left) & Danson (2nd right). [Carole Craven]



Excavations at Mackworth, Long Lane Roman Road alignment, looking north, September 1980: Ernest Danson, Mick Stanley, Don Farnsworth, Ernest Danson. [Carole Craven]

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our Winter Programme of talks using the Zoom video-conferencing system has got off to a good start, and we are regularly getting 50-60 participants including some members in far-flung parts who have never been able to get to evening meetings in Derby. We have an interesting line-up of further talks in January and February 2021, and you can read full details of these elsewhere in this newsletter and on our web site.

We will continue to send out the link to register for each talk by email a week in advance, and this email also contain links to view recordings of previous talks. However, please note that the recording capacity that we have limits us to 2-3 talks so we have to delete older talks to free up capacity before each new one takes place. So, if you miss a talk, make sure you catch up within a couple of weeks.

If you are not receiving these e-mails, then you need to register your e-mail address with the society – you can do this using the ‘Amend member details’ form in the members area of the DAS web site www.derbyshireas.org.uk – the password to get into the members area is: **Derbyas&1878**.

Now that we know we have some spare capacity within the Zoom limit of 100 participants, we have decided to invite non-members to join the talks in the same way as we welcome them to our meetings in Derby. To ensure priority for members, we are asking non-members to book via the Eventbrite ticketing website – this will allow us to limit the number of non-members registering for each meeting. Please do not share the direct Zoom registration link that you receive for each talk with non-members.

We are still looking for speakers to continue the programme of talks into March and April, so if you know of a good speaker who is likely to be available to give an interesting online talk please let us have your recommendations.

What the future holds for our activities in 2021 is still very uncertain. The pandemic will no doubt still be with us and it is very likely that some level of government restriction will continue and people will still be voluntarily minimising their contact with others. We shall need to decide whether to hold an online AGM or one with limited numbers in May, and what type of outdoor activity might be possible in the summer.

In the last *Newsletter* I appealed for volunteers to support our activities in various roles, including publicity, and I am very happy to report that Tony Brookes has volunteered to set up and run a DAS presence on Twitter. He is looking for a couple of assistants to share the workload, so if you are a user of this form of social media this could be your opportunity to help out – more details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to wish all our members a happy Christmas, and continued health into the New Year – it still won’t be back to normal, but hopefully an improvement on 2020.

Ian Mitchell

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OBITUARIES

Joan d'Arcy (1940-19/7/2020)



Joan d'Arcy was a tireless campaigner for the heritage of her adopted Little Chester, a long-standing member of the council of this Society, which she also represented on the Derby Conservation Area Advisory Committee from 1996. On this, Joan would speak her mind forcefully, especially in defence of the built environment and archaeological potential of Little Chester. She correctly insisted it should be always referred to as Little Chester, not Chester Green, which the late Cliff Burton, her predecessor as the *doyen(ne)* of the township, always used to point out was 'just a piece of grass on Mansfield Road.'

Joan was born in Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent on 7th June 1940, daughter of Arthur Mayer and Sarah (*née* Taylor) being educated at Brownhills High School for Girls and Bedford College, London, where she obtained her history BA in 1966. She met her future husband John d'Arcy on a canal trip that year and they married in 1967. Interestingly, it was not the first time that a John d'Arcy had married a lady called Joan, as John d'Arcy, 1st Lord d'Arcy of Knaith (Yorks) married the Lady Joan de Burgh (a daughter of Richard, 2nd Earl of Ulster), in the early 14th century – as her second husband, in the latter case!

Our John and Joan moved to Horsley Woodhouse Derby, John to work at Rolls-Royce and Joan to teach at Melbourne. After a year in Munich (a Royce's posting) they returned to Derbyshire and in 1979 purchased from the City Council (never a reliable custodian of historic buildings, as members will only too acutely be aware) the fire-damaged Stone House Prebend. This splendid building is one of the two surviving prebendal farmhouses in Little Chester (a third was heedlessly demolished in order to build a filling station in 1964, but not before the fabric was surveyed and recorded by the late Roy Hughes on behalf of the Museum). These farmhouses were built on plots there in order that each would provide an income for one of the canons (later prebends) of the College of All Saints and St. Alkmund after the post-Norse founding of Derby, probably on land seized from a dispossessed Viking grandee. Stone House Prebend is early of 17th century date with a late medieval core and Georgian modifications. John and Joan did a magnificent job bringing it back to life.

Joan later took an MA and following that a PhD at Nottingham University, teaching at SE Derbyshire College, Heanor and also lecturing to mature students at Nottingham, not to mention running a WEA course at Alfreton. With some of her students, she produced an excellent little booklet about Sadler Gate – micro-history at its best – and a splendid book about Little Chester, called *A City Within a City* (2005) not to mention learned papers (on at least two occasions with Jane Steer) notably one on the site of the hospital of St. Helen and another on The Abbey of Darley.

The loss of Joan's company will be keenly felt by her many friends and of her expertise by her adopted City. Our sympathy and condolences go to John.

MC

Margaret Mallender (1939-13/12/2020)



Margaret Mallender who, with her husband Michael, was a familiar and fiercely intelligent presence in this Society, died in her sleep at the home she shared with her late husband, former Society Secretary Michael, in Trusley on Friday evening 13th November. The Mallenders were stalwarts, not only of the Archaeological Society, but also of the Derby Civic Society, the Friends of Derby Cathedral and of Derby Museums, of which they were founding members.

Margaret Anne Mallender was born in Derby, daughter of Thomas Harrison Smithson (then the Public Assistance Clerk in Derby) and his wife Mabeth, *née* Lane, in autumn 1939, and was a contemporary of her future husband Michael when she went up to University of Nottingham to read classics, becoming fluent in Latin and Greek. She worked for many years at Derby High School for Girls as classics mistress, from the 1960s. I first met her when I signed up to learn New Testament Greek once a week in the evenings no so long afterwards. We met in an upper room in what was then St. Michael's Church House, and Margaret was our very genial and I may say, tolerant, teacher. She tended to be a trifle shy at the best of times, and invariably demurred when we offered to take her along to *The Dolphin* for a quick refresher after class, even when we offered to try and practice our newly acquired linguistic skills!

Margaret nevertheless severed for many years as the Cathedral's archivist, whilst Michael and I were sidesmen. She also wrote an extremely good concise guidebook to the Cathedral and one of two other offerings too, arising from her travails in the archive, which she ultimately saw transferred to the County Record Office. With Michael, Margaret was a fixture at most of the events run by the various societies to which they belonged, was a fount of knowledge, and a stickler for accuracy, a talent upon which I traded whenever I could when undertaking research: one or other of the Mallenders would invariably know the answer, especially if it involved local people and their connections, or touched upon the Cathedral's archives.

She and Michael lived in Belper Road, and later on Pastures Hill, Littleover. Eventually, after Michael retired (although he never completely gave up legal work for his older clients), they retired to Lane End Cottage on the Trusley estate, which allowed Michael to take on the role of churchwarden and (unofficial) reader in the delightful Queen Anne church there. Margaret was a determined atheist, and told us that she lived in permanent dread that Michael, a keen Anglo-Catholic, would opt to take Holy Orders on retirement; he never did though much, we suspect, to her relief. Nevertheless, whilst she stayed behind on Sundays, Michael, when our rather stretched vicar could not come and take evensong, would read the service in his place and *never* failed to preach a sermon! Only this summer, her neighbour Bobby Innes-Smith told her that the spell of hot weather in August had gone on too long and he was praying for rain. Margaret, a keen gardener riposted, 'So am I!'

'But you're not a Christian, Margaret,' he interposed. 'To whom do you pray?' 'Jupiter!' she replied.

Margaret, who suffered all her life with heart problems, was inclined to be self-effacing, yet was nevertheless endowed with gentle humour, self-deprecating intelligence and great generosity – of spirit and well as in material things – will be very much missed. She leaves a sister-in-law.

MC

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JOURNAL CHANGES

DAS Chairman & Committee (with member D Garton) write:

At the spring AGM, Pauline Beswick retired as long-standing Editor of our *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*. This is one of the most demanding roles within our Society, so it is timely to record our appreciation of her hard work and commitment to all aspects of Derbyshire's archaeology.

