



**DERBYSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

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The “Knob” in Castle Gresley

DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 83 JAN 2017

The Cover Story

The Knob, as the motte and bailey at Castle Gresley is known, still stands proud over the local landscape and a huge roundabout on the A444. In the wake of the Norman Conquest its existence would demonstrate that the area was under King William's control and that there was one of his allies somewhere in the wings. It has been associated with the Gresley family forever!

So it seems a bit curious that neither Church nor Castle Gresley feature in the Domesday Book but it turns out the Gresleys are descended from the de Staffords who did indeed hold quite a bit of recorded land in the neighbourhood – they must have taken their time sorting it out. The castle remained as a stern reminder of a changing world.

The earthwork is about six metres high and its defences would have been bolstered in its day by a stone or wood palisade and surrounded by a ditch. To the south on a lower bank lies a large

bailey with its houses halls and farm buildings. An underground nuclear bunker was accessed by a shaft within the site!

It is in remarkable condition considering its near one thousand year history and its proximity, in more recent times at least, to a populated industrial area. In addition to some housing it is now beginning to be encroached on by furniture emporiums and other tin sheds.

Still it makes an interesting short walk by way of Knob Fields, a lane off the A444 near Toons and across the field and up the hill (a bit of a puff) or via a flight of steps off Mount Road in Castle Gresley.

This walk and others in South Derbyshire can be seen in the book **Heritage Walks in The Heart of The National Forest** by Dorothy Morson - available from Sharpes Pottery or The Magic Attic in Swadlincote.

Barbara Foster

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VISIT TO NORTH YORKSHIRE

FRI. 14th—TUE. 18th JULY 2016
&
BOOKING DETAILS

This year we will be based at Cober Hill Hotel [www.coberhill.co.uk], situated in 11 acres of ground by the coast at Cloughton, to the north of Scarborough, and within the North Yorks National Park. We have reserved 40 places for a four night stay. In a change to our usual arrangements, the visit will be from Friday 14th to Tuesday 18th July. As usual the rooms are all double en-suite for single or double occupancy.

We have again booked a Skills coach which will depart from the Bus Station in Derby. David Carder will be our tour guide.

We plan to break our outward journey at Beverley, with time for lunch and an opportunity to explore the town. We are planning a ride on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway from Pickering to Whitby with time to explore at both places. Other sites we hope to visit include the Rotunda Museum in Scarborough (exhibits from the mesolithic site at Star Carr), Ryedale Open Air Museum at Hutton-le-Hole (reconstructions of Iron Age and Medieval buildings), castles at Scarborough and Helmsley, Rievaulx Abbey, Burton Agnes Manor and Hall and Nunnington Hall.

We estimate the cost to be about £430; the exact cost to be decided once the programme of visits is confirmed. The cost will include accommodation, bed, breakfast and evening meals, the hire of the coach and all entrance fees apart from English Heritage and National Trust sites.

In order to book a place, an initial non-refundable deposit of £50 is required. Places will be allocated in order of booking. We would advise that applications are made as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. The closing date is 28th February 2017. We

strongly recommend that you take out personal travel and cancellation insurance.

To book, please send a cheque for £50 per person, payable to The Derbyshire Archaeological Society and with the words DAS North Yorkshire visit on the reverse.

Send to Mrs. Jane Heginbotham, 59 Hickton Road, Swanwick, Alfreton. DE55 1AG.

A stamped addressed envelope or an email address should be included to receive confirmation of your booking and receipt of your booking fee.

If you have any queries please contact Jane on 01773 609629 or by email at jane.heginbotham@btinternet.com

PROGRAMME SECRETARY'S REPORT

The opening lecture in OL1 on September 30th 2016 was 'Aethelfrith and the Battle of Chester AD616: a battlefield and war-grave discovered' by Dr David Mason. This lecture was a fascinating insight as to where this actually took place in the Chester area and there was a large audience.

The following lecture in OL1 was, unfortunately, not quite so well attended, so I am told. 'King of All Balloons - The Adventurous Life of James Sadler, the First English Aeronaut' by Mark Davies was a bit short on detail, however may have been due to inexperience from the speaker. He says he forgot to mention the auspicious date of the meeting which was 28 October the anniversary.

The opening lecture 13 January 2017 at the University will be Dr Jenny Alexander - 'From Cathedral Workshops to Country House Building Sites: how did stonemasons cope in the Early Modern period?' This lecture was held in memory of Barbara Hutton and Michael Mallender.

March 3^h, Dr Trudi Buck talking on 'Aspects of Archaeology and Anthropology' from University of Durham.

The Society AGM date is Friday 28th April 2017, at St Mary's Parish Centre as usual. 7.30pm. Speaker to be announced.

The summer programme is in preparation

THE LIBRARY NOTES

As members will have seen from the newspapers Derby City Council is conducting a 'consultation' with a view of closing the Main Library in the Wardwick. A building designed as a library and museum. They are proposing a much slimmed down library in the Council House building (at huge extra expense as I understand it). So our Library may lose a home. It is a big Library and a big problem to find a suitable space that Council is prepared to afford. Joan D'Arcy, in particular, has spent much effort in searching but without success at this time (Thanks Joan). So we APPEAL to any member who can suggest a location. It needs to be a least 300sqft. More if a study area is to be included, have some access in evenings etc. and some relative close parking. No prizes except our thanks and the knowledge of a good job done. Of course there is another solution, that is to get rid of the Library altogether. Many Journals, like our own, are now accessible on the internet and some books also. So do we need a library, do let us know what you think. (email Joan or myself)

While on HELP we are still looking for a member who will take on the sale of our surplus holdings probable via ABE or the like. (See last Newsletter)

In terms of accession of titles to the Library it has been a busy time. In addition to the books mentioned last time from Michael Mallendar collection we have now added 28 smaller pamphlets mainly descriptive histories of county churches from his library. We are pleased to augment our collection of such items. There was also gifts of Derby Philosophers (Elliott), DVMWHS Research Framework (Knight)

and Jennie Hammond's splendid work on the art and architecture of memorials in the Uttoxeter Road cemetery (partly funded by the Society) We purchased David Hey's last book, on the Dronfield Houses of lead merchants. We are pleased to have these items. Gifts of Derbyshire related books are always welcome.

There remains some problems at the Central Library so it is best, if members wish to borrow books, first to contact Joan D'Arcy or myself by e-mail, 'phone or post with their request.

Ray Marjoram

SUMMER VISIT TO HERTFORDSHIRE AND ESSEX (14th-18th July 2016)

Thursday 14th July

All aboard the coach at 9-30 a.m, we set off on our journey. First stop was Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, where Queen Elizabeth I received the news that she was to be queen. Only the Banqueting Hall of the Old Palace, built about 1485 by the Bishop of Ely, John Morton, remains. It is now a wedding and conference venue. Most of us were able to go into the upper solar to view the hall and admire the original roof timbers and medieval brick work. Apparently, the rest of Hatfield House was in very poor condition when in the ownership of King James I and he agreed to exchange it with his minister, Robert Cecil, for his property 'Theobalds' nearby. Cecil proceeded to demolish most of it and built a beautiful Jacobean house suitable for court gatherings and entertainment. We had time to wander through the rooms and admire the splendid furniture, tapestries, pictures, the superb craftsmanship of the grand staircase with its fine carving and the rare stained glass in the private chapel. We also saw three paintings of Elizabeth I including the famous Rainbow and Ermine portraits

and also a pair of her gloves and silk stockings. In the grounds we came across a First World War tank placed there to commemorate the early trials of this new fangled machine that were held in the grounds.

We moved on to the church of St. Ethelreda, just outside the walls of Hatfield House, at the top of a steep road with our tour guide and old friend, David Carder. The church is basically Early English but has been extended, rebuilt, repaired and altered throughout its history. Two chapels were of interest; the Tudor Brocket Chapel with monuments to the family and the Cecil Chapel which contains the tomb of the first Marquess of Salisbury. He lies on a marble slab holding his emblems of office with below him a skeleton. His tomb is supported by four females portraying the four Cardinal virtues, Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance – (possible quiz question!).

After a cuppa we made our way to our accommodation at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesden, which used to be the mansion home of Robert Barclay of the banking family. Now greatly enlarged, the modern bedrooms were spacious and comfortable. After the evening meal, we enjoyed an illustrated talk by David on the history of Hertfordshire and Essex and the treats to come on our tour.

Anne Haywood.

Friday 15th July: St Albans and Welwyn.

We were dropped off in the busy City of St. Albans, the sun was shining, and David was on top form and ready to fill us with information.

Even having visited the Cathedral Church of St. Alban before, the atmosphere and the huge vast open space never fails to take me by surprise. The longest surviving medieval nave of 275

feet, and the ornate pedestal of the Shrine to St. Alban with the intriguing watching tower, were just a couple of things to take in as everyone went in their own direction. There is also a lovely addition to the nave screen, once adorned by ancient stone statues, and destroyed during the reformation, now has seven very colourful and lifelike Martyr statues recently installed in 2015.

A short distance away, through this quiet area of St. Albans, took us to St. Michael's church, one of four C9 main churches in this location. The exterior fabric of the church is of Hertfordshire flint, occasionally interlaced with Roman bricks. A short walk along Watling Street, allowed us to slip back in time to pay a visit to Verulamium, once the third largest Roman town in Britain. Here we could see the outline of the Roman Theatre, the only completely excavated theatre in Britain. The whole town was destroyed by Queen Boudicca and her followers in AD60. Visiting the nearby museum, we were able to view the complete plan of Verulamium as excavated by Dr. Mortimer and Tessa Wheeler during the 1930s. Also on display many of the finds from the site, including one of the finest collections of mosaics in Britain.

