



LIBRARY NEWS 2024

January to March

OPENING HOURS

Jan.10th 1.30 - 3.30 27th 10 -12

Jan. Sat. 13th **OPEN DAY** Library open from 12.30 followed by short talks by members

Feb 14th 1.30 -3.30; 24th 10 -12

Mar13th 1.30 - 3.30;

WEBSITE

The newsletter can also be found on the website on the library page along with all the library information and the search facility for the catalogue. All books new to the Library are on the catalogue and suggestions are always welcome.

A SELECTION of BOOKS NEW to the LIBRARY

Derbyshire Feet of Fines 1196-1324 Edited by H.J.H. Garratt
Derbyshire Record Society
Vol .XLIX, 2023. 229pp

This volume marks the completion of the publication of the late Harold Garratt’s calendar of Feet of Fines in Derbyshire . The first volume for 1324 -1547 was published by the DRS in 1985 and this new volume, as the cover notes say, “replaces the unindexed calendar published in instalments in the Derby-

shire Archaeological Journal between 1885 and 1895” The volume is fully indexed and will be an important source for historians and genealogists.

Belper Voices Life in Belper in the Nineteenth Century Vol. 1. Christopher Charlton et al. Pub.Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Educational Trust 2023. 154 pp.

This first volume describes the development of the transport links which connected Belper, an emerging industrial town, with the national rails and roads. It also looks at the rise and fall of the nail industry and in addition, Strutts, as the technology moved on and companies became no longer competitive in the late 19th Century. This is a very interesting picture of an important industrial town in the 19th century.



There follows three quite substantial articles, the first by Jane Whitaker following on from the article in the last edition about the newspaper cuttings in the library. The second by Rosemary Annable, including information from Dr Irene

Brightmer, concerns the Derby Buildings Record, the complete lists of which are now on the Architecture Section page of the Society website. The final article by Jane Steer is about the book she has kindly loaned for display on the Open Day. - *James Gibbs Rules for Drawing the several parts of Architecture* 1756. This book will be a real pleasure to look at.

Starr Bowkett Societies

The DAS library contains an intriguing collection of newspaper cuttings from the 19th century, a popular hobby amongst the educated middle class at that time. The columns are carefully cut and pasted into books commercially supplied for the purpose. The cuttings reflect the interests of the collector and come from a range of mainly local papers, but unfortunately not all are dated or the sources named. One book picked at random dates from the early 1880s and indicates the creator's interest in financial institutions, particularly building societies.

It starts with a report on a meeting at the Derby Guildhall chaired by the Honourable Frederick Strutt debating "Starr Bowkett Societies" an early form of building society.

The first building societies grew out of the Friendly Society movement in the late 18th century and were often "terminating", meaning that they were wound up once they had achieved their aims. Dr T E Bowkett, a London surgeon interested in working class politics, admirer of radical politicians Cobden and Bright, and heavily involved with the Chartist movement gave a series of lectures on working class thrift and saving towards purchasing a building plots in 1843 which led to the formation of the Bowkett Societies. Bowkett encouraged working class men to buy freehold land to the value of at least 40/- which enabled them to vote and influence the government and enabled them to be free of paying rent to a landlord. In order to raise the funds required, a "terminating" society was formed with a set number of members who agreed to pay in a weekly sum for an agreed number of years. Every time sufficient funds were in the kitty a ballot was drawn to see who would be the recipient of sufficient money to buy a plot of land or "apportionment". Members had to agree to stay in the scheme until everyone had received their "apportionment" and all loans had been repaid. No interest was to be charged or received by members and administrators were not remunerated. Few societies were started up under these rules. In 1862, businessman Richard B Starr made a

series of changes to increase the subscriptions and decrease the length of time needed to bring the scheme to a close, which made it more palatable to potential members and the number of societies increased significantly, especially due to Starr's enthusiastic promotion.

Such societies could be subject to mis-management. Members may leave the area or die before completion, or refuse to continue to pay into the scheme one they received their "apportionment", there may have been an increase in land prices, some members would have to wait for a lot longer than others, or the prospectus advertising the estate plots may have exaggerated the facilities available (for example road access, gas or water mains), or the treasurer may embezzle the funds. There was also a fear that gamblers may be tempted to join just to be entered for the draw.