Pauline had retired from the 'day-job' as Principal Keeper of Human History at Sheffield City



Museums in 1994, and since then has been a stalwart of the Society's committee in bringing the Society's *Journal* to publication. Pauline first appeared, styled as Editorial Assistant in 1995 and by 1997 shared the editorship jointly with Dudley Fowkes, taking responsibility for the archaeological contributions. At any other time, Pauline would have been fêted for her service at the 2020 AGM, but that was scuppered by the onset of lockdown and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pauline in her natural habitat: enjoying upland Derbyshire: scenery, topography, archaeology.

During her twenty-five years as editor, Pauline has managed the transition from traditional to digitally-enabled publishing (with its accompanying steep IT learning curve), and to overcome many hurdles, including the chasing tardy contributors, raising funding and so on, that producing such publications invariably entail. If that wasn't enough, Pauline has also been involved in many other aspects of Derbyshire's archaeology, such as being a long-standing member of the Hunter Society (serving as President 1981-4). Since retirement from the Museum, Pauline has been working freelance, contributing to many excavations and particularly writing prehistoric pottery reports (some published in our *Journal*, amongst others). Pauline took on two stints (totalling 10 years) as a Secretary (a state appointment)

and Member of the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA), where she was also made Heritage Champion – an onerous (and sometimes lonely) rôle representing the interests of cultural heritage and landscape conservation in the face of the competing demands of development. At that time, she also chaired the Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee that produced the magazine known as ACID (Archaeology & Conservation in Derbyshire). This was sponsored jointly by the PDNPA with Derbyshire County Council, and is distributed freely to packed-out venues in Chesterfield and throughout Derbyshire.

We imagine that Pauline will continue to devote time to her archaeological interests – and we look forward to seeing them widely reported, too! We wish Pauline the very best for the future, with our grateful thanks for her very substantial contribution to our Society.

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MISCELLANY NEWS

Becky Sheldon writes:

In anticipation of taking over as editor of *Miscellany* in 2021, various DAS colleagues and I have been discussing possible changes we can make to bring the design up to date and perhaps market it to a wider audience outside the Society's membership. I will continue to work on this over the next couple of months and I hope you are all pleased with the results when it arrives through your letterbox in the Spring.

The aim of *Miscellany* is to share knowledge and information about our county's rich heritage. All members (and indeed non-members) are encouraged to send contributions for inclusion and whilst there will always be opportunity to include longer articles please do think about submitting shorter content too. Whether its couple of sentences about an interesting object from the past or a few paragraphs about your own research and recent discoveries I'd love to hear from you – remember, if you'd be interested in hearing from someone else then they'd be interested in hearing from you too. I will also be introducing several new regular features, including updates from other local organisations and 'From the Archives' highlighting some of the very interesting articles from past issues of *Miscellany* and the *Journal* that have fallen out of popular memory. Please send any contributions to ahvyrjs22@gmail.com or post to 21 Prestbury Close, Oakwood, Derby, DE21 2LT.

I should also like to express my sincere thanks to Jane Steer who has worked so hard on *Miscellany* for so many years, and who has arranged for me the most brilliant handover for which I am very grateful indeed. I am pleased that Jane is going to continue on the editorial team.

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FROM THE HON. TREASURER

Subscriptions for 2021

This is a reminder that the Society's subscription year runs from 1st January to 31st December and your 2021 subscription is therefore due during January. The rate remains unchanged from 2020 being £18 per household at one address. **Please note that in recognition that the Society has been unable, due to Covid 19 restrictions, to deliver its full range of membership**

benefits all members will receive both editions of our local history magazine Miscellany in 2021 without further charge.

The Society's preferred option is for members to pay by standing order. If you already have a standing order in place to pay us either at NatWest Bank or CAF Bank, you need take no further action unless you wish to amend your subscription to remove the additional payment for Miscellany for 2021. Alternatively, you can continue to pay the additional fee for Miscellany as a donation to the Society. As we intend at some future date to switch entirely from NatWest to CAF Bank, you may wish to switch your standing order to CAF Bank at the same time.

If you usually pay by cheque, we would appreciate it if you could pay instead by standing order to our account at CAF Bank, details below, or BACS your payment to this account using your name as a reference. Alternatively, fill in the Banker's Order mandate overleaf and return to me. Cheques cost us money and also are more difficult from an administrative point of view. Of course, if you do not do internet banking or prefer to pay by cheque, we will happily accept. Please make cheques payable to Derbyshire Archaeological Society and send to me at the address below. If you are unsure about where or what subscription amount you pay, please contact me at jane.heginbotham@btinternet.com or telephone 01773 609629.

As a registered charity, we can reclaim Gift Aid on the subscriptions from our members who are UK taxpayers and have signed a declaration. If you are eligible to do this and have not done so previously, please fill in the Gift Aid form overleaf and send it to me by post or email. We sincerely hope that we shall be able to bring you a full programme of lectures and events in 2021, so do not forget to check our website for news and updates.

Jane Heginbotham (Hon. Treasurer)

Note that the form, which may be detached, will be found on the page facing the inside back cover below.

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ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

Visit to Wingfield Station, Sunday 27 September 2020

On a bright sunny day, a small group from the DAS were guests of the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust for a talk and tour of the former Wingfield railway station, a Grade II* listed building in desperate need of repair and conservation. Our hosts were Lucy Godfrey, the Project Coordinator on behalf of the DHBT, and Peter Milner, the Lead Trustee, supported by James Boon, one of the Architects working on the restoration. They were considerate and enthusiastic enough to provide separate tours for two DAS groups, so that we could all maintain the social distancing which has been required throughout the continuing pandemic.

Peter explained that after closure in 1967, the station had been leased and used as a warehouse but without any maintenance and, with some lead taken from the roof, the condition of the building had deteriorated badly, causing sufficient concern over a number of years for Amber Valley Council to eventually issue a Compulsory Purchase Order, the stimulus being the Local History Society and DHBT getting the status of the building upgraded to Grade II* in recognition of its national significance. In December 2019, ownership was finally transferred

to the DHBT who, with substantial grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England, have launched a major restoration project.

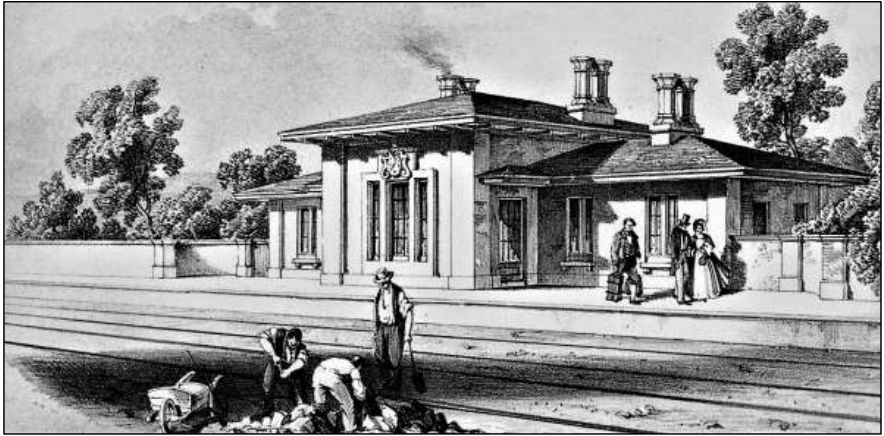


Peter Milner addresses the troops prior to the tour. The stationmaster's house is just visible in the left background behind the tree. [D. G. Jones]

We then enjoyed a fascinating background summary of the early history of the station. George Stephenson as Chief Engineer for the North Midland Railway had surveyed and built the 70 miles of track from Derby, through Chesterfield, Masbrough (for Rotherham) and on to Leeds in just two years, between 1838 and 1840 (an aside on HS2 drew some wry smiles!) For the initial dozen intermediate stations, his son and collaborator Robert sought the railway architect Francis Thompson, fresh from successes in Canada, to provide a sequence of stations in a style of 'picturesque Lodge Keepers cottages' that might be seen on 'notable estates'. With the line following the valley of the Amber, Stephenson had chosen Wingfield as a convenient stop for the towns of Alfreton and Mansfield but more particularly with an eye to the commercial opportunities of servicing the local coalmines of Oakerthorpe, South Wingfield and Waterloo (just east of the station itself).