A short bus ride to nearby Welwyn took us to what was part of the Dicket



**Dicket Mead
Bath House,
Welyn**

Mead villa, now situated under the A1 motorway, preserved under a concrete vault beneath the road. It was discovered in 1960 when local Archaeologist Tony Rook, spotted Roman tiles in the bank of the river. The villa complex has not been completely excavated, but what now stands is a very good example of a Roman Bath house and attracts a lot of school visits.

During the evening we had an interesting talk by David Perman- London Rivers from Hertfordshire.

Janette Jackson

Saturday 16th July

First stop was at Prior's Hall Barn at Widdington, Essex which is one of the finest surviving medieval barns in eastern England and has been tree-ringed dated to the mid-15th c., with a breathtaking aisled interior and crown post roof, the product of some 400 oak trees. Next was one of the prettiest towns in Essex, Thaxted. The town boasts a Medieval timber framed guildhall, a restored windmill, many 'chocolate box' cottages and almshouses and a fine Medieval church. A long street is just full of great buildings. The Guildhall ground floor is open but under cover so that a regular butter market could be held with shelter from the elements. The Guildhall now houses a small museum of the town's history. This day a group of 'Vikings' occupied the ground floor, in peaceful mode. The church, begun in 1340 but not finished until 1510, proved rather chaotic to look around due to the annual Gustav Holst Festival which uses the building as its main concert venue. However, the church is notable for its stained glass which ranged from the 14th century to late Victorian.

Next, we climbed up the hill to see the impressive windmill built by John Webb in 1804 which operated until 1907. It was restored to working order in 2004. The mill has an outside wooden gallery at first floor level and a small rural museum inside. Lunch was a pasty grabbed from the local

bakery before we continued to the Forge Museum in Much Hadham.

The Forge Museum is a Grade 2* listed building which was once a farmhouse, earlier parts dating from the 15th century. The forge and bellows room are part of a 17th century barn conversion. There is a local history gallery displaying pictures and artefacts of the area but tucked away inside the house is a room of Elizabethan wall paintings. They feature the Judgement of Solomon, the Royal Arms of Elizabeth I and the arms of the then owners, the Newce family.

Onwards to Ware for a guided tour. Another attractive town with lots of interesting buildings. The town's main thoroughfare runs east from the church to the bridge over the River Lea. The south side has long burgage plots running down to the river. From the late 17th c., when many of the buildings were inns, several gazebos were built, by the river. Several of these survive. We visited Ware Priory which contains some remains of the Franciscan friary founded in 1338 and surrendered in 1538. It was well restored in the 1990s when many original building materials were uncovered including wattle and daub, stonework and Victorian murals. A visit to the museum came next, partially housed inside an original WW2 command bunker. Exhibits relating to the war and from Allen & Hanbury pharmaceuticals (the main employer in the town now Glaxo-Smith-Kline) dominated but not the Great Bed of Ware, capable of holding four couples, apart from a picture. The Bed is now in the Victoria & Albert Museum.

In the evening David gave a presentation on Saffron Walden prior to our visit there. *Anne Haywood*

Sunday 17th July: Hertford Town and Essex Churches.

We began the day at the C16. Friends, (Quaker) meeting House in Hertford, and were told of its past.

Following that we visited Beadle House, which has a very interesting history, being the home of Thomas Dimsdale, the pioneer of smallpox vaccination. We continued with a walking tour of Hertford, taking in sights of various places and admiring the pargetting, typical of the area. Then briefly stopping off at Hertford museum, a lovely timber framed house of 1610, with a very pretty Jacobean knot garden at the rear. Also taking in the eye catching, life size statues of what was formerly known as, 'Blue-Coat School', founded in 1683.

Late morning found us enjoying an ice cream whilst taking a stroll in the grounds of Hertford Castle, on this lovely warm day, concluding with a discussion on, 'Greggs', or, 'M &S', for lunch.

The next visit was, Greenstead-juxta Ongar, Church, if you were looking for a tree to hug, this is the place to do it. The oldest wooden church building in Europe, dating to 1063-1100. St. Andrew's, is the only

British example of stave built walling. The next church on the agenda was the Prior Church of St. Lawrence, this attractive church, contains the medieval Cressed stone, the only one surviving in Essex, used to illuminate the way for the Priors to attend services, the church also had a massive timber framed bell tower with, 'dendro' felling dates of winter 1397-1400. Then on to, The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross and St. Lawrence, a very majestic building dating from the Norman period. This present church was rebuilt later by Harold 11, the King is said to be buried here along with his brothers Leofwin and Gurth after their defeat in the Battle of Hastings 1066. We were able to wander around the town of Waltham Abbey taking in the sights including some very attractive timber framed buildings. We just managed a cup of tea before departing Essex.

The last stop was to admire the Eleanor Cross, here in Waltham Cross. One of the three remaining original crosses of



Prior Church of St. Lawrence, Blackmore

twelve, erected by King Edward 1 in 1291, to commemorate the stopping places of the funeral cortege of his wife, Queen Eleanor, on her way to Westminster Abbey.

We arrived back in Hoddesden, just in time to quickly summarise our quiz questions before dinner.

After dinner Anne and I were quizmasters with David as adjudicator, in our traditional social quiz. Despite initial protestations, quiz questions are too tempting not to join in!

Janette Jackson.

Monday 18th July

Time to pack and load up the coach. A pleasant drive took us to the very attractive medieval town of Saffron Waldon.. We wandered through the streets admiring the pargetting on several buildings especially that on the Sun Inn which depicts the character, Tom Hickathrift, fighting the Wisbech Giant. A visit to the ruins of the 11th c. Castle, very little of which survives, and then we entered into the light and airy church of St. Mary. The nave arcade is very fine with intricately carved spandrels, some decorated with Tudor roses as are the nave roof bosses. In the south chapel is the tomb of Thomas Audley (1488-1544) who, from humble beginnings, became Lord Chancellor under Henry VIII, and a very rich man. The organ is special – made in 1824 it has 3,500 pipes, a row of which bursts forth from the south chapel in what is known as a '*trompets real*'.

After lunch, on to Broughton House in Northamptonshire, where we had a guided tour. It is a very imposing house set in a wooded park and landscaped gardens. It has been in the Montagu family since 1528 but passed by marriage to the Dukes of Buccleuch. The First Duke served as ambassador to France and on his return decided to alter the simple Tudor manor house and rebuild in the style of Versailles. It is known as 'the English Versailles' and has much fine French furniture and an

outstanding collection of paintings, tapestries and porcelain – a real gem. A final surprise going home was to see the very fine Eleanor Cross at Geddington.

It was an excellent trip with much variety to suit all. The accommodation and the food was good, as was the company and thanks go to the Committee for all their hard work – Joan & John D'Arcy, Ann & David Jones, Jane Heginbotham and Janette Jackson and to David Carder for his organisation, knowledge and enthusiasm.

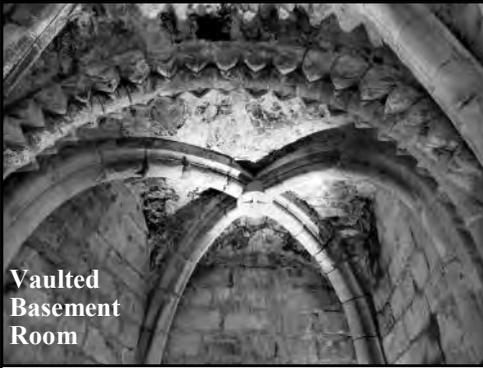
Anne Haywood

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

CONISBROUGH CASTLE and THORNTON ABBEY

July 2nd was grey and drizzly when 33 members set off to visit two sites. The first was Conisborough Castle near Doncaster which occupies a strategic position on a large knoll at the north-east end of the town and looks huge and imposing in the landscape. It probably began as an earthwork fortification built by William of Warenne soon after the Norman Conquest or it could be of Anglo-Saxon origins. However, in 1159 Hamelin Plantagenet built the existing castle out of high quality stone in an unusual and advanced design. Most of the castle is a ruin; the curtain wall was once lined with buildings on its north, south and west sides but now only the footings and stumps of walls survive. The main attraction is the 12th c. keep, a massive four storey cylinder of a building, with six wedge shaped buttresses.

The keep has circular chambers at four levels and you can step out at the uppermost floor to marvellous views over the countryside as far away as Sheffield and look over the nearby river Don. There is a vaulted basement room with a well and



**Vaulted
Basement
Room**

staircases lead from one floor to the next. Both the great chamber on the first floor and the bedchamber above it have a fireplace, a washbasin set in the wall and a latrine in a mural chamber – all mod cons! The second floor also houses a chapel with a vaulted ceiling built within one of the buttresses. The six buttresses extend above the battlements as turrets, two of which are solid. The others seemed to have functioned as water tanks, a bread oven and a dovecote. A visitor centre is on the site with graphics and artefacts telling the history of the castle.