However, that may be a hypothetical concern, as there would be simpler ways of satisfying a gambling habit. By 1874, the Building Society Act encouraged permanent societies offering interest to savers, however the Starr Bowkett Societies remained popular particularly in the larger towns and cities. Derby had at least two. Cuttings from the Derby Telegraph show that the 479th Starr Bowkett Society in Derby had 270 members, holding 738 shares between them. It held its third ballot in November 1883, won by No.

234, Mr Robert Hudson of Monk Street, Derby who received £400 to be paid off over 12½ years. A month later, No 189 Mr E Bromage received £200 with the same stipulation.

The cutting from the Derby Gazette dated 10th January 1882 reports the meeting chaired by the Honourable Frederick Strutt to debate the ethics of the Starr Bowkett system. It appears that the meeting was called by William Hall from Lancing in Sussex who appears to have had a major grievance with Richard Starr. He repeated accusations he had made in a debate with Starr a month previously in Brighton. It seems that he chose Derby as a platform due to the proposed creation of a new society with the purpose of stopping its formation. He called such societies "injurious to the working class and opposed to the true principle of thrift" as he believed it encouraged gambling. He berated Starr for not attending the meeting, however Starr had sent a letter to be read out stating that his lawyers had recommended that he should not meet with Hall, as Starr was suing Hall for libel. Hall once again accused Starr of "betraying his fiduciary position in founding the societies" but provided no proof. Starr eventually won the libel case and was awarded substantial damages.

By 1894 a new Building Society Act prohibited the formation of any

more Starr Bowkett and other similar building societies. Those in existence were allowed to come to term. Despite the concerns in this country, it remained a popular way of buying building plots in many Commonwealth countries, especially Australia where the final Starr Bowkett Society was formed as late as 2019.

Next time the DAS library is open, why not pick up a book of newspaper cuttings at random and see what unexpected gems it contains. You may find something unusual to intrigue you. JW

The Derby Buildings Record

The DBR project was initiated in 1987 by Barbara Hutton on her move to Derbyshire and is an invaluable record of vernacular architecture in the county, consisting of reports and measured drawings of farmhouses and cottages, some with photographs, reports of tree ring dating and associated historical documentation. The project was affiliated to the Architectural Section of the Society in 1988. Several members assisted in the recording work and there is a total of 301 reports, the last finalised in 2014, and the majority of which were written by Barbara. The main focus is the area around Derby, but there are also properties in some areas of

Staffordshire and Leicestershire and one in Nottinghamshire.

Copies of the concise typed reports with their associated drawings (often only a page or two), were given to: the householders of the individual properties; to Derby Museum & Art Gallery (now held at Derby Local Studies and Family History Library which has a complete set, reference A720) and were also deposited with RCHM England / English Heritage (now held by the Historic Environment Record).

Joan Davies who, with her late husband Alwyn, played a large part in the recording work with Barbara has generously donated her own copies of the Derby Buildings Record to the DAS, some of which have information and photographs additional to the original reports. A list of Joan's collection is held by the Librarian, and a complete listing of the DBR reports is on the Society's website in the Architecture section.

Work is now progressing with the help of Mark Young, the Manager of Derby Local Studies and Family History Library and Dana Campbell at the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record to make these invaluable reports more widely known and available online.

Barbara Hutton FSA (1920-2015) was President of the national Vernacular Architecture Group and the

first editor of its Journal. She published widely in books and journals on vernacular architecture especially relating to Yorkshire and selected counties in south-east England. In 1972 she was influential in the formation of the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group which is still active and has recorded over 1900 buildings. More locally, she was the author of *Historic Farmhouses around Derby* (1991, Scarthin Books), the joint author with Kenneth Boyce of *Houses and Everyday Life in Weston on Trent* (1994, Weston on Trent Local History Society) and with Irene Brightmer of *Houses and Cottages in a Leicestershire Parish: Staunton Harold* (2013, Ashby de la Zouch Museum), the second two of which are heavily dependent on studies of properties included in the DBR. RA



ABRAHAM DENSTON - HIS BOOK.

In the 1980s I bought a book by James Gibbs called 'Rules for drawing the several parts of architecture, in a more exact and easy manner than has been heretofore practised, by which all fractions, in dividing

the principal members and their parts, are avoided' dated 1736 (it was also published in 1732, 1738 and 1753) from Scarthin Books in Cromford. It had been found in a cellar in Matlock Bath.