The station has a tall central block for the booking office and main waiting hall with two lower flanking wings, all with shallow hipped roofs of Welsh slate and wide spreading eaves. The masonry is of finely cut Derbyshire gritstone ashlar whose quality and appearance are now in marked contrast to other features that have survived less well. The central bay breaks forward on both the forecourt and platform sides with an elegant central tripartite entrance doorway that is mirrored by a conforming window facing the platform. Pairs of symmetrically placed octagonal stone chimney stacks on stone bases are prominent. Ashlar pilasters (strictly, *antae*) at the corners of the three blocks and ashlar surrounds for the windows give Francis Thompson's design what has been described as 'pared down classicism'. A separate rather plain goods warehouse, known locally as the Parcel Shed and dating from 1860s, was erected

a few yards to the north. Francis Thompson also designed the Station Master's house which stands a short distance to the south.



Wingfield Station, from one of Russell's famous lithographs made of the NMR.
[Derby Museums Trust]

After being kitted out with hard hats and HiVis jackets, masked and socially distanced, we were shown inside by James Boon, the architect, with the challenge to conserve and restore the building for habitable use in its proposed future role as offices. The most obvious features to which James drew our attention were the concrete floor, from its recent store house days, and the damage to the roof, although he noted that the timbers themselves were mostly good. Repairing the roof will be a major logistical challenge because Network Rail owns the platform right up to the wall despite the roof eaves overhanging the platform. Scaffolding will need to be put up on the platform between 11pm on Saturday and 6am Sunday, during which time no trains pass, and the roof repair work then needs to be completed within the 8 weeks of the possession order that DHBT requires (at a cost of £35,000) to access the roof.

James pointed out the functions of many of the rooms which included the main waiting area, a separate room for ladies, one for porters and several small rooms of which one was believed to be a lamp room. One of the fireplaces in the waiting rooms had a marble surround that added a touch of elegance. The DHBT has carried out very extensive analysis of the wall coverings and paint schemes in order to be able to restore the appearance of the building to that of the 1840s as far as possible. The recent concrete floor will be removed and new flooring materials used to conceal the services that a modern office requires. Sound proofing will also be a major consideration before any future use, as we noticed on our visit.

Peter was keen to stress the national importance of Wingfield as one of the very earliest non-terminus stations from the pioneering era of railways in Britain and the last surviving example of Francis Thompson's work for the North Midland. This has been recognized by Historic England with immediate funds to repair the roof and by the success of the DHBT in their bid for a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery fund.



Wingfield station seen derelict c. 1970, when still in reasonably sound condition. [MR Trust]

The DAS are very grateful to Lucy, Peter and James for their enthusiastic and informative tour of a building so deserving of the DHBT's reclamation work. As the only DAS summer visit of this pandemic-stricken year, it was an especial delight.

David G Jones

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Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust: Wingfield Station Help us make plans for the future

Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust are working to restore Wingfield Station, a beautiful building which dates from the very earliest days of rail travel. The building is currently in very poor repair, and we have secured funding from Historic England to undertake emergency repairs to the building.

We are now working on a major bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to complete the restoration and give the building a sustainable future. The station will be converted into office accommodation, but we also want to make sure that we share the fascinating history of the building during the restoration and open it up for tours, talks and visits.

Please help us make plans for the station by filling in our short survey. It should take around 5-10 minutes.

You can find out more about the station and the project at:
derbyshirehistoricbuildingstrust.org.uk/wingfield-station

Answers provided via this form will be anonymised and collated. Data will be processed by DHBT and DBA Consulting, who are supporting us to develop the project.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Adrian Henstock,

'Browne Muggs' Nottingham and Crich Stoneware Pottery c.1690-1790

28th February 2020: (received too late for the last newsletter)

Adrian introduced his talk by explaining that stoneware was invented in the German states of the Holy Roman Empire, and proceeded to tell the story of two potteries, one in Nottingham and the other in Crich, run by the Morley brothers. No one then knew how to make stoneware in this country; people had tried but failed. However, after experiments, someone 'cracked the code' and took out a patent, but ended up being prosecuted. Nottinghamshire was the first place in the Midlands to make it and Nottingham Castle now has a large collection of this 17th century stoneware.

The fabric is made of clay and fired in a kiln. Earthenware is porous but stoneware is non-porous, gets very hot and vitrifies (turns into a glasslike substance). In the firing process salt is thrown into the kiln to give the pottery a metallic sheen which makes it very attractive.

Large quantities of stoneware were made in Cologne, Germany, and bottles were imported into England. Many of these were Bellarmine jugs, imported as containers for Rhenish wine (Hock to you and me) These bore the impression of the face of an unpopular cardinal modelled in relief in the clay. (Roberto Bellarmino had been a strong opponent of Protestantism, who also wanted to ban alcohol). Many of these stone bottles ended up as 'witch' bottles being filled with nasty things such as bent pins, nails, nail clippings, blood and urine, to keep witches away and were secreted into the fabric of houses. One such bottle was found in the roof of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Ashbourne.

James Morley of Nottingham took out a patent in 1681 to make stoneware. The Morley family were active in Nottinghamshire as brickmakers. He started making stoneware secretly but it is not known how he got his knowledge. After the English Civil War, Nottingham was quite a fashionable place to live with new town houses at Low and High Pavement. Daniel Defoe said 'Nottingham has the best houses outside London'. Morley's pottery was on the north-east side of the town, so sited to take away the smoke. His site was known as the Pot Houses. Morley also built a glasshouse on his land and leased it out to a glass maker.

Morley's brother Thomas meanwhile set up a pottery at Crich in Derbyshire. It was sited on Potters' Hill, Fritchley, some distance from the main village because of the availability and suitability of pot clay in marine bands with mill stone grit on top having been found in a local quarry. The two potteries carried on side by side, with the same clay used, so it was impossible to distinguish the one from the other. At Potters Hill, outbuildings remain but the house went in about 1940 and the waste tips have been dug into for souvenirs. The pottery business seems to have been quite a family affair, too, as a related pottery was started up at Alfreton, another at Eastwood, and a Morley daughter married Richard Bourne of Burslem who started potteries at Belper and Denby.

Morley's Crich pottery was infiltrated by a Swedish industrial spy, Reinhold Angerstein, who made detailed secret illustrations of the saltglaze kiln at Crich. Angerstein was making a thorough survey of English industries, trade and emerging technology. He noted that it was necessary to dig down a long way to get the clay. It then had to be kneaded like dough, as it was very stiff. Balls of clay were piled up with coal and fired to dry it, following which it was ground up. The design of the kilns was unique as they contained specially designed arched bars. Pit coal was used and the pots, which would be subject to around 40 hours of firing. Salt was thrown in through holes to add the lustre. Firing was not a perfect science, a bit 'hit and miss' and there were lots of breakers and wasters.



Derbyshire salt-glazed loving cup dated 1788

[Bamfords Ltd]

Adrian showed slides of the 'carved' jugs from Crich pottery of 1701 and Nottingham pottery of 1703. Other examples, included a loving cup, a posset cup and the Mayor's cup with an inscription of 1700. The carved jugs were made by cut out pieces called sprigs being stuck onto the body later. Many of the products would have been used in taverns but a tea caddy dated c. 1771 has been found as well as teapots and jugs, many with the decorated 'breadcrumb' effect – i.e. bits of clay thrown onto the pot. The Crich pottery ceased production in the late 18th century. Adrian produced various items for inspection including a puzzle jug of the 1830s, a teapot like a Toby jug and a 20th century hot water bottle based on a Gladstone bag produced by Denby pottery. Many items of stoneware were found under the Broadmarsh Centre in Nottingham and as already mentioned there is a fine collection to be seen in Nottingham Castle Museum and Derby Museum also has a fine collection but not currently on display.

Anne Haywood

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INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

Peter Mosley

Friar Gate Bridge: 24 January 2020

Peter from the Friends of the Friar Gate Bridge Society gave us a lecture on the past, present and future of the well-known Derby landmark, Friar Gate bridge. The arch was built in 1877 as part of the Great Northern Railway (GNR) extension from Nottingham to Burton on Trent. The bridge was built at the end of a viaduct from the east, crossing Friar Gate and providing access to the station and an extensive area of marshalling yards, engine shed and a large warehouse. The Friar Gate area was a desirable area of Derby and efforts were made to provide an ornamental bridge more fitting to the area. The bridge is actually two, side by side at a slight angle to allow the track laid on them to enter the station platforms smoothly. The construction is of cast iron with decorated panels intricately moulded and including the borough's 'Buck in the Park' badge. The bridge design was by Alexander Buchanan and the manufacture and erection was under his senior colleague, Andrew Handyside at the Britannia foundry, Duke street, Derby.