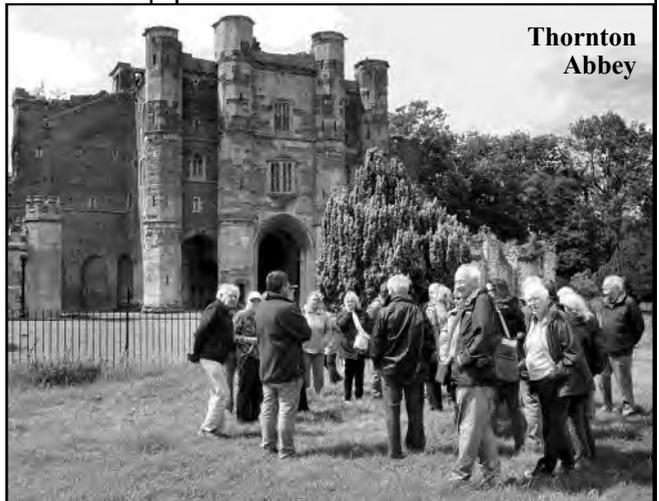
Many took the opportunity of visiting the nearby church of St. Peter, said to be the oldest building in South Yorkshire, Saxon c.740 AD and ‘mother church’ to around seventeen other churches in the area.

About 1100 the church was extended and expanded up until about 1450. It stands in a neat churchyard and has many interesting things to see including two squints of different ages, two early richly carved Medieval grave slabs, a carved stone font of c. 1400 and in the wall of the south porch a piece of Romano British carving.

The weather brightened and became dry and breezy as we drove on to our next venue along narrow country roads not really

suitable for a large coach and arrived at the enormous and ornate fortified 14th century gatehouse of Thornton Abbey, near Ulceby, Lincolnshire, which was one of Britain’s richest Augustinian abbeys. We were met by archaeologist, Hugh Willmott of Sheffield University, who has been working on the site since 2011. Hugh led us through a grassy bumpy field and told us a bit about the gatehouse which would have been the guesthouse for visitors and offices for the monks. It is of very high quality, a rare survivor. It had been rendered but now a mix of brick and stone is showing through. We then moved on to view the stone ruins of the Augustinian abbey, which is full of grave markers of local gentry who would have paid the canons to pray for their souls. We trekked over the humps and bumps in the ground to see a surviving 14th c. bridge over a small moat or drain. The monks would have used this water in the kitchens and lavatories. There is evidence of a well which was used until the 1800s. Other water channels have been found which could have been used to power a mill to grind corn.

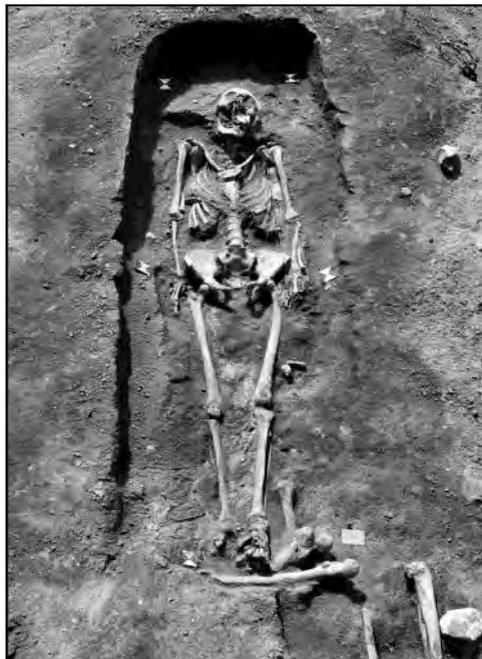
The uneven ground does not relate to the abbey but probably belongs to the landscape of a house and the scars of many archaeological digs. A rectangular garden



**Thornton
Abbey**

has been found, a bank and a flat terrace which may have been flooded to create an Italianate style water garden. Sir Vincent Skinner acquired the site in 1607 to build a house but unfortunately this house fell down soon after build and Hugh and his team have been endeavouring to locate this house. Skinner built another house, but he ran out of money and ended up in a debtor's prison. The architect's plan for this house exists but on the ground the stone has been robbed out. New excavations this year have focussed on the mound, a peninsular of land 3 to 4 metres high, thought to be a natural feature. However, a rectangular excavation revealed burials. It was a singular internment of forty men, women and children buried in multiple phases, double and triple burials in orderly manner. Nearby a church building was found which proved earlier than the abbey, 11th c., a pre-existing church. An Anglo-Saxon brooch and urn were found at the site. It is recorded that Thornton Abbey had a hospital, so may be the old church had been converted for this purpose hence the communal grave nearby may have contained people struck down by the Black Death (subsequently, tooth samples were tested for DNA and tested positive for *Yersinia Pestis*, the bacterium responsible for the plague). The church building had been robbed out, just some sand stone left. A trench dug revealed a wall of the 12th c. and the remains of a buttress to shore up the building. Most tiles had been robbed out except for three little bits of checkerboard, black and white. It was exciting to see newly excavated skeletons in situ and marvel at a grave stone that had just been found and was being cleaned up. It was engraved with the date 11 April 1317 and a picture of a canon holding a chalice. Hugh thought that there were at least a further fifty burials to find as they dug deeper. So ended a very busy and interesting day as we drove home through a torrential downpour.

Anne Haywood



CUBLEY

Visit 10th September 2016

A group of 26 members visited this delightful village some 6 miles south of Ashbourne and met at the village hall, which was given by Mary Clowes of Norbury in memory of her daughter, by village historian, Wendy Millington. Wendy gave us a very comprehensive presentation on the history of Cubley. The village is just off the Roman road (Long Lane) and a few Roman items had been found together with an ancient axe head. In the Doomsday book the name was *Cobeli* and the land belonged to Henry de Ferrers. However, the Montgomerys became lords of the manor from around 1232 until Sir John died in 1513 and the Stanhopes took over until 1853 when the estate was sold.

Evidence suggests that Cubley may have had a market place as cobbles have been found in several adjacent gardens. A St. Andrew's Day fair is recorded in 1604 and continued until 1817. Cubley used to

be a farming community but now is mainly a commuter village. The school, which was built in 1871, did at times have over a hundred pupils but it closed in 1960 because of lack of children and became a private house. The same fate came to the Wesleyan Chapel. In the early 1900s the village boasted many tradespeople, including a tailor, a wheelwright and a brickyard employing many local people but this eventually closed because the bricks were found to



be porous. The Post Office was demolished in the 1980s but the old pump at the crossroads remains. The pub 'The Howard Arms' at the junction of the old Roman Road and the A515 is also now a private house and many of the barns in the area have been converted for housing but a terrace of early 19th century cottages, called 'The Row', have been listed. One cottage operated as a laundry well into the 20th century. Wendy talked of the existence of Cubley Park, but was not sure of its extent as no records survive except a Speed map of 1577 and field names on maps which identify a park. It was assumed to be around 500 acres by the 'ridge and furrow' landscape all around it but none in it.

After lunch, a visit to the church of St. Andrews, was organised and after viewing the Tudor tower where several shields of the Montgomery family are placed, Joan D'Arcy 'addressed' the group from the pulpit. The church was mentioned in the Doomsday book and the earliest part is Norman but there is some herringbone masonry on the north wall of the nave which could even be of Saxon origin. The round arches and pillars of the nave, the capitals of the chancel arch and the great round font are all Norman. Two of the windows have Medieval glass; one shows St. Catherine with her wheel and the other a kneeling saint. The fine east window depicts the Nativity and the Crucifixion with the

Madonna and three apostles. Other special things in the church include a battered alabaster tomb of the legless figure of Sir Nicholas Montgomery of 1485, wearing armour with a collar of roses, at his feet a dog with bells on its collar. The standing angels on the sides of the tomb indicate that it is probably of Chellaston alabaster. A panel of another tomb with sculptured figures is against a wall. Outside is an ancient yew tree and very unusual gravestones of the 1770s with the inscription on one side and strange images on the reverse, possibly angels.

A short stroll from the church led by Sue Woore took us to the Old Mill which worked until 1875 and then became a farm. There is evidence of the waterwheel against the wall. The owner arrived home at that moment from a holiday in France but graciously allowed us to walk with him through his extensive garden to look at various water features relating to the mill.





Opposite the church, in a field is a mound some 250 feet long and 200 feet wide which has never been excavated, surface survey only. It is considered to be the site of the old manor house moat. It is in a field also showing house platforms and Sue took the party to look around and also see the nearby fish pond and old stonework near the brook.

A most interesting day full of variety and thanks were given to our three excellent guides of the day. It must be noted that Cubley was the birthplace of the father of Samuel Johnson.

Anne Haywood

RICHARD III ISOTOPE ANALYSIS

On 7th October 2016, we enjoyed a fascinating talk given by Dr. Angela Lamb on her research into Isotope Analysis, the talk was unique as the bones under scrutiny, were the bones of a King.

Dr Lamb works in Science Based Archaeology part of NERC: Isotope Geosciences Facility. The BGS carries out research in strategic areas. The NERC funds research projects including training in environmental sciences in universities and its own research centres.

Dr. Lamb, began by describing a brief

background of Richard III. Born in 1452 he was the twelfth child of the third Duke of York, in 1483 he became King at the age of thirty, his reign lasted for only two years, during this time he achieved a reputation for introducing many Parliamentary changes.

