

DERBYSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER



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

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FRONT COVER

Dalbury, All Saints' west end in the snow, 29th December 2014.

I suppose I must be a bit old-fashioned in that each year, I like to forage for a photograph of a Derbyshire building or scene with plenty of seasonal snow. What with climate change making heavy snowfalls increasingly sparse and the drift from a spiritual to a commercial Christmas making the conventional iconography of the festival less relevant to more and more people, such scenes might be read as just a lot of superfluous flim-flam. Yet both Carole and our daughter remain captivated by the promise of the season and all that goes with it, a disposition which I must confess to sharing, at least to some extent (I would certainly pass on 'Bah, Humbug!'), so I thought I would try and find a cover to match my criterion.

The trouble is that, living in Derby, whenever a good fall of festive snow *does* occur, we feel much less inclined to go out visiting for its own sake, what with the cold and the state of the roads, especially in upland Derbyshire, being notorious for impassability in such conditions. Thus, I thought I might be pressed for something suitable. Unhappily, an old friend died in early December 2014, the funeral being at Dalbury Church on the 29th, happily (in a sense) immediately following a good snowfall. Thus, despite a fairly hair-raising drive along Rabourne Lane, we made it safely, and the scene was sufficiently enchanting afterwards to move me to take some photographs.

Dalbury Church is a delight with its crenellated bellcote, seemingly slightly askew and angled buttresses, very small and sequestered, at the end of one of those numerous north-south lanes that run south from below Long Lane. The village is much shrunken from its Medieval heyday and, as at Trusley were we normally worship, the congregation is correspondingly modest.

There was a church, part of Henry de Ferrers' holdings, in 1086, the building is Early English with a 13th century doorway protected by a Victorian porch in brick, probably later and much more vernacular than the addition of the north aisle and other renovations undertaken by Henry Isaac Stevens in 1844 at the expense of the enduring patrons, the Poles of Radburne.

Inside, one can admire an early Georgian reredos, also highly vernacular, and a seemingly medieval font carved in Chellaston alabaster, but almost certainly in the 19th century; the medieval craftsmen would surely have opted for pure white, by the 19th century mostly worked out. It has an eccentric cover, probably a Regency composition using older materials. The box pews are entirely in keeping, too (we have them at Trusley, as well) and contrast quite harmoniously with the Gothick organ case, and there remains a wonderful piece of early 12th century stained glass.¹

Merry Christmas, therefore to all our loyal members!

¹ For more information, see Cox, J. C., *Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire*, 4 Vols. (Derby & London 1874-79) III. 107f. & Pevsner, Sir N., Williamson, E & Hartwell, C. *Buildings of England* series, *Derbyshire* 3rd. edn. (Newhaven & London 2016) 294.



FROM THE CHAIR

It's a relief that things are now finally returning to some semblance of normality, and we can now organise events where members meet face to face to enjoy learning about our archaeology, architecture and history. Our summer programme of walks around the county went well and you can read reports of most of them in this newsletter.

We started the winter programme cautiously with four online talks via Zoom and two in-person at St. Mary's church hall in Derby. For the second in-person event we experimented with a 'hybrid' arrangement whereby the speaker's voice and slides were broadcast via Zoom, and this worked surprisingly well, with an audience of 80 split between the room and their own homes. As a result, we have decided to make this the standard arrangement for our talks in the new year. You will find the full programme elsewhere in this newsletter, and of course we will continue to send out email announcements with the link to Zoom a week before each meeting.

As an experiment, one of the meetings will be on Saturday afternoon instead of our usual Friday evening. I would be interested in hearing your opinions for and against this alternative.

Assuming all goes well, we will also be back to a traditional society Annual General Meeting in person in May next year, and the Sections are hoping to hold their individual short AGMs attached to one of their meetings before that.

As ever, we are looking for volunteers who would like to help with running the society, either on the individual section committees or on Council. We really do need some new faces, both to replace longstanding office holders who would like to retire, and to bring new ideas about what the society should be doing for the future.

Ian Mitchell

NEW MEMBERS:

Dr. J. S. Ainsworth & Dr. R. Cooper of Hillmorton, Warw.