Friar Gate Bridge, North east spandrel, 1980.

[M. Craven]

The Britannia foundry owned by Andrew Handyside, constructors of the bridge was established in 1818 by Samuel Weatherhead, financed by William Baker of the Derby & Derbyshire Bank (see below). It specialised in architectural cast iron work and later expanded into providing engineering products for the railways. Weatherhead was succeeded by Thomas Wright, in partnership with Baker, and they brought in Andrew Handyside, an engineer who had been working in Russia with his uncle on bridge building in 1847. He undertook many projects world-wide and Peter showed some slides of bridges, buildings and what we now call 'street furniture' from Derbyshire areas such as the Derwent valley with several bridges over the river, to worldwide sites such as the Tan Kim Sing Fountain in Singapore and the roof of the La Plata railway station in Buenos Aires. The firm eventually closed in 1910, but was revived and continued under new management until 1931. It will certainly enliven walks in Derbyshire looking for pillar boxes and lamp standards bearing the Handyside name!

The Railway closed in 1968 leaving the station area derelict but the bridge was listed Grade II in 1974 and bought by Derby City Council for £1 in 1985. The friends of Friar Gate Bridge was formed in 2015 to help raise funds towards the upkeep of the bridge, raise public awareness and suggest uses of the structure for its long term preservation. Progress has been slow due to

apparent lack of progress with the development of the station and surrounding land owned by Clowes and difficult access to the bridge itself. Maintenance has been carried out on the structure, however and it is to be hoped this Derby landmark will have a future and remain an ornament to the City and one worth more than a passing glance, too.

Peter Robinson

Chris Madge
Derby Canal History and Restoration
By Zoom, 2nd. October 2020

The lecture was given by the chairman of the Derby and Sandiacre Canal Society, Chris Madge. Despite *Zoom*, all went very well and we were treated to a fascinating talk covering the history of the canal from its construction by Benjamin Outram, opening in 1795 to its closure and subsequent plans for reopening for recreational use. The aim of the canal was to connect the collieries in the Ripley area to the markets in the south: Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and connecting to other canals at Swarkestone and Sandiacre. An enlightened condition of the terms under which the canal was built was the yearly load of coal to be supplied free for the poor of Derby. A tramway had to be built north from Little Eaton to reach the collieries at Denby and a flat crossing of the Derwent at Derby was required to reach the Trent at Swarkestone. The last attempt to navigate was in 1946 and it was partially infilled in 1964.



Cast iron mile-marker, Little Chester, photographed by the late Roy Hughes, c. 1960. [M. Craven]

There was increasing interest in restoring the canal and the Society was formed with the ambition of reopening the canal as a recreational asset using the existing Cromford and the Grand Union canals to provide a circular route around Derby. Progress has been steady with an interesting example of forethought in that a large culvert was installed under the Pride Park building works at Wilmorton big enough to take the canal on its way to Swarkestone in the future. A lock at Borrowwash has been rebuilt and a derelict mill building in Draycott has been rebuilt from a collection of cottages into an exhibition centre, café and three cottages for hire. Sections of the bed have been utilised as drainage features for the Derby-Nottingham railway and local housing developments, without stopping future use as a working canal. Ambitious future plans include a splendid pioneering boat lift and a visitors' centre over the Derwent in Pride Park, also a Marina in the middle of Derby needing a lock across the existing weir. The Society have plans and permission to run boat trips when covid allows, from the centre of Derby to Darley Abbey using a trip boat they have just built.

A very ambitious program in terms of effort and finance required and Chris had no doubt that help would be needed in the developments proposed in Derby to understand and preserve what remains of the original canal. The progress made to date demonstrates however what can be achieved by volunteer labour and many thanks to Chris for the first trial of on-line lecturing.

Peter Robinson

LIBRARY NOTES

Anne Allcock, Hon. Librarian, writes:

Regrettably, the library remains closed for the time being. We had a flurry of excitement in October when we thought we might be able to open on the 11th November but lockdown dictated otherwise. Thanks to the team for cleaning the Library in readiness! Reopening details, when they are confirmed, will be posted on the website and also emailed to members.

The Library now takes the *Midland History* Journal and there have been some articles which may be of interest to members:

Spring 2020: '*Enterprise, activism and charity. Mary Pickford and the urban elite of Derby, 1780-1812*'
Peter Collinge

Also articles on Nottinghamshire:

Public parks and urban development during the Nineteenth and twentieth Centuries in Nottingham
John Beckett

Conscientious objectors: Men of Nottinghamshire who failed the Call to Arms 1914-1918
Denise M Amos

July 2020 (special issue):

Printing and Print Culture in the Midlands.

November 2020:

'A collection of Chester Comital Charters relating to Twelfth and Thirteenth Century Leicestershire and Derbyshire'
Hannah Boston

The Genealogy of Book Collection: An Early History of the Cavendish Family's Book Collection, 1599-1811
W. Jack Rhoden

The Journals will be on the shelves when we reopen. When we do so, it will be under covid-19 restrictions. It would be helpful if you know which books you wish to borrow to contact the Librarian in advance. In the meantime, we can only wait patiently.

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LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

Sarah Chubb

(Archives and Local Studies Manager)

An Introduction to Derbyshire Record Office

Sarah explained that the Record Office and the County Local Studies Library have been merged to make a more efficient and integrated service. The records held date from 900AD and cover those from both Derbyshire and Derby City; the office is also the Diocesan Record Office and is also where government and other public records such as the NHS, County records, Coroners and the Environment Agency are deposited amongst others. It is also licenced to hold Manorial Records and of course private deposits such as societies, business, non-conformist and family. In case you ever wondered how much material was deposited Sarah told us that all this covers four linear miles of archives with another mile for the local studies collection.

Yet it is still growing by an average of 250 archive deposits and 900 local studies deposits each year, usually a very varied selection and often by people who just want to deposit records rather than actively research themselves. The local studies deposits are mainly composed of new books, maps, photographs and leaflets.

We learnt that the office deals with 450 to 500 written enquiries per month, including email. Enquiries are becoming more complex by comparison with five years ago. There is also a seasonal cycle in archive research; it is busy in January/February, quiet in the summer, busy in September and then a winter in winter. Over 1000 bundles of documents are produced monthly.

We were then shown a random selection of some of the goodies that the Record Office holds, maps were represented by the 16th century procession map of Seal (anciently in Leicestershire) and a map of Mansfield (Notts!) printed in Russian, photographs, many on the *Picture the Past*



website (very good if you haven't seen it), newspapers, medieval manuscripts amazingly diverse, such as John Bany's medieval dance, a 15th century book of hours, property records represented by a beautiful medieval Glapwell deed with the seals of women, cartoons from George Woodward, the satirical political Regency cartoonist, criminal records, the records of Sir Robert Wilmot Horton Bt. of Catton, who was the Under Secretary for the Colonies at the time of the abolition of the slave trade, and recipes: that for Bakewell pudding is on the record office blog.

George M Woodward: 'A Leg of Lamb'. The cartoonist was born at Stanton Hall, Stanton-by-Dale in 1765 and died in 1809. [Bamfords Ltd.]

The record office now has a dedicated computer room with 14 computers with free access to Ancestry.co.uk; a microfilm room and of course the sparkly new, bright, modern, quiet search room, almost unrecognisable from its former incarnation. This together with a most welcome break room with a very good coffee machine, and although these are upstairs with the loos and lockers, they are accessible by lift. Ticketing is through the CARN system.

Current projects include the catalogue going online (now 80% complete) of the catalogue online, often done by volunteers. The aim is to get all the WWI records on the website and, complementing this, the RO will be supporting community groups commemorating the conflict and those who want to learn about WWI projects. The Manorial Documents Register kept by The National Archives is being updated with Derbyshire now being put online.