The excavation to find the original location of the, Greyfriars Friary Church in Leicester, was launched in August 2012, the Friary was dissolved in 1538 and the remains, in present day Leicester, currently buried under a council car park. The hunt for the resting place of Henry 111 was based on research by a member of the Richard 111 society. During the excavation a skeleton was found in what had been the location of the choir stall, it was obvious that it was a hurried burial, the grave area being dug too small for the corpse, the hands were tied together, there had been a blow to the skull, and the spine was curved. The body was taken back to Leicester University for analysis.

The skeleton was in remarkably good condition, the scientists discovered ten separate knife wounds, and a pronounced curvature of the spine. The aim was to build up a picture of the person through isotope analysis. A section of a tooth was examined, teeth enamel forms in early childhood and has a time span memory of three years, the roots up to fourteen years. Samples of bones were taken from a femur, unlike teeth this bone has a more historical consistency, ranging from ten to fifteen years time span, a rib only two to three years.

Water and food intake can be analysed by Isotope analysis and can be detected from the amount of strontium, nitrogen, oxygen, carbon and lead, the bone contains, generally older rocks accumulate higher amounts of strata, also oxygen isotope is found to be darker in England and lighter in Europe, this can help in estimating where a person has lived, and what they have consumed. This confirmed that Richard had moved from Fotheringay

Castle by the time he was seven, the data confirmed that he was in an area of higher rainfall, older rocks, different to his place of birth in Northampton.

Dr. Lamb continued by explaining, in diet, Isotopes prove that we really are what we eat. In the medieval period a large amount of freshwater fish and meat was consumed. The difference in the lifestyle of the rich who consumed higher amounts of wine, meat, fish, and spices, contrasted with the food consumption of the poor, which was mainly cereal based.

Analysis of the rib bone, which renews itself every two to three year's was to indicate the biggest change in Richard's diet. There was evidence that a quantity of rich food and copious amounts of alcohol had been consumed during the last two years of his life relating to the lifestyle of a king, also evidence of luxury foods such as swan, crane, heron and egret. Banqueting in Medieval England were elaborate displays of wealth, and were both colourful and flamboyant, the transcript of a royal banquet exists describing the way each bird was displayed at the feast .

Dr. Lamb concluded her talk by summarising Richard III 's extravagant diet during his reign and concluded with the remark, 'egrets, he had a few'!

Janette Jackson.

ELMTON EXCAVATIONS

11th November 2016.

Matt Beresford of MBarchaeology gave a very enthusiastic talk on the project he is currently involved with, namely, the excavations at Elmton, a small village about 2 miles northeast of Bolsover of about a dozen houses, a pub and a church. The Elmton Research project started back in 2009 and is still ongoing. The project was to look for the Medieval village and identify the site of a rumoured castle said to belong to the ancient Deyncourt family. Elmton was

already a settled estate before the Conquest and by 1086 the value had trebled, due to wool production, making it the third wealthiest estate owned by the Deyncourts, the youngest branch building their manor house there. Many of the locals got involved in the project and were trained up in various techniques. Early aerial photographs showed outline shapes on the ground and gave a clue to the past village and kick started the investigation. One outline looked like a ditch round a mound with a fortified manor house on top. Field walking provided many golf balls but scant archaeology, although one find was half of a horse harness pendant bearing a family crest of the 13th century which encouraged Derbyshire County Council to award money for a feasibility study but cutbacks soon prevented this. However, Creswell Craggs found money to do the Elmton works and it enabled a geophysical study of the ground in Church field to take place. Mole hills forming an L shape in the field was the place chosen to search and a trackway and two buildings were found.

A test pit campaign started, in private gardens, the pub garden, wherever possible, and a great deal of pottery was found. A pub garden 'Open Day' dig was organised, a festive affair with refreshments and a barbeque. The villagers were all very enthusiastic and supportive. Four test pits, a metre square, were put in and many animal bones found, including the very unusual burial of a dog. Also found was a corner of a Medieval building.

The line of the main street through the village remains as in Medieval times with burgage plots running back to a 'Back Lane'. This back lane was excavated in parts and it was found that as the track wore out a new layer of pebbles was placed on top. This had happened several times and Matt thought it unusual to find this example. This part of the project was financed by the Limestone Journeys scheme in 2015.

In September 2016 more money was granted to carry on looking on the opposite side of the main street to find the boundary plots and the second back lane. A geophys survey of a small area in the Church field showed bands of black and white diagonals, meaning a sequence of ditch and bank repeated over the area. This continued into the pub garden running for about 50/60 metres. These were excavated and a ditch a metre deep was found with 2/3m of stone banking. Three trenches were opened and this ditch/bank was all across the field. Nothing of significance was found in the ditch except waste flint and inferior flint tools but helped to date it to the early Neolithic, probably 4000 years B.C. Matt emphasised that it a very important site with big walls that run down to an old river valley, now gone. A puzzle, was it a ceremonial processional route?

Finds from gardens continued, mainly fragments of cooking pots. The church dates from the late 1700s, the previous one had fallen into a ruinous state and been knocked down. From information on an old map the site of a house was surveyed, a trench put in and a wall was found together with that of a neighbour with fine footings. Further excavation revealed a fireplace and floor. An old sketch of Elmton had shown a dovecote and this was located, Medieval foundations with a walkway through. The owner of the garden has decided this will remain open, on show. Many pieces of high status pottery was found, glazed and patterned, and roof tiles on the Grange farm which is thought now to be the site of the old manor house as underground cellars do not fit the footprint of the farm on top.

Matt outlined the advantages of the site – most of the land had never been ploughed, still grazing for sheep, the limestone bedrock is so close to the surface so no great depth of soil to dig. The locals over the years had collect many artefacts including axeheads and pottery and it was

believed to be it a site with 8,000 years of settlement.

What next? Matt thought there was another ten years work there! He called it ‘a very important site, an amazing landscape’. The next stage will be to confirm the second back lane, explore the old church and more excavations via geophysics.

Anne Haywood.

ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

VISIT TO DRONFIELD

The Architectural Section was pleased to have a chance to visit the village of Dronfield in May. The centrepiece of the trip was the Dronfield Hall Barn which is a Mediaeval Hall and from the dendro dates on the wooden frame dates back to 1430. Lady Alice Deincourt (who had married into a Franco Norman family) leased the Manor of Dronfield. Alice herself was a member of the Neville family being a great aunt of both the future Richard III and Edward IV. The barn formed part of the complex owned by the Rotherham-Cecil estate with cottages and workshops standing in front. Later the site was acquired by Jowitt grinding wheels to build a factory. The firm carried out major repairs to the building and then stored building supplies and garden tools.

Sainsbury bought the site for a new supermarket and in 2004 donated the Barn, which by that time had been given Grade II* English Heritage listing, to enable the Peel Centre Trust to bring the building into community use. The Peel Trust itself is based in the former Methodist chapel.

Lottery funding was obtained to not only restore the Barn but to convert it into a local asset. It now has an extension available for hire as wedding venues etc. which generates income for the site. Society members were able to buy morning

Dronfield Hall Barn



coffee available as well as their lunches, good catering with home made produce for sale in the restaurant.

Dronfield's Heritage Trust produces regular illustrated coloured newsletters giving updates on works done by the charity and all its enthusiastic, well informed volunteers. Society members may be interested to know that there was a special feature in the Winter issue of 2015 which was about Kay Battie who had recently died. As well as being a well known member of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society she was also for many years President of the Old Dronfield Society. Her archival writings have been given to the Trust.

With the aid of funding from Dronfield Rotary Club a walk was set up in 2000 being a tour round the historic Dronfield. This is now under the umbrella of the Dronfield Hall Barn Trust and featured as part of the Society's visit. Not only the village have some fine Mediaeval buildings including the Barn, but continued to evolve in the Tudor period. Although nowadays the village seems very idyllic, there are many reminders of its industrial past when locally there was lead mining. The Rotherham family were some of the merchants in that field of work. Indeed there is a book produced the historian David Lee called *The House of the Dronfield Lead Merchants* and published by the Dronfield Heritage Trust.

Other publications produced by the Trust are *A History of Dronfield in a Quilt* – Carole Slinn and Jean Kendall, *Mediaeval and Tudor Dronfield* – David Hey,

Barn
Timbers

Dronfield Miscellany which last is published several times a year covering Dronfield and the surrounding area. Since writing the above David Hey has now died but given the extremely detailed and interesting guided tour of the history of the area there are clearly some more publications in the pipeline. The Lottery funding has meant that not only is the building in a fantastic condition together with generating ongoing income but, the publications are of very good quality and reasonably priced. A good idea should you be aiming to sell them.

Fund raising has also been organised through people being invited to become Friends of Dronfield Hall Barn with annual subscriptions. Should Society members be interested to join or wish to find out more about the Trust more information can be found on www.dronfieldhallbarn.org/membership or oe-mail dht.claire@outlook.com. Fees at the time of our visit Individual £12, Joint £20 and Family £24. A Friend has access to discounted entry, access to varied events most weeks with the added bonus of having the opportunity to become a volunteer.

Further information on Dronfield can be found in the latest edition of Pevsner which runs to several pages.

Alison Haslam

Derby Roundhouse Visit 30th July 2016

Following on from the lecture given on 29th January 2016 (see report in the previous newsletter edition 82), covering the refurbishment of the surviving buildings of the former Derby Locomotive Works adjacent to Derby station: Which together with additional new buildings now form the Derby College Roundhouse Campus. A group of members took the opportunity to take a guided tour around the site.