Mr. C. Bradley of Oakerthorpe

Mr. G. Duncan & Mrs. C. Wilson of Elton

Mr. C. Hearson of Chapel-en-le-Frith

Mr. D., Mrs. L. and Miss. S. Kinsley of Chaddesden

Mr. R. Lake of Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts.

Mr. J. Myszka & Miss B. Thompson of Long Eaton

Mr. S. Ramsden of Chaddesden

Mr. A. Street of Crich

Mr. K. Walsh of Quarndon

OBITUARY

Margery Tranter (1923-2021)



Margery Tranter, who died in August aged 98, was a long-standing and active member of the Society who was passionate about bringing local history to the lay community. She founded and supported the local history society in the village where she lived, Weston-on-Trent, encouraging exhibitions and publications there in addition her a great contribution to local history in general and Derbyshire in particular. She was also a valuable supporter of the Derbyshire Record Society (for which she edited the 1851 Religious Census in 1995) as well as our Society, whose meetings and writings she enjoyed and who contributed to the *Journal*.

Margery Tranter was born in North London in 1923, where her parents ran a small stationer's shop and after school, she went to university to read Geography at Bedford College London, although during the second world war the College was evacuated to Cambridge. Students at the time were only able to complete their degrees if they agreed to teach, and she decided an extra year of academic study was precious, although she had never intended to teach. That was when she was sent to Derbyshire, her new home, but by no means her choice! In spite of everything, she enjoyed teaching at several schools and then for many years at Nottingham Girls High School, until in her 50s she decided to do an MA in Local History at the then Department for English Local History (ELH) at Leicester University.

Margery enjoyed this so much she continued to undertake research and subsequently became an Honorary Research Associate of the Department for ELH there, which she held until she was in her 70s. During that time and later she did research in various aspects of local history, with many publications, including an edition of the 1851 religious census and articles on religious dissent. Her colleagues appreciated her quiet humour and constructive criticism, as well as the geographical insights she brought to the department. This was apparent in her studies on the Leicester-Derbyshire borders where she applied her knowledge of geography to work for local history.

In 2005 she received a personal achievement award from the British Association for Local History. She retained her mental faculties and her interest in local history right up to her death at a most impressive age. When she was obliged to disband her library in 2013, she was pleased to be able to donate some of her books to the Society's library or, in some cases, to be passed on to individuals who needed them (cf. DAS Newsletter July 2013).

*

Pat Tinkler

Manda Tinkler (mjtinkler@gmail.com) has communicated with the Society to say that her mother Pat Tinkler, died on 21st November. She was a long-standing member of the DAS and was involved with the Society in a number of ways, notably with the archaeological Research Group. Manda adds that she would be very happy if any member who remembers Pat wanted to get in touch.

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CORRESPONDENCE

From Mr. Robin Turner

(robin.turner@geo2.poptel.org.uk Tel. 0793 955 4965)

Dear fellow members of Derbyshire Archaeological Society,

There are two local subjects of great interest to me: Ridgeway Avenue and Blagreaves Lane in Littleover.

I live at 10 Ridgeway Avenue, which backs onto a footway highway, and which I assume is an ancient ridgeway from which our road takes its name. I would like to know if that is the case. Ridgeway Avenue is parallel to Blagreaves Lane and I assume that name would be derived from Black Graves Lane referring to Black Death graves. If that is the case where are or were the graves? The area is mainly residential with a parkland area called Sunnydale Park, created by the Council from Hill Cross Fields, a Derby 'Green Wedge'.

In the Spondon area there is a highway called Lousie Greaves Lane (formerly Louise Greave Lane, the road sign later 'corrected' by the Council), which I have been informed is derived from Lousy Graves. It is more rural and leads to allotments. I assume the answers to these questions would require archaeological research or even excavation.

Could you please consider the points I have raised? There might be scope to involve other local residents. I would like to hear from you about your ideas please.

Yours etc.

To short-cut members having to reach for their references, the following seems to obtrude from some notes your editor has left over from the suburban section of Derby Through Its Streets which remained, perhaps mercifully, unused and might help, at least as a start.