Finally, the new and friendly record office has a light hearted blog on the website with recipes, snippets from recently deposited records and newly 'discovered' records, also an events programme with talks and workshops. It is worth going just to see the contrast with the old and

a show of hands at the end suggested that many had yet to visit the new revamped version. Go and enjoy!

Sue Brown

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**Dr. Tony Bethel: The Hospitaller Knights
Friday 16th October**

Dr Bethel introduced himself as neither an archaeologist nor an historian but a doctor who became interested in the Knights Hospitallers when he became Medical Officer for the Derbyshire St John's Ambulance Association and heard about the present-day St John's Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. A few years later he visited Jerusalem and nearby sites significant in the early history of the Hospitaller Knights.

Their history began with the first crusade to the Holy Land in the eleventh century, ordered by Pope Urban II in November 1095 to free Jerusalem from the Muslims. The Pope called on Christians throughout Europe to recapture Jerusalem and knights, their armies and pilgrim followers set out on the long journey, converging first on Constantinople. Tony had a slide of a 12th century French carving showing a wife bidding farewell to her pilgrim husband who was looking fairly ill-equipped for a perilous journey, in a tunic with a red cross, a staff in his hand and a purse at his waist. Leaving Constantinople, the armies had to fight their way to Jerusalem. *En route*, the Muslim stronghold at Antioch took nine months to capture and there were further battles before eventually Jerusalem was re-captured after 462 years of Muslim occupation.

In the market square they founded a small hospice run by Benedictine monks to treat the sick and injured. Later in 1113 the monks adopted the Augustinian rule and were recognised by the Pope as the Order of the Hospitallers dedicated to St John the Baptist; they wore a black habit with an eight-pointed white cross. A commemorative stone in the old market square now marks the site of the first hospital.

The Hospitallers realised that together with other Christian forces they needed to defend the Holy Land against further Muslim attacks, and they became a military as well as a religious order. Several fortifications were given or leased to them and with wealth coming to them from Europe they strengthened walls and built further strongholds. Tony had excellent slides of the remains of the main Hospitaller castles at Antioch, Krac des Chevaliers, Byblos, Sidon, Tyre, Acre and Bait Jebrin. Most were built on commanding hilltop sites of fine ashlar and basalt where it was locally obtainable. On the coast, the castle at Sidon was built out from the land for maritime defence and was strengthened with marble columns from nearby Roman ruins. Krac des Chevaliers' remarkably high thick walls were impregnable for many years. At the centre of all the fortifications were hospitals and chapels.

By the end of the 13th century Muslim forces overcame all surviving Christian strongholds and the Hospitallers fled first to Cyprus, to be always ready to retake Jerusalem and The Order became a naval power in the Mediterranean. In 1309 they captured Rhodes where they built fortifications and hospitals. But in 1522 they were attacked and surrendered the island to the Ottoman Turks. Soon after that, they were given Malta by Emperor Charles V.



Insignia of one of the revived Orders of St. John of Jerusalem. [M. Craven]

Their estates in England were seized by Henry VIII at the Dissolution of the Monasteries and properties like the Preceptory at Yeaveley in Derbyshire could no longer send support to Malta. Napoleon took Malta in 1798 and expelled the Hospitallers. Thereafter they scattered in small groups across Europe. In England, the St John Ambulance Association was formed in 1877 and later received the Royal Charter from Queen Victoria as a Protestant Order, whilst in Jerusalem, the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital continues as the only charitable provider of eye care for all, regardless of nationality or religion in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

Joan Davies

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Jane James, Facilitator of the Mickleover History Group (now, regrettably, disbanded)

I believe Brierfield Way follows the natural topography of the land running as it does from its junction with Uttoxeter Road in parallel with the Hell Brook and then circumscribed by the A38/A516 as suggested by Max. I have attached an extract of the 1840 tithe map with an approximation of the route of the same, plus a satellite image of the area today. It is interesting to note how closely the street layout of the estate follows the former field boundaries.

With regard to Max's reference to the Limes, my research indicates that the house was built about 1840 by Henry Isaac Stevens for Samuel Job Wright. The 1840 tithe map and schedule shows S J Wright was the owner and occupier of Paul's Croft (363) and occupying the garden (365) which was former glebe land. Paul's Croft which was about to become the site of the Limes is described as grassland.

In 1845 a sale notice appeared in the *Leicester Journal* on 14 February stating the house was built about 'five years since by the owner and occupier, Samuel Job Wright, Esq; and finally completed internally by the aid of an eminent London decorator, last summer only.' The advertisement continues 'The house, designed by Mr Steven [sic], is one of the most complete existing specimens of an elegant and comfortable English residence....' – 'Estate agent speak' was alive and well in the 19th century! It therefore appears that the architect was Henry Isaac Stevens (1809-1873), a London born Derby architect.

Three years later the house was offered for sale again (*Derby Mercury* 4 Oct 1848) and this time with a description of the house: 'An excellent house, comprising spacious entrance hall and staircase, breakfast, dining and drawing-rooms, six best and two smaller bed-rooms, dressing-rooms, servants'-rooms, two water-closets, kitchen and scullery, butler's pantry,

store-room, china closet, larder, capital wine and other cellaring, brewhouse, an abundant supply of spring and rain water.....' The outbuildings comprised a *'large coach house, harness room heated with warm water, groom's sleeping room over, a three and a two-stall stable, cowhouse, waggon shed, piggeries etc'*. Both the ornamental and kitchen gardens were said to be extensive and well stocked, with a vinery, greenhouse and forcing frames and there were 10 acres of meadow land in front of the house.



The Limes, south (garden) front, 1968, when the Ayres, S. J. Wright's successors, sold up. Note a local speciality, the cast iron sliding jalousies, made at the Britannia foundry, then owned by S J Wright's brother Thomas and his brother-in-law banker William Baker and, later by Andrew Handyside, Wright's then Russia-based protégé. [the late Peter Ayre]

The five cottages this time were described as *'a genteel cottage with coach-house and two-stall stable and four smaller cottages, all adjoining to a separate carriage road, and out of sight from the principal residence and pleasure grounds.'* The Limes itself was said to be built *'about six years ago'*, suggesting a construction date of 1842. However, the earlier advertisement and the presence of Samuel Job Wright's name on the 1840 title schedule and the 1841 census suggests the earlier occupation date of 1840. Furthermore, it was in 1840 that Fennel Street, which had originally joined The Hollow was truncated and became the approach to the house now known as Limes Avenue and was until 30 years ago embellished by a pretty stuccoed lodge with ogee windows.

By June 1841 Samuel and his wife Amelia were living with their three youngest children John, Louisa and Ellen and three female servants in the village. Samuel was described as a silk throwster but it was his death in August 1848 that led to the sale notice later that year. However, it seems no sale resulted as Amelia Wright remained there until her death in November 1882.

The editor adds: This is a most valuable addition to our knowledge of this house, as I for one had missed the reference to Stevens, a son of the steward to the Earl of Chesterfield. After studying under Sir Jeffry Wyatville working at Windsor, he married the daughter of William Martin, Wyatville's executant architect at Bretby and, coming to Derbyshire, settled at Hartshorne. His earliest work tended to be classical, as at The Limes. I was told by the then owner in 1981 that his deeds suggested that Wright – primarily an exporter of silk from his Friar Gate Mills to St. Petersburg – had acquired the site in 1838. Who, one might wonder, was the 'eminent London decorator' hired by the super-rich Wright to embellish the interiors; could it have been the young John Gregory Crace (1809-1889)?

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DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY DAY 2021

Steve Baker writes:

Due to the pandemic we have decided to hold Derbyshire Archaeology Day 2021 (DAD21) as an online event.

The event will take place on Friday 5th Feb (13.00 to 16.00hrs) and Saturday 6th February (10.00 to 13.00hrs) 2021, via the Demio webinar platform. There will be a number of presentations in each session, as usual covering a range of recent archaeological projects in Derbyshire and the Peak District. This will include the recent medieval waterlogged weir structure from Egginton, and a final report on the important medieval site at Bold Lane Derby. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after each presentation.

More information on registration and joining the event will be available closer to the time. We will circulate via the usual channels – our website, Peak Park's website, the Historic Environment Record (HER) website <https://her.derbyshire.gov.uk>, twitter and so on.