The original buildings comprise the former MCR (Midland Counties Railway) engine shop, the former NMR (North Midland Railway) carriage shop, and the former NMR roundhouse engine shed fronted by offices and the clock tower. These were built in 1839 apart from the middle and top stories of the offices which date from 1859 and 1893 respectively

Arriving at the gatehouse I felt slightly disorientated, for although I had seen the new buildings being erected from across the station, I hadn't actually stood on the site for some thirty years and it was difficult to imagine how it had once been. With the site now devoid of railway lines and the footbridge from the station to the middle floor of the offices now removed, the buildings seemed to appear much more imposing than before.

Our guide explained some of the features of the buildings, the original Whitehurst clock now being self maintaining and that the glass in the new link Kirtley building between the former engine and carriage shops appears to change colour depending on the angle it is viewed from or the time of day. He also pointed out the boundary marker between Derby St Peters parish and Litchurch, something I'd not noticed before. We then entered the former MCR engine shop where he pointed out the original window frames and the now white painted original roof and wooden floor. There is also a large photograph of Matthew

Kirtley together with all the works foremen. Kirtley was originally employed by the Birmingham and Derby Junction Railway, which amalgamated in 1844 with the North Midland and Midland Counties Railways to become the Midland Railway. He then took the position of Superintendent of the Locomotive and Carriage Departments of the new company until his death in 1873. The engine shop now contains The Engine Shed Restaurant which is staffed by students from the college and is open to the public serving a good selection of main meals, hot and cold buffets, and afternoon teas.

We then passed through the modern glass link Kirtley building into the former carriage shop. This now houses a library on the ground floor and classrooms on its mezzanine level.

Next we entered the roundhouse building itself, the last time I had been in here it was being used for repairing Rail mounted cranes. It now appeared much more spacious, brighter, and certainly a lot cleaner. It now serves as the sites refectory and is also used for other events such as model railway exhibitions. However it also retains much of its historical character since the still working turntable and radiating engine storage lines are still in place.

On leaving we passed by the plaques commemorating its opening by The Princess Royal on 5th October 2010 and also it's Ian Allan Heritage Award. On the whole it is a marvellous example of preserving and converting redundant railway buildings for another purpose.

Alison Haslem

A W N Pugin: a passion for Gothic Lecturer Michael Fisher Friday 21 October 2016

Technical problems (the laptop and projector were not communicating) caused a delay in the evening's proceedings but gave

members an unexpected bonus when, thanks to Canon Timothy O'Sullivan, we were able to see the newly restored Lady Chapel in St Mary's Church. Here our speaker Michael Fisher gave an impromptu start to his lecture on that most prolific and distinguished proponent of the English Gothic, Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin (1812-1852), while a quick dash to the d'Arcy home had solved the technical difficulties by the time we returned to the Hall.

Illustrating his lecture largely with examples of Pugin's work in the Midlands, Michael Fisher detailed Pugin's passion for the English Gothic, the only true architectural expression of Christianity and authentic setting for Catholic worship, in which every part and detail was not just practical but mystical. From his first design for a church, drawn at the age of eight, and using his own detailed study of those remnants of English Gothic architecture and decoration that had survived the dissolution of the monasteries and the general destruction of the Reformation, Pugin advanced the Gothic Revival movement to produce domestic, institutional and ecclesiastical architecture that transformed not only the Catholic church but became embedded in the public imagination as the authentic architecture of the age.

While Pugin proved an effective a self-publicist (his first book *Contrasts*, a satirical attack on 'the present decay of taste', was self-published because no other publisher would take it) to be a working architect required clients and it was John Talbot, 16th Earl of Shrewsbury who provided the patronage, freedom and funds that enabled Pugin to flourish. Working first on furniture for Alton Towers, then making additions to the house, he also added to the Earl's estate a new Alton Castle and St John's Hospital at Alton village, a complex with school, guildhall, presbytery and almshouses - the charitable medieval alternative to the workhouse - that too was an essential part of the faith. For if English Gothic was the only true form of

ecclesiastical architecture, the revival of the faith for which it was originally designed was equally important. To this end Pugin's portfolio included comparatively modest parish churches (for example St Mary's, Uttoxeter 1838-1839). If the church was the gate of heaven, it was after all a gate through which all could enter; but at the other end of the scale, with an architect for whom it was 'all or nothing', the search for perfection could come at a very high cost to his patrons.

For the church considered his finest work, St Giles', Cheadle (1841-1846), described by others as 'the most complete expression of Pugin's beliefs about what a church should be' and by its architect as 'perfect Cheadle', one wonders what the Earl of Shrewsbury made of the eight fold increase in estimated costs to a final eye-watering bill of some £40,000.

Remarkably, Pugin worked largely alone to produce his extraordinary output of architectural drawings and designs, and only trained one pupil, John Hardman Powell who lived with the family and was later to marry Pugin's daughter Anne. But his finished works was not the work of only one man. The comprehensive totality of Pugin's ideas – he designed everything from floor to ceiling as well as moveable contents – required the collaboration of skilled artisans such as John Hardman, Herbert Minton and John Crace who, in their turn, revived and rediscovered old crafts, melded with the techniques of the new manufacturing age. In 1851 the Mediaeval Court, designed by Pugin and Hardman, was the most popular exhibit at the Great Exhibition, proving that Gothic could be both ancient and modern.

When Pugin died in 1852 at the age of forty he had changed the face of British architecture. In later times his vibrant colours and exuberant decorative schemes fell out of fashion and were whitewashed out of history, but another Gothic Revival has seen a new appreciation of this

Victorian legacy and a flowering of craftsmanship as it is restored around the country.

In October 1839 when Pugin came to Derby for the opening of St Mary's Church, he left before the service when he learnt that the music was to be a Beethoven Mass with full choir and orchestra instead of his ideal of perfection, medieval plainchant. Our thanks to Michael Fisher for not doing the same when we fell short of perfection and for showing us that we have some of Pugin's finest work in our local area.

Rosemary Annable

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

Sir John Chandos October 14th 2016

Stephen Cooper's excellent lecture on his research into the life of Sir John Chandos included little known details of the Hundred Years War obtained from several contemporary sources. There were outstanding English victories over the French armies but keeping the peace afterwards required patience and diplomacy. Sir John Chandos was a great fighter in the wars, a skilled organiser of battles and a peacekeeper.

In the 14th century the Chandos family held the manor of Radbourne north-west of Derby. John Chandos was born around 1314 and unusually for a landowner at that time he never married and after his death the estate was inherited by a niece who married into the Pole family. The present Radburne Hall was built in the 18th century but unexcavated mounds near the church could be the site of the medieval manor house. By the late 1330s the young John Chandos had become a member of the Royal Household of Edward III. Radbourne estate was within the lordship of Tutbury and was part of the lands belonging to the Duchy of

Lancaster so the first Duke of Lancaster, Henry of Grosmont, possibly recruited John Chandos and sent him to the Royal Court where he became the friend of the much younger Prince of Wales, later known as the Black Prince. When the Black Prince was made Earl of Chester he appointed John Chandos surveyor of The Forest of Macclesfield. There are no records to show if Chandos spent time there or if this was a sinecure award for loyalty to the prince.

In 1337 John Chandos was knighted by Edward III and given an income and land. In 1344 he became a king's knight, about this time he acquired his coat of arms and in 1348 was made a Knight of the Garter His arms are still displayed in St George's Chapel, Windsor. No portrait, effigy or tomb of Sir John Chandos survives but there is an image of a tall bearded knight on the garter roll.

1337 was the beginning of the series of wars with France later known as The Hundred Years War. Sir John Chandos helped to win battles and to negotiate peace afterwards. Disputes with France had begun in the 12th century when Henry II had acquired large parts of south west France after his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine but gradually the French monarchy reclaimed these territories and this led to war. Edward III began by taking an army across to the Low Countries to form alliances against France. John Chandos was involved in these wars from the beginning before he was knighted and fought gallantly at the siege of Cambrai. Chandos was fighting In the victorious sea battle off Sluys in the Low Countries where it was said all the French were killed or drowned and none escaped. In 1346 Edward III landed in France with his army and laid waste the countryside as he marched, this was the first of the raids known as chevauchées, Normandy had never suffered like this before. At the Battle of Crécy on 26th August 1346, the Black Prince, only sixteen, with Chandos at his

side fought bravely. During the battle it is recorded that the king sent for the prince. Accompanied by Sir John Chandos and three other knights, the prince knelt in front of his father and was knighted, he then sent him back into battle telling the four knights to take good care of his son. It was at Crécy that the Black Prince gained the ostrich feather emblem which still part of the coat of arms of The Prince of Wales.

On 29th August 1350 the English fleet defeated the Spanish off the coast of Winchelsea. The king had taken an active part in the battle and afterwards he celebrated victory on board his ship. His minstrels were asked to play a German dance and he asked or demanded that Sir John Chandos sing the words of the dance for him.

Another chevauchée took place in 1355 across south west France and in 1356 the battle of Poitiers was fought which resulted in a great victory for the English, many French noblemen were taken prisoner and the French king, Jean II, was taken to London. This enabled Edward III to dictate terms to the French for the next few years.

By 1358 Sir John Chandos was in England holding the office of under-chamberlain and attending courts throughout the land. Also in that year he founded a chantry in St Werburgh's Church, Derby but very soon he was back in France helping to negotiate peace after the battle of Poitiers. The English demanded too much for the release of their royal prisoner and the French were uncooperative. So in October 1359 the king crossed the channel again with a great army including many lords and bishops including Sir John Chandos but the attack on Rheims was unsatisfactory and the king returned to negotiations.