Blagreaves first occurs in a 17th century document, which Professor Cameron (*The Place Names of Derbyshire* English Place-Name Society Vol. XXIX, 3 Vols. (Cambridge 1959) II. 479) indeed explains as deriving from Old English *Blæc Græfe* = Black Grave(s). The passage of time between the first recording of the name and its coinage in old English might, of course, pre-date the Black Death (1348-51), but not necessarily. Plague graves were always positioned outside the parish boundary or at least, as far away from habitation as possible (as with Roman town burial grounds), so the connection is perfectly reasonable.

Prior to St Andrew's church opening, the Blagreaves area came under Littleover parish, thus within the historic parish. A few entries in the Littleover parish registers around 1812 note the area as 'Black graves' and around 1825 as Sunny Hill Lane; incidentally, the 1851 census refers to Blagreaves Lane as Sunny Hill Lane too. Note too, the two George Blagreaves, father & son, successively parish clerks of All Saints' (now the Cathedral) in the late 17th century. It would be impossible to claim that they certainly derived their name from the Littleover Blagreaves (there being many others in England) but in view of the limited mobility of families in that era, it would seem not unlikely. The surname occurs in Middlesex at the beginning of the 16th century and may be presumed to have existed a couple of centuries before that, suggesting that in some parts of the country the name may indeed refer to a Black Death burial, although minor plagues occurred before and even after that



Blagreaves Lane: Fressingfield, as rebuilt for the Grimwood-Taylor family from a Victorian villa called The Oaklands in 1913 by Percy Currey, photographed March 2018.

Ridgeway Avenue is one of a network of streets built by a developer from 1937 and again post-war. The clue to street names often lies in those of the adjoining ones, here Uplands, Gayton, Melton, Kegworth. One suspects that these were all places associated with the developer and his family: two are in Wales (Uplands, Glam., Ridgeway, Mon. or NE Derbyshire), Gayton, Northants rather than Norfolk, Melton & Kegworth in Leicestershire. There was never an actual ridgeway here, and no field name either (not in Cameron or Fraser): the topography is against it too. Note that it is also a surname, as in Ernest Reginald Ridgeway FRIBA (1852-1917) a local architect who designed in Derby much of the old Baseball Ground, the *Baseball Hotel* (of blessed memory), the Vulcan iron works, and the gloriously Moorish (but wantonly demolished a decade ago) Elmhirst in Lonsdale Place for Wm. Bemrose, etc.

Regarding Sunnyhill Park and associated green spaces, I learned about these after correspondence with the late Eleanor Grimwood-Taylor, who lived at Fressingfield, Blagreaves Lane, supplemented by further information from family papers from James Grimwood Taylor. The land was part of Hill Cross Fields, which the family acquired with Fressingfield (formerly The Oaklands), and this was supplemented by Sancroft Grimwood-Taylor (solicitor and Eleanor's father) who made various strategic purchases of further land, chiefly from Fields Farm. These he protected by covenants, which are still in place, hence the survival of the park, bequeathed to the City. That where Rosamond's Ride still runs (Rosamund being Grimwood-Taylor's youngest daughter; he suggested the name to the developer of Littlelover Lane) is also part of his gift to the City.



*Street sign, Lousie Greaves Lane, Spondon
[Google Street View]*

Louise/Lousie Greaves Lane is surely just as Robin suggests. Cameron (1959) III. 607 gives the earliest mention as a 1614 field name, *Lowsie Greave*, from Old English *lus graefe* (= louse + grave). Note at Wilmorton, Deadman's Lane, also thought to be the plague pit for Derby – although which plague is questionable, but perhaps 1349 is most likely.

If any member can add to or amend any of this, I am certain that Robin would be most gratified.

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TEXTILES BEFORE DERBYSHIRE!

The earliest known woven textiles in the Near East come from excavations at Catalhöyük, (chars 148 and 129) Turkey, and had been identified as linen made from the flax plant. A new analysis shows they were in fact made with tree bast, a source that, unlike flax, would not have required cultivation or trade.

Cordage, basketry, matting and