Archaeology & Conservation in Derbyshire (ACID) is indeed being printed as normal and to reflect the usual distribution at the Archaeology Day we are offering to post out copies free of charge – I believe Chesterfield Borough Council/Museum are in the process of setting up a web page so people can register for this. Again, more details to follow. Of course, we will also distribute the usual copies around Museums, libraries, information centres and schools so that people can pick it up there if preferred.

Ian Mitchell adds: *When full details are available, members will be informed by e-mail and via the website; we also hope to have copies of ACID available to collect from our library.*

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FRIENDS OF REPTON PARISH CHURCH

Richard Finch writes:

St. Wystan's Repton has been unusual among historic churches, given the national status of its Anglo Saxon crypt and the archaeological importance of its site, in not having a Friends group to provide practical and financial support from beyond its congregation. This lack has recently been rectified with the setting up of the Friends of Repton Parish Church as a registered charity.

A launch event in church was planned for autumn 2020. This was overtaken by COVID and an online event was planned to take place on 12 November broadcast from church with contributions highlighting different aspects of the church's history and current role in the community. This in turn had to be cancelled when it proved impossible under lockdown conditions to put together the various contributions to the event.

In common with most other historic parish churches and cathedrals, St. Wystan's has to contend with an endless succession of work to repair, conserve, and maintain the building for use. Over recent years projects have included major repairs to the tower and spire, stripping and refixing tiles on the chancel roof, and new lighting and rewiring. Total cost has been over £200,000, met from a mix of grants (from charitable trusts and government schemes such as the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund), legacies, the congregation's own funds, and fund raising from the local community. With rising costs, the likelihood of reduced government funding, and greater demand on charitable trusts, the contribution of the Friends in helping to raise awareness and interest in the historic heritage of St Wystan's and assisting the congregation with maintaining and enhancing the building will be invaluable. The initial project which the Friends will be supporting is the reinstatement of floodlighting the tower and spire with a new energy efficient installation replacing the 1970s equipment which has been out of use due to the unavailability of replacement bulbs and parts.

Having registered the group as a charity, at the time of writing the trustees are working to recruit members, plan future events, develop website www.friendsofreptonparishchurch.co.uk including uploading materials prepared for the launch event. Anyone interested in finding out more and becoming a Friend should make contact through the website.

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THE ASHBOURNE HISTORY FUND

We are pleased to announce that the DAS has recently become the custodian of the residual funds (just over £7,000) of the defunct Ashbourne Local History Group. The former leader of the Group Adrian Henstock outlines the background.

During the 1970s to 1990s an adult education class was held in Ashbourne to study the town's history. This was under the combined aegis of the WEA and the University of Nottingham with Adrian Henstock as its tutor, initially mentored by Chris Charlton, the University's outreach organiser for Derbyshire. Their efforts resulted in a number of excellent publications, like *Early Victorian Country Town: A Portrait of Ashbourne in the Mid-19th Century* (1978).

The class subsequently mutated into an independent research organisation as the Ashbourne Local History Group with a new project on the Georgian period c 1725-1825, which resulted in two further acclaimed largely self-funded publications, *Georgian Country Town : Ashbourne (vol 1): Fashionable Society* (1989) and *Georgian Country Town: Ashbourne (vol 2): Architecture* (1991). However after some eighteen years the group had dispersed, leaving a substantial sum lying dormant in a local bank.

The recent closure of the bank prompted the handful of remaining members to make a decision about its assets. It was felt they should still be devoted to future historical publications on Ashbourne and district as our legacy to the town. We were delighted when the DAS agreed to host the money as a 'Restricted Fund'. This means it is dedicated to offering grants towards substantial publications relating to the history and archaeology of Ashbourne and the Peak District within an approximate eight-mile radius (including the whole of Dovedale and the Manifold Valley).

Applications are invited for grants up to £250 for small publications but larger ones will be considered. To apply for a grant, please fill in the online application form on the Society's website.

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ASHBOURNE HERITAGE SOCIETY IS ZOOMING TO NEW HEIGHTS.

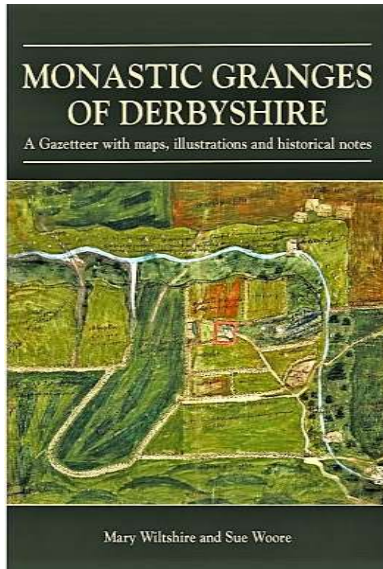
The Ashbourne Heritage Society is still meeting despite Covid. Although the remainder of the Spring 2020 programme had to be cancelled after lockdown in March the programme this autumn has been a great success with record attendances. Meetings are now held by Zoom. And visitors are welcome as before. A significant advantage now is that they can live anywhere worldwide.

Our meeting on 10 November was to hear a talk by Sue Woore who, with friend and colleague Mary Wiltshire, has published a book on the monastic granges of Derbyshire [*Monastic Granges of Derbyshire*, YPD Books, York, ISBN 978-1-5272-3551-9. £15.99. Order from Sue at Ashley, Belle Vue Rd, Ashbourne, DE6 1AT. Postage, £3.00, or collect at arm's length]. Notice of the lecture was broadcast far and wide and also made the front page of The British Agricultural History Society and 100 people logged in, far more than St. Oswald's parish hall could have held!

Sue covered many aspects of the life and operation of granges around the county. One important factor was access to a water supply. This was usually achieved by the natural features of springs, or dew ponds, some of which were physically enhanced or enlarged. Reasonable transport routes were needed for moving the stock around and many granges were situated close to ancient track ways or Roman roads.

Granges were established by religious houses. Landowners would donate some of their land holding to a religious house in return for prayers being said in perpetuity for the soul of the donor and his family. The recipient of the land need not be a religious house local to where the donor lived. Roughly two thirds of the 45 granges identified in Derbyshire had mother houses as far away as the other side of Chester, Louth in Lincolnshire and Dunstable Priory, 100 miles to the south of Ashbourne. There were 27 out-of-county houses involved.

There is evidence in the landscape around some granges of deserted habitation. Granges were often established on the fringes of manors, on marginal land that needed clearance. If the land donated was close to habitation, there is some evidence that the religious house established the grange and removed the people to create space. There is still evidence of the ancient grange



system of farming in the landscape which can be seen today. Some boundaries are arc shaped or even circular. Dry stone walls were built so that they funnelled the sheep from common grazing back to the grange farm. Stone walls can also be formed as sheep folds. Evidence of the actual buildings is more difficult to see. On some sites there is clear evidence that the stonework of modern buildings has been reused. Many sites such as Hanson Grange and Newton Grange have substantial dwellings on them. It is possible that they stand on the footprint of medieval buildings.

Ashbourne Heritage Society's December meeting will be on Tuesday 8 December when the subject will be 'The visible heritage of the Dove and Manifold valleys', 7:30pm. Zoom link on request either via the society website or from ashheritagesoc@gmail.com.

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A NEWLY DISCOVERED ROMAN LEAD PIG

Kindly adapted by Ray Marjoram from a recent article in *British Archaeology*.

Although not of local provenance, a recently discovered lead pig (correct jargon for 'ingot') is being described as one of the most significant Roman artefacts recorded in Britain in recent times.

Using a metal detector in a field near Rossett (Denbighshire/Clwyd, not Yorkshire!) in September last year, Rob Jones found the corner of a lead object with writing on it. He contacted Susie White, the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales (PAS Cymru) finds officer for North Wales. The site was investigated and the ingot has subsequently been acquired by Wrexham Museum with the aid of grants from the Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, the Headley Trust and Friends of Wrexham Museum. Sam Moorhead, national finds adviser at the Portable Antiquities Scheme, said it is the most significant Roman find recorded by the scheme.

The pig is among the earliest dated inscriptions to record Roman exploitation of Britain's mineral wealth, testifying to the rapid expansion of mining in the wake of Roman consolidation of the province. It is inscribed in Latin with the names of the emperor and that of Marcus Trebellius Maximus, a governor of Britannia from AD63-69 during the rule of Nero.