The Treaty of Brétigny was signed in 1360 promising lasting peace. Edward III was to give up his claim to the crown of France, have Aquitaine, Calais, Pontieu in the Somme, part of Brittany and the castle of St Sauveur - le - Vicomte in Normandy.

King Jean II's ransom was fixed at three million francs, Chandos was a witness to the treaty. Stephen Cooper showed a map to illustrate the agreed English territory in France in 1360. Chandos was appointed Lieutenant and Captain General and Special Conservator of the peace with powers to return towns and fortresses back to the English. This was a position of great responsibility usually only given to a member of the royal family and a sign of Edward's confidence in him. The peace commissioners spent several months implementing the terms of the treaty. The citizens of Cahors resented the transfer of sovereignty and wanted their local laws and privileges respected. Stephen Cooper showed us a photograph of a nineteenth century oil painting showing Chandos on horseback speaking to the citizens of Cahors. The English wanted full control of south west France and appointed Chandos Seneschal of Aquitaine.

The fortress of St Sauveur - le - Vicomte on the Cherbourg peninsula was given to Sir John Chandos as a gift by the king meaning that it could be inherited by his heirs. While lord of St Sauveur for ten years he strengthened the castle walls, the keep and built new towers. The Treaty of Brétigny was not perfect and conflict continued in many parts of France. Civil war in Brittany also continued and the Black Prince tried to end it. At the Battle of Auray Bertrand du Guesclin was taken prisoner by Chandos and the English held onto important fortresses.

From 1309 to 1378 the Papacy was resident in Avignon. Edward wanted his third son Clarence to marry Margaret of Flanders but The Pope, Urban V, was reluctant to give papal dispensation. Sir John Chandos and other ambassadors were sent to Avignon to negotiate but the mission was impossible. The Pope also disliked the way the Black Prince behaved towards ecclesiastical figures making them pay homage to him.

Spain at this time was divided into a number of kingdoms, Castile the largest power, often allied with the French to provide an effective navy. In 1366 King Pedro was deposed and came to Sir John Chandos to complain that he had lost the support of his own people. Sir John Chandos said that it would be difficult to reinstate him but the Black Prince decided to support Pedro and with the help of barons from Aquitaine and mercenaries invaded Castile and won a great battle at Nájera but the Black Prince lost money and the reinstated Pedro didn't pay any costs. The Black Prince imposed unpopular taxes on Aquitaine to pay for the expedition and Chandos who had advised against supporting Pedro returned to Normandy.

The peace between England and France was fragile as neither side kept promises made at the Treaty of Bretigny. Sir John Chandos deployed guerrilla tactics which did much damage to great churches and abbeys. The French continued to attack and invaded Poitou. On New Year's Eve 1369 Chandos and about forty men set off to pursue a small French force. They caught up with the French at Lussac les Chateaux and defended the river bridge. In the skirmish Chandos was badly wounded and died the next day. His body was not brought back to England. There are conflicting reports about where he was buried but a reused tombstone at Mozerelles which was formerly at Lussac is generally thought to be his memorial. The Garter Knights paid for 5500 masses for his soul, although because Sir John Chandos had died intestate, there was no such provision in a will.

Recently Stephen Cooper visited the Cherbourg peninsula to see the fortress of St Sauveur and was able to appreciate how important it was to the English. At that time most of the region to the south of the castle was impenetrable marshland and the castle and the marsh strongly defended Normandy on that part of the coast. A mile from the castle is the Abbey of St Sauveur. For

defensive purposes it was sacked by Sir John Chandos and the monks expelled to the Channel Islands. This is recorded in the present guide book of the rebuilt 19th century Abbey of St Sauveur.

Stephen Cooper has found different views on Sir John Chandos from differing sources. Peace between England and France was wishful thinking. When Chandos was negotiating terms with cities after the Treaty of Bretigny his commands were not always obeyed. The Black Prince was great in battle but not a good politician as was seen in his unwise venture into Castile.

This evening we were fortunate to hear Stephen Cooper's detailed lecture on Sir John Chandos and more can be read in the book that he has published on the internet at www.chivalryandwar.co.uk

Joan Davies

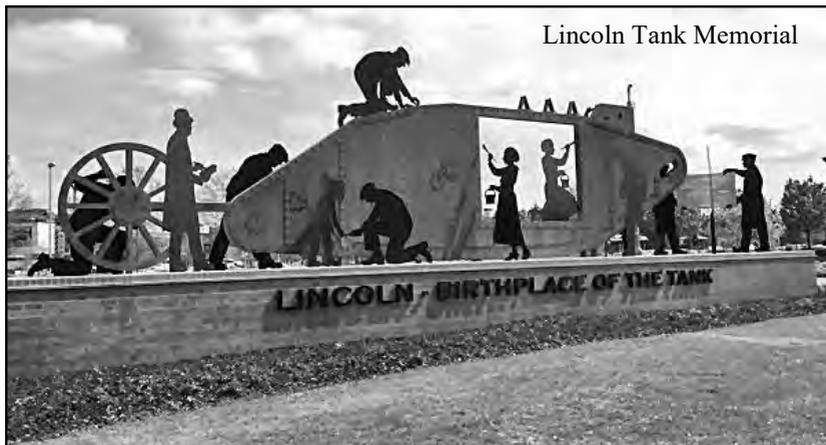
INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

EMIAAC 91:

Ploughshares into Swords

EMIAAC 91 was hosted by the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology in Lincoln, its theme being that City's part in providing materiel for the First World War. Chaired by Chris Lester, the Conference was well organised and very well attended.

(Lincoln's) Peter Robinson opened by describing the origins of Lincoln's industries, driven by the arrival of the railway (which killed off the steamboat operation on the River Witham) and the burgeoning agricultural activity in the surrounding countryside. Soon, by the river, a series of factories appeared with names destined to become famous for traction engines and agricultural machinery - Foster, Ruston, Proctor, Clayton, Shuttleworth, Robey. Even before the First War, business



expansion was creating manufacturing sites elsewhere in the city. With the demands of the Ministry of Munitions during the war, this dispersion gained pace dramatically.

Having completed his allotted task ahead of schedule, Peter had time to show a series of interesting photographs on a different topic: the invention (in 1904) and early development of caterpillar tracks by David Roberts of the Hornsby company of Grantham.

Richard Pullen spoke next on the development of the Great War battle tank. He first recalled the circumstances that prompted this: stalemate on the Western Front with the Germans in defensive mode and protected by massive machine-gun firepower and by a no-man's land churned into mud and festooned with barbed wire. Working at Foster's, Messrs Wilson and Tritton sought a solution. After a small number of false starts, they devised the now familiar "rhomboid" configuration of battle tank, with caterpillar tracks surrounding the whole, a Daimler petrol engine, and guns mounted in side sponsons. A prototype "Mother" was demonstrated in January 1916, and approved. Soon, Foster's were in full production. A rather half-hearted deployment in September 1916 was unsuccessful. However, by November 1917, with the Mark IV version available, the battle at Cambrai marked the start of

prolonged success. After the war, the tank having achieved an iconic status, it was widely exhibited and was a source of pride for its home City.

After lunch, Charles Parker spoke on aircraft made in Lincoln during the war. He prefixed the main body of his talk with some comments on the industrial background: the sudden loss of markets, the loss of skilled manpower, the constraints of "controlled establishment" status, and the "non-skilled" limitations on the use of female labour. Three manufacturers were involved in aircraft manufacture. Of these, Ruston, Proctor was the most prolific, producing BE2s, Sopwith 1 1/2 Strutters and Sopwith Camels (1600 of the last). Robey & Co, after some unimportant or unsuccessful early products (some to their own design), settled to a useful run of Short 184 floatplanes. Clayton & Shuttleworth, having started with Sopwith Triplanes and Camels, moved later to constructing the large HP 0/400 bombers. To accommodate this work, some large new workshops were built, and two local fields requisitioned for acceptance flight testing.

The lecture session concluded with two short talks. Neil Wright gave an appreciation of the (mostly young) women who worked long and hard for the war effort and in large numbers (as many

workplace photographs attest). Richard Pullen described the recent achievement of the Lincoln Tank Memorial, a silhouette tank with silhouette people, appropriately commemorating the citizens who conceived, designed and built the Great War tank.

Finally, in place of the more usual walking tour, three films were shown: a short 1908 film of Hornsby's demonstration of caterpillar tractors - behaving exactly as caterpillar tractors should; an historical/publicity film by the Ruston company, leading to their successful entry into and progress in the gas turbine market (now under the Siemens name); and excerpts from a film about the extensive wartime facility at Gretna/ Eastgrigg for the production of cordite.

Alistair Gilchrist

Coach trip to Lion Salt Works and World of Glass

The IA section coach trip on 2 July visited two interesting museums in the North West, the Lion Salt Works at Marston, near Northwich in Cheshire, and World of Glass at St. Helens in Lancashire.

The Lion Salt Works is the last survivor of an industry carried out in Cheshire since Roman times. Brine pumped from underground was evaporated in huge open pans (lead in Roman times, iron more recently) over coal fires. The works survived as a business until 1986. A major restoration costing £10 million has recently been completed and the site opened as a museum in 2015. We were given a very informative tour explaining the history of the industry, the individual company and the production process. The engineering involved in stabilising the buildings was most impressive. The timber structures were in a precarious state due to the corrosive effects of the salting process and an entirely new steel frame was inserted to allow the original structure to be preserved without needing to rely on it to hold the building up.