I looked at it first of all because I knew that James Gibbs had designed the new nave for All Saints Church in Derby (now Derby Cathedral) in 1723-5.



Gibbs (1682-1754), a famous Palladian architect designed many well-known buildings including St Martins-in-the-Fields church in London and the Senate House in Oxford.

When I looked inside the book I saw that it was inscribed 'Abrm Denston - His book'. Even more interesting because there were two well-known Denston plasterers in Derby in the 18th century: Abraham (d1753) and his son, also called Abraham (1723-1779).

The son was an eminent master plasterer. His stucco work can still be seen today at Kedleston Hall (his account books for 1761-1765 are held in their archives) and at St

Helen's House, c1767, (designed by Joseph Pickford, 1736-82) and Pickford's House Museum (1770) in Derby. He is also thought to have worked at the Assembly Rooms (1773-74) in Derby's Market Place, also designed by Pickford.

The father was also a stucco plasterer who worked at Derby Guildhall (1731) and Radbourne Hall (1739). He died early in 1753 so the book could have belonged to him and then to his son.

Abraham senior married Elizabeth Mosley and had 4 children: Abraham, James, William and Rebecca. In his Will, dated 17 January 1753 and proved on 25 May in the same year, he left Abraham a house and its backside near All Saints Yard adjoining the parsonage and the house he now inhabited in Walker Lane. He left James a house with its backside on Full Street.

Abraham junior and his wife Ann had 7 children: James, Charles, John, Sarah who married Seth Brigart, a well known Derby builder, Kezia, Elizabeth and Ann. His Will, dated 1779, shows that he owned more property than his father: a house in Walker Lane at the side of the County Hall, a farm and brickyard at Rowditch, a house in St Mary's Gate, a house known as The Sign of the Mitre in Amen Alley and land at Burton Holmes.

His brother, James (1724-1778) succeeded Samuel Wyatt as Clerk of Works at Kedleston Hall where he built the bridge and cascade designed by Robert Adam (1769-71), the boat house (1770) and Kedleston Rectory which was also designed by Adam (1771). He himself was succeeded by Joseph Pickford. James also designed Markeaton Hall (1755) and a town house for F.N.C.Mundy in the Wardwick (now nos 51-55), Derby in 1769-1771)

This very old and rather decrepit book has been partially restored by Matt Edwards, Conservation Bookbinder and the Curator of the Visual Art and Joseph Wright Study Centre at Derby Museum and Art Gallery. The front cover has been re-attached, the missing spine replaced and the surface dirt removed throughout the book. The leather board edges have been consolidated and some pages have been repaired.

The cover and the inside pages show signs of use. The vestiges of a circular cut mark and a rectangular cut mark can be seen on the cover and a paper ruler found in the book has been inserted into a pocket inside the back cover. JS

JOURNALS recently arrived
Archaeologia Aeliana 6th Series Vol 1

*Essex Journal The Essex Society for
Archaeological and History Vol.12
Journal of the British Archaeologi-
cal Association Vol 176
Midland History Vol 48 pt 3
Post Medieval Archaeology Vol 57
pt 2
Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
Vol 152
Surrey Archeological Society Jour-
nal Vol 105*

The Antiquaries Journal Vol 123

AND FINALLY

We look forward to seeing you on the
Open Day - anytime from 12.30.

librarian@derbyshireas.org.uk

*"The views expressed in the articles are
entirely those of the individual contribu-
tors and not necessarily those of the So-
ciety"*



**DERBYSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

'OPEN AFTERNOON'

**STRUTTS CENTRE
DERBY ROAD
BELPER DE56 1UU**

**SATURDAY 13th JANUARY 2024
12.30- 4PM**

**DISPLAYS IN THE
SOCIETY'S LIBRARY
SHORT TALKS from 1.30**

1.30 **Jane Ainsworth** – *Becoming Christian in
Midland Britain AD500-1050, an introduction to
work on Derbyshire parishes*

2 pm **Ian Mitchell** - *History boards for Long
Eaton railway station*

Break 2.30

2.45 **Keith Reedman** - *Davis of Derby*

3.15 **Tony Brookes**– *Littleover and its surround-
ing landscape: from Ice Age to Domesday – my
research and book*

BOOKS FOR SALE

DROP IN ANYTIME