Britain's natural resources were said to be one of the reasons used by emperor Claudius to justify invading Britain in AD43. Behind the ingot lay an industry of prospecting, site identification and labour mobilisation, and the inscription highlights bureaucratic control over

the production of valuable metals. The heavily ligatured inscription (translated by Roger Tomlin) reads,

‘[PROPERTY OF NERO] CAESAR AUGUSTUS, BRITISH [LEAD] FROM
MAGUL[...], SMELTED IN THE WORKS IN THE PROVINCE UNDER
TREBELLIIUS MAXIMUS, IMPERIAL LEGATE’.

M. Trebellius Maximus (suffect consul in 55 – with Seneca, no less), who appears here in an inscription in the UK for the first time, is otherwise well known from literary sources, having been partly responsible for restoring imperial control after Boudica's revolt in 60/61. He served a particularly long tenure but eventually left during the Civil War of 68-69, having backed the wrong side, leading to a mutiny (as Tacitus, *Histories* 2.65-66).



The Denbighshire lead pig, three aspects and a transcription of the inscription.

Clear metal layers in the trapezoidal ingot, which is 1ft 9in (53cm) long and weighs nearly 10 stone (63.4kg), shows four separate pourings into the mould. One end has been lost and there are cut marks on all faces.

The search is now on for local lead mines of sufficiently early date from which it might have come; it is hoped that elemental work and lead isotope analysis will help in the quest. Less than a hundred lead ingots of this type from British mines are known, and this particular one is thought to be unique.

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NEW MEMBERS

Mr M. Bartle of Skegby Mrs J. Cooper of Itchenor, Chichester, Mrs & Mr J. & D. Sprules of Micklever & Mrs N. Cook of Breaston.

‘BEAUTIFULL DUST’
William Allestreay and his monument
in Derby Cathedral

by Maxwell Craven

In this age of inexorable change both in the Church and the world generally, one sometimes indulges oneself in no small fellow feeling with William Allestreay, whose wife’s striking monument adorns the north wall of Derby Cathedral, her epitaph burnished by the touching description of her, surely her husband’s inspiration, as ‘beautiful dust’ (*sic*).



William Allestreay MP,
engraved by R. White.
[Derby Local Studies Library]

Allestreay was a man of integrity, tenacity and honesty whose life co-incided with the most turbulent of times, when rampant change was busy dismantling the world which he knew. The son of Thomas Allestreay of Alvaston Hall and Uppington Hall in Shropshire and Anne Barker. He was born in 1598, educated possibly at Derby School (its register is incomplete for this period) and then at St. John’s, Cambridge from which he graduated MA in 1619. He then proceeded to Gray’s Inn, being called to the bar in 1625.

Eleven years later he was appointed Recorder of Derby on the resignation of Timothy Levinge of Parwich Hall, and was elected to the ‘Short’ Parliament in 1640 for Derby and re-elected to the notorious ‘Long’ Parliament the following year.

Unfortunately, his physical tenure as MP was brief for, as a dedicated supporter of the King, he was purged, with the connivance of his fellow Derby MP, the radical Puritan and republican, Alderman Samuel Hallowes. His place was given to Major Thomas (‘Sweet Tom’) Gell, younger brother of Sir John Gell, Bt., just installed as Parliamentary governor of the borough.¹

Despite this, Allestreay was a well-liked man and it took Gell until 1643 to get him deposed from his Recordership (again in favour of Tom Gell). Burdened by delinquency fines, he

¹ Craven, M. A. J. B., *Derbeians of Distinction* (Derby 1998) 18-19.

thereafter exiled himself to his house at Uppington, in Shropshire, to await *feliciorum temporum reparatio*. Sadly for him, the happier times were never restored, as he died in 1655 under the Commonwealth, and his remains were eventually returned to Derby to be re-interred with his beloved first wife.

This lady, who had inspired so lyrical a coinage when the monument was erected, had been Sarah, sister of Edward Smith of Derby, of another Royalist Derby family. Of their two sons and three daughters, only one of the latter, Grace, survived her father, although only then by months. He married again at the beginning of his ‘difficult time’, his bride being the widow of his brother-in-law, Edward Smith and the daughter of yet another keen Royalist, William Agard of Foston Hall. By her (who died in 1674) he had three sons and three daughters, although his line ended with the death of his sons.

The estates passed to William’s brother Thomas (whose posterity were essentially cheated out of them by the Boroughs of Alvaston Fields exploiting a poorly worded will).² but his other brother, Roger, was restored to the Derby Recordership in 1660 and was elected to Parliament for Derby the year following, being succeeded in that by his son, William, who died in 1700 at Darley Hall, which his father had acquired from the Bullocks.

As a sidelight, the Allestreys can be traced – uniquely in my experience – from a villein or serf, Thomas de Allestre and Alice his wife.³ Somewhere in the late 1240s, Robert de Tuchet of Markeaton gave to the Abbot and Canons of the Abbey of Darley, for the good of his soul, William son of Alice de Adelastre *nativum meum cum tota sequela* (‘my villein with his whole brood’) along with the land upon which he lived and that upon which he toiled. Probably his father, a freeman, had had got into debt of some kind, and the person to whom the debt was due – one of the Tuchets no doubt – enslaved him, rendering his progeny unfree as well.⁴ Elias, the only son, was slightly later recorded as belonging to the church at Mackworth as the villein of the parson, another member of the Tuchet family.⁵

Yet all was not lost for something over a decade later we find Abbot Walter of Darley granting this William (son of Thomas and Felicia his wife) three acres of land at Allestree, referring to William as he ‘whom we have liberated’ – so, thanks to the munificence of the Abbot and Canons, William had gained his manumission and became free.⁶ He also had a brother, Robert, who must have also been manumitted (granted his freedom) at some similar period (the record is lost), for his son Richard was also free and holding land at Breadsall.⁷ Astonishingly, there are still descendants in the city to this day.

² Obit., Thomas Allestre of Alvaston *Derby Mercury* 19/3/1741; Pedigree compiled for counsel 1778 for lawsuit brought against J T Borrow of Alvaston Fields by co-heirs Thomas Allcock, William Dexter & Henry Shaw over the recovery of the estate of Thomas Allestre, in papers sold at Neale’s Derby 11/1990 from which the author managed to make notes. The late Murray Shaw of Mickleover was a descendant of this Henry Shaw.

³ They are named only in their childrens’ filiations: Darlington, R R *The Cartulary of the Abbey of Darley*, Derbyshire Record Series Vol. 1 (Kendal 1245) B33, K46 etc. but no surviving document involves them

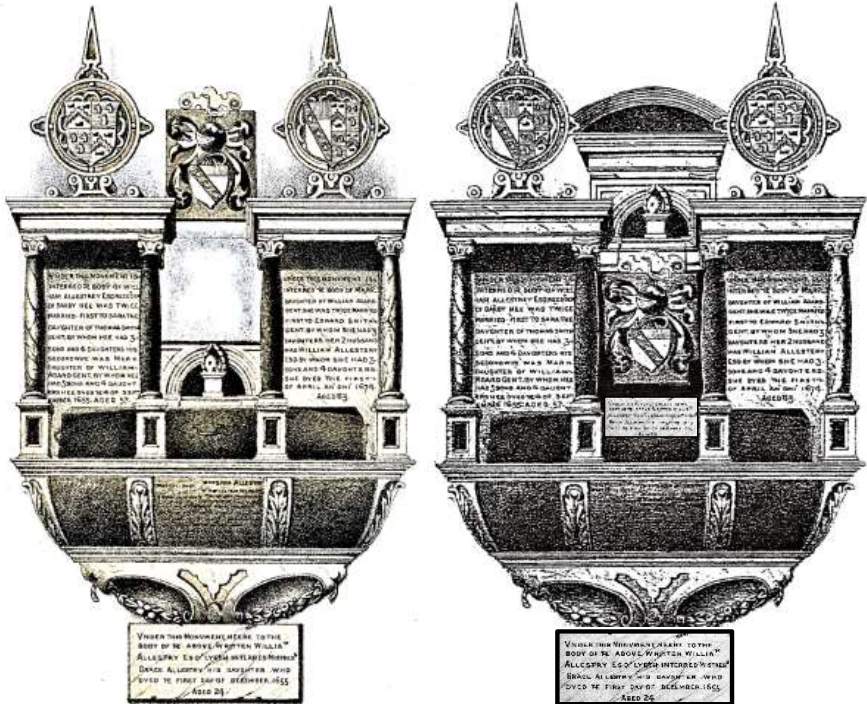
⁴ *Ibid.* DC K46

⁵ *Ibid.* DC K43

⁶ *Ibid.* DC K22

⁷ Breadsall Charters DAJ XVI (1894) 159.