The drive between the sites gave a chance to see some of the landscape legacy of brine extraction. There are a large number of water filled depressions known as 'flashes' as a result of subsidence. We crossed the River Mersey and the Manchester Ship Canal on the Silver Jubilee road bridge at Runcorn, a steel through-arch design opened in 1961 and widened in 1977 (hence the name). This gave us good views of the parallel 1868 lattice girder railway bridge and the construction works for a new road bridge to be known as the Mersey Gateway and due to open in 2017.

St. Helens in Lancashire is a long established centre for the glass industry and is still the headquarters of Pilkington who are the principal UK glass manufacturer. World of Glass is a modern museum building with an entrance through a replica glass cone, and a bridge across a canal to the remains of an innovative regenerative furnace built by Pilkington in 1887. The museum combines interpretation of the technology and history of the industry with exhibitions of historic and modern glass objects. Our visit included a chance to see a live demonstration of glass blowing. An interesting surprise was a painting of the 18th Century Ravenshead Works in St.



Helens, attributed to our own Joseph Wright – but of course the dramatic light of molten glass coming out a furnace was just the sort of thing he liked to paint.

Ian Mitchell

Visit to Norton Motorcycles at Donington Park.

The DAS has visited many country estates, but the IA section visit to Donington Park in Leicestershire on 29 July was a bit different. The estate was formerly owned by British Midland Airways, who had their headquarters in the 18th Century Hall and built a 1980s concrete monstrosity in the grounds for use as a telephone call centre. After BMI was bought by British Airways and closed down, in 2013 the estate was bought by Stuart Garner, who had recently revived the Norton brand of motorcycles



Above: The original 1902 Norton
Below : A modern Norton being assembled



and set up a small factory at the nearby Donington Park motor racing circuit. The motorbikes are now assembled in the former call centre building, with welding being carried out in a temporary building until a new fabrication shop is completed.

We had a fascinating tour of the facilities, starting with a look at the oldest surviving Norton from 1902, and a selection of special racing models entered in recent Isle of Man TT races. We then looked at engine manufacture, welding of frames and final assembly and inspection. At present, all the components are manufactured off site and assembled at Donington; when the new fabrication shop is ready, some machining will be brought in-house. Norton claim to be the only true UK motorbike manufacturer – 85 of their components are sourced within the UK, whereas their bigger rival Triumph manufacture most of their bikes in Thailand.

Ian Mitchell

Quarrying in Derbyshire

The speaker at the first IAS meeting of the Winter Programme on 4 November was Ian Thomas, the founder and recently retired manager of the National Stone Centre at Wirksworth. He introduced himself as an Artist/Designer, Quarry Historian and Economic Geologist, and his talk provided plenty of evidence of all these areas of expertise.

A wide variety of geologies are found in Derbyshire, alluvial deposits in the Trent Valley, coal measures along the Nottinghamshire border and in the North West, two types of limestone, and a variety of sandstone, gritstone and mudstones. Ian described his regular commute from Little Eaton to Wirksworth as crossing from the Midlands to the North of England. He revealed his artistic talents by showing some paintings he produced to illustrate the prehistoric landscapes of the eras when each type of rock was deposited.

One of the themes of the talk was the wide variety of uses of stone in ancient and modern societies. As well as the obvious uses for construction, either as building stone or as aggregate, there are a myriad of other specialist chemical and industrial uses. This applies particular to stones from Derbyshire – 90% of specialist stone used in the UK comes from Derbyshire – mainly limestone, which has higher chemical purity than that in other parts of the country.

Historically and to the present day, limestone has been the biggest quarrying industry in the county, with extraction from hundreds of sites, many linked with the use of lime for soil improvement in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the 20th century the chemical industry and cement manufacturing became the big customers. By its very nature the quarrying industry tends to destroy its own archaeology, but an excellent photographic archive assembled by ICI when they operated the quarries in the Buxton area has provided some dramatic images for the historical record.

Another specialist product from Derbyshire was gritstone for various abrasive applications. This was an industry that reinvented itself from century to century. In the 18th century millstones were the main product, but this market was lost to French burr stones when white flour came into fashion. In the 19th century, grindstones were produced for metal working industries, particularly in Sheffield, and then in the first half of the 20th century paper pulp grinders were in demand. An unusual aspect of this industry was that the stone was fashioned into the end product in the quarry, with the result that unsold examples remain on the ground as archaeological evidence.

Bringing the story right up to date, Ian pointed out that whereas in 1999 there were a number of UK companies that were world leaders in quarrying, since then all the major players have been taken over by multi-national operators with headquarters overseas.

As in other archaeological fields, an important recent development has been the production of Research Frameworks to identify the existing state of knowledge and priorities for future investigation. Ian has been a major contributor to these, on a local, national and international (Wales) level. We are fortunate indeed to have such an expert on our doorstep to give us such an excellent talk.

Ian Mitchell

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY, Vol 21, Part 2, Autumn 2016

- *A Derbyshire family in the Middle Ages: The Shirleys of Shirley and the Saracen's Head* by Irene Brightmer
- *Three into two won't go: marriage and Hardwick's 'Eglantine Table'* by Terry Kilburn
- *Sir Samuel Sleigh 1603-1679* by Roger Dalton
- *Diary of a Shipley Farmer 1867: Part 4: July 20 - 5 September* by Malcolm Burrows

The Shirley family first came to Derbyshire in the early 12th century and remained for nearly 900 years. They established their main seat in the village of Shirley but transferred it to Staunton Harold in Leicestershire in the 15th century. Their role as landowners and administrators in Derbyshire and elsewhere in the English Midlands was substantial throughout the Middle Ages. They were generous patrons of the Church and served and fought for king and country at home and abroad. In her article on the Shirley family, Irene Brightmer describes the exploits of some of the Shirleys during the centuries they were based in Derbyshire. They flourished through land acquisitions and fortuitous marriage alliances. The subsequent wealth and status of the Shirleys, after their move from Derbyshire, was thus assured, although the future was not a happy one for every generation.

The Saracen's Head had long been part of the coat of arms of the family. This began during the early years of their time in Derbyshire and its use is traced up to the present day. Although the family no longer has a base in either Derbyshire or Leicestershire, their long involvement in the histories of these two counties can be traced in the villages and churches where the Saracen's Head can still be seen, providing a link back to the Shirley family's 12th century Derbyshire ancestors.

The highly decorated '*Eglantine Table*' at Hardwick Hall is the subject of Terry Kilburn's article '*Three into two won't go*'. Dating from about 1568, it was often asserted that the table was commissioned by Bess of Hardwick to commemorate three marriages: that of Bess herself to George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury and two others involving four of their children. Terry, however, argues that the table only celebrates two marriages. The most important evidence comes from the table itself, the top of which has inlaid images of playing cards, musical instruments, etc, and two, not three, heraldic marriage impalements. The first depicts the arms of Talbot impaling those of Hardwick representing the marriage of the Earl of Shrewsbury to Bess, the second depicts the arms of Cavendish impaling those of Talbot, a reference to the marriage of Henry Cavendish to Grace Talbot. However, there is no reference whatsoever on the table to the marriage of Gilbert Talbot and Mary Cavendish. Terry makes several suggestions for reasons why the third marriage is not commemorated but comes to the conclusion that only two marriages are represented.

Sir Samuel Sleigh, the interesting subject of Roger Dalton's article was a member of the Derbyshire branch of the Sleigh family who were wealthy fellmongers and dealers in minerals in the upper Dove valley by the early 16th century. Towards the end of the 16th century Edmund Sleigh (1551-1615), a merchant stapler and a supplier of lead to the London market,

moved to the Derby area followed by his lawyer cousin Gervase Sleigh (1560-1626) who purchased the Hall and manor of Ashe in 1603. His eldest son, Samuel, was born in 1603.

The life of Samuel is traced from his education at Cambridge in 1621, followed by Gray's Inn in 1623, to his death in 1679, aged 76. He married three times and his third wife, Elizabeth, whom he married in 1674, gave birth to a posthumous daughter, Mary. Inheriting Ashe from his father in 1641, he later purchased Etwall, Burnaston, Dalbury and Dalbury Lees. As manorial lord of Etwall he was concerned with the proper implementation of the will of the second John Port in relation to the alms houses. He was active in Derby affairs for a number of years, MP for Derbyshire in 1656 and 1666 and demonstrated political astuteness in plotting his way through the Civil Wars and the Restoration.

Articles for inclusion in *Derbyshire Miscellany* should be sent to Dr Dudley Fowkes, 11 Sidings Way, Westhouses, Alfreton, DE55 5AS

If you don't subscribe to *Miscellany*, copies of both this issue and back issues are available from Dudley Fowkes (£4.25 incl. p&p). Alternatively an annual subscription to *Derbyshire Miscellany*, which is published twice a year, is £6.

Jane Steer

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

- Mr & Mrs I. Brownson of Duffield
- Mrs R.A. Caro of Whaley Bridge
- Mrs J.M. Powis of Chaddesden
- Ms J.M. Butterworth of Whaley Bridge

Keith Reedman

PILLING AWARD

Applications are invited from members of the Society who are involved in research projects relating to the history, archaeology, architecture or industrial archaeology of Derbyshire.

Grants of up to £1000 can be awarded. Full details of the conditions and application forms can be obtained from Barbara Foster (details on cover).

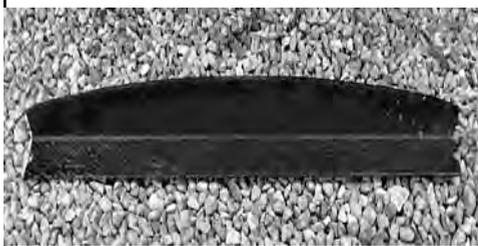
Awards have been made to W.W.Winter for conservation materials - £785 for assorted poly pockets and storage boxes. £325 was awarded to Mrs J. Hammond for help to defray costs for a limited print edition of a pictorial study of Uttoxeter Road Cemetary to be distributed to the County Record Office and Local Studies Libraries. A progress report on the Golden Valley Railway award follows below.

Pilling Award - Progress report on Historic Track Exhibit

The Midland Railway Trust (MRT) has some early stone railway sleepers near the Running Shed of the Golden Valley Light Railway (GVLr) at the Midland Railway-Butterley (MR-B) Swanwick Junction Complex. Our plan is to use some of these stone sleepers as part of a display showing visitors to the Midland Railway site how the profile of rails and the style of sleepers used has changed over the last 200 and more years.

We have fashioned some examples (Fig.2) of L-form plateway track from suitable surplus angle iron from GVLr stocks to match the sort of flanged track found, for example, on the Little Eaton Gangroad as used by Benjamin Outram. These will be mounted on appropriate one hole/two hole stone sleepers (Fig. 1). The next display will be four foot long fishbelly rails as examples of the earliest edge rails. Locally, these were initially laid on the

Figs 1—3



Cromford and High Peak and on the Mansfield to Pinxton Railways. The GVLr was generously awarded a Pilling Grant from DAS to get four examples of such fish belly rails made in cast iron. To achieve this we were loaned patterns from the Cromford and High Peak shed at Cromford Wharf (thanks to Richard Jillings, DCC) and, after getting quotes from three foundries we had them made in cast iron at the Manor Foundry at Ilkeston. These rails are now safely in the GVLr Running Shed at MR-B

(Fig.3) where they can be seen, and, as with the flanged wagonway track, they are being painted by GVLK volunteers in red oxide undercoat and then black exterior paint to prevent rusting. As on the C&HPR fishbelly rails at the Cromford Wharf Shed and at Middleton Top the lettering on each rail has been carefully outlined.

Currently we are planning the next track exhibit which should be a section of the T-shape rolled elliptical track used initially on the Stockton and Darlington railway. The National Railway Museum in York is being contacted for help in providing exhibits and funding is being sought for making other castings as needed. A further point being considered is where on the MR-B site the track exhibit will be sited. One option is outdoors close to the GVLK narrow gauge station where visitors waiting for trains will see it, or, alternatively, under cover in the MR-B exhibition hall. Undercover would be preferable but the exhibition hall is in need of major repairs and space is limited. This issue will be resolved in 2017 so visitors to the MR-B site can see how the Historic Track Exhibit is developing.

Martin Rumsby (GVLK Sec)

BOOK REVIEW

MEDIEVAL CROSS SLABS OF DERBYSHIRE by Peter F Ryder.

Published by Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee B&W 86 pp, fully illustrated, ISBN 0-907543-77-0.

£7.99 from usual sources and bookshops.

This is an absolute gem of a book, especially for those who, given the opportunity, delight in a bit of a wander around ancient churches going “Hmm?”

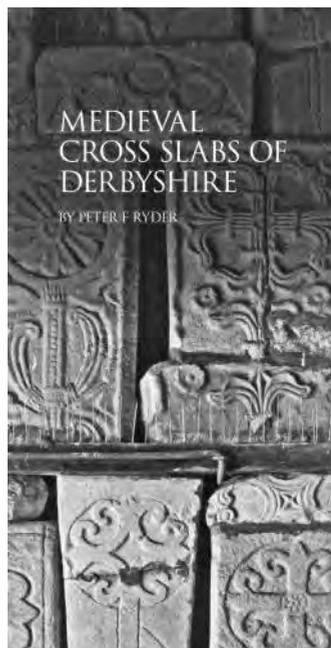
Now, thanks to Mr Ryder, we have an excellent guide to these early sepulchral monuments normally found stacked up in church porches or preserved in a church wall

– and in assorted nooks and crannies including high up in the tower!

Many early Norman examples have been discovered and a very comprehensive array of drawings showing the many and glorious variations on a simple sepulchral cross. Many give indications of the status and gender – a sword for himself and scissors or keys for his lady for example. Many came to be found, usually in the 19th century as reused building stone from previous church repairs and happily coincided with local antiquarian interest.

Highly recommended and definitely one for the glove compartment!

Barbara Foster



Part of front cover of the book.



Industrial Heritage Day EMIAC 92



**Saturday 6 May 2017 - Cromford Mills
Mill Road, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3RQ**

Cromford Mills, begun by Sir Richard Arkwright in 1771, has been described as the most important preserved textile heritage site in the world. Now owned by the Arkwright Society, its significance along with that of other sites nearby led to this part of the Derwent Valley being designated a World Heritage Site. This conference, organised by kind cooperation of the Arkwright Society, will explore some of the lesser known connections which led to this small part of Derbyshire assuming such a pivotal role in industrial history.

Industrial Heritage Days

EMIAC, the East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference, comprises a group of societies from across the East Midlands.

EMIAC Industrial Heritage Days are held twice a year and are **open to anyone** with an interest in industrial archaeology or related historical subjects. The first event was held in 1970 and this, the 92nd, is being hosted by NEDIAS, the North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society.

The other EMIAC affiliated societies are:

- Derbyshire Archaeological Society
- Leicestershire Industrial History Society
- Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group
- Railway & Canal Historical Society – East Midlands Group
- Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology

About NEDIAS

The North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society was founded in 2001 and has around 100 members. In addition to monthly meetings held in Chesterfield, the society carries out fieldwork and publishes a newsletter and a journal. Further details are available on the NEDIAS website or Facebook page.

Getting to Cromford Mills

Cromford Mills are situated on Mill Road, north east of Cromford village and accessed from the traffic lights on the A6. The Mills are clearly signposted and pay and display parking (£4 per day at the time of writing) is available on site.

The postcode for sat nav use is DE4 3RQ.

Cromford station, on the line between Derby and Matlock, is a 10 minute walk from the Mills. Bus services operating at suitable times are Trent Barton 6.1 from Derby and Bakewell and the TransPeak service from Derby and Buxton.

Please note that the conference room is on the second floor of a historic building. We regret that access is by stairs only and no lift is available.

Cromford Threads - Programme

- 09.00** Setting up bookstalls and displays
- 09.30** Registration and coffee
- 10.00** Welcome and introduction
- 10.10** *From Silk to Cotton: The Early Factory System in the Derwent Valley*
Prof. Stanley Chapman
- 10.45** *Lead Mining and Smelting around Wirksworth and Cromford*
Dr Lynn Willies
- 11.20** Break
- 11.35** *The Life and Times of the Arkwrights*
Darrell Clark
- 12.10** *Johann Gottfried Bruegelmann – the Cromford Ratingen Story*
Peter South
- 12.45** EMIAC Business Meeting
- 13.00** Lunch and Bookstalls
- 14.00** "Pick and Mix" from activities to include:-
- Visit to the new Arkwright Experience on site (entry included)
- Cromford – a virtual tour from the comfort of the conference room
- Visit to Cromford Church, 1797, burial place of the Arkwrights
(alternative visit will be arranged if church is in use for weddings)
- 16.30** Close of Conference

The Speakers

Prof. Stanley Chapman is Emeritus Professor of Business History at the University of Nottingham. He has written extensively on industrial, commercial and financial history, and for 20 years was editor of the journal Textile History.

Dr Lynn Willies has for a long time been active locally and internationally in mining and metallurgical historical research. Specialising in the Peak District industry, he was awarded a PhD for his work by Leicester University.

Darrell Clark has for many years been involved with the project to restore Cromford Mills. As Visitor Services Manager he built up the team of volunteer guides, and regularly lectures on Cromford Mills and on the Arkwright family.

Peter South, a Cambridge graduate, worked in textiles for 19 years for Courtaulds, and then 19 years for Coats Viyella plc. In retirement he has been a tour guide at Cromford Mills for 12 years, and is now Head Guide.

Cromford Threads - Booking Form

Places at the Industrial Heritage Day must be booked in advance. The cost is £17.50 per person which includes coffee on arrival, a buffet lunch and admission to the recently opened Arkwright Experience.

Please note that the conference room is on the second floor of a historic building. We regret that access is by stairs only and no lift is available.

To book please complete this form and send it with your remittance to the address below. Your booking confirmation and further information will be sent by email. If you would prefer a confirmation by post, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. The final date for bookings is 20 April 2017.

I / We wish to attend EMIAC 92, Saturday 6 May 2017 at Cromford Mills:

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

Email address

Society (if applicable)

Additional information – please complete if applicable

I would prefer a vegetarian lunch:

I have the following special dietary requirements:

I wish to have display space for:

Space is limited and is therefore available for EMIAC affiliated societies only.

Please enclose a cheque for £17.50 per person payable to **North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society** and send to:

Les Mather, 8 Carnoustie Avenue, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 3NN

DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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