The monument, although today of rather awkward proportions, is of exceptional interest in that it is one of only three in England to boast an integral coffin, and because it no longer looks as it did when first erected in old All Hallows church. It was probably put up in 1638 and expertly carved from Chellaston alabaster embellished with Ashford black marble, probably carved by Edward Marshall (1598-1675) who also carved the now lost cupola monument to the 2nd Earl of Devonshire in 1638. The general treatment and decoration are very similar, as are those of Crowshaw's monument, near the organ loft.



Derby Cathedral, north aisle, Allestreya MI, left as is, taken from a lithograph in *J. C Cox & Sir W H St. John Hope, The Chronicles of the Collegiate Church of All Saints' Derby (Derby & London 1881)*; right, a suggested reconstruction. [M. Craven]

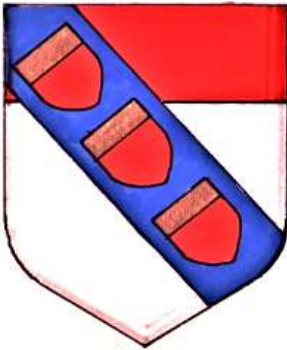
Originally, the alabaster slabs behind the coffin would have been left blind, in order to take inscriptions to Allestreya himself and his children but, in the event, that on the right ended up with the second wife's inscription, whilst the surviving daughter Grace was relegated to a separate tablet below.

Yet what we see today is an architectonic nonsense, at least in its upper registers. The two alabaster slabs behind the coffin lie within a tabernacle formed of four Ionic columns, with exaggerated *entasis*, on tall plinths, the outer ones of alabaster and the inner of black marble. The centre is a void in which lies a winged skull on a socle or stand, in front of an alabaster

arch with black marble tympanum. Above, its unadorned edges teetering on the cornices of the two tabernacles, is a black tablet bearing the family's achievement of arms, looking really rather unsafe and flanked by two further much more splendid armorials (Agard, left; Allestreys impaling Agard, right) mounted on finialled strapwork cartouches.

Clearly something has been lost here. The likelihood is that, on taking the monument down to transfer it to the new church in 1724-25, part of it became mislaid or broken. I incline to the former, as a breakage could have been rectified or re-made by Francis Smith's tame carver Roger Morledge the younger. Mislaid and unrecorded, the workmen probably were left to use their experience to re-construct the whole.

Architectural precedent clearly suggests that between the strapwork cartouches there had originally been a segmental pediment supported upon a pulvinated alabaster frieze, entablature and cornice, below which the alabaster arch and its black marble tympanum would have been set, creating the effect of a Serliana, or proto-Venetian type window. The main entablature, frieze and the cornices of the tabernacles would have run round to support all this, and below, the central space would have held the full armorial of the family (now on top), with the motto of the Allestres, *Spero infestis* (appropriately, 'I hope in adversity') painted below in gold leaf, like the main 'beautiful dust' inscription on the black marble base of the monument.



Arms of Allestreys: argent a chief gules on a bend azure three escutcheons of the second a chief or. [M. Craven]

The monument was restored in the 1990s through the generosity of Penelope and Tom Craig of Petersham, Surrey, Mrs. Craig (an author, as Anne Allestree), being a descendant of the family. Regrettably the painter, despite being told the correct tinctures of the armorials, managed to get those of the three escutcheons on the bend wrong on the Allestreys arms; they should be red below a gold chief. One might have wished too that the helm was painted steel blue or silver rather than black and gold, and the tailfeathers of the ostrich crest, blue as the blazon in the 1634 Heralds' Visitation of Derbyshire required.⁸ But, faced with such munificence, who could possibly cavil, given a re-invigoration of such splendour?

*

⁸ Also that of 1662, cf Visits. Shropshire 1664 & Warwickshire 1682. The arms were much older, being recorded as a quartering of the Dethicks (who has married the last Allestreys of Allestree in the 14th century: Visit. Surrey 1623 & Derbys. 1589.

WINTER PROGRAMME

January – February 2021

These will all be online talks via Zoom. Members will receive an email with a link to register in the week before the meeting. A limited number of places will be available for non-members to book via the Eventbrite ticketing website. Recordings of each talk will be available via Zoom for a few weeks after the event.

Friday 8 January at 7.30pm – IAS

WHEELS OF INDUSTRY – LANGLEY MILL

Speaker: **Robert Mee**

Reportedly the “most industrialised village in the country” – what didn’t Langley Mill produce? This talk looks at the various companies established in the 19th and 20th centuries, and at their eventual demise”

Friday 15 January at 7.30pm – ARG

GRAVE TRADE – THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BURIALS

Speaker: **Dr Jill Eyers**

Humans are the only species to bury their dead. In an overview of beliefs and rituals surrounding burials, we go on a journey through time with the ideas from our hunter-gatherer ancestors to the present-day practices. An intriguing history of a ritual we have been practicing for at least 40,000 years and with some surprises in store!

Friday 29 January at 7.30pm – AS

THE DERBYSHIRE MINERS AND THE LINCOLNSHIRE COAST

Speaker: **Dr Sophie Hollinshead**

The Lincolnshire coast provided the nearest seaside facilities for the workers of the industrial Midlands and a day trip, or holiday at the seaside became a part of the life of many mining families. The Derbyshire coalfields enjoyed their own purpose-built convalescent home and holiday camp at Skegness. Both have a surprising, and fascinating history. This talk will be of particular interest to those who have worked in, or know, the Derbyshire coalfields, but also reveals an important aspect of seaside history that has hitherto been unexplored.

Friday 12 February at 7.30pm – LHS

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, DERBYSHIRE AND THE HOME

Speaker: **Richard Bates**

This talk will showcase some of the research for a new book, 'Florence Nightingale at Home'. It will explore the background of the Nightingale family and their connection to Derbyshire's industry and industrial workers, and the importance of this link for Nightingale and her early understanding of healthcare. It will also consider Nightingale's relationship to the theme of 'home' more broadly, and her development of nursing institutions in this context.

Friday 19 February at 7.30pm

AFTER BOUDICCA – BEING ROMAN IN THE LAND OF THE ICENI

Speaker: **Dr Will Bowden**

The Iceni were the tribe of Boudicca, who famously revolted against Rome in AD60/61. What happened to the Iceni after the revolt? The limited textual sources paint a picture of impoverishment and scholarship on Roman Britain has often considered the tribal territory as a backwater in the Roman period, with little in the way of villas, mosaics, inscriptions and exotic imports from Gaul and the Mediterranean. However, other archaeological evidence suggests a more complex picture, with the Iceni participating in the Roman world on their own terms and maintaining a distinctive regional identity. This talk, based on the speaker's excavations at Venta Icenorum (Caister St. Edmund, near Norwich), the *civitas* capital of the Icenian territory in the Roman period, will discuss the evidence for the ways in which the Iceni responded to Rome after the death of the queen who made them so famous.

Friday 26 February at 7.30pm - AS

THE SAVING OF A MAIMED BEAUTY – WINGFIELD STATION

Speakers: **James Boon and Peter Milner**

This is a presentation by the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust explaining how the Trust came to own a near derelict Grade II* Listed Derbyshire country railway station that is the only surviving example of an original station building dating back to 1840 between Derby and Leeds. The talk will be given by Peter Milner FRICS and Lead Trustee for the Project together with James Boon RIBA of Boon Architects who is the Lead Architect for the restoration scheme.

*



SAVE THE DATE!
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GIFT AID FORM

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Rear cover: *The Constantinian basilica at Trier (Augusta Treveriorum), early fourth century, with post-war damage reconstruction (top) and (below) the Baptist Chapel, Queen Street, Ilkeston of 1858 by William Booker of Nottingham, who must have been something of an antiquarian, or else the studied late antique of his design is entirely fortuitous! [M. Craven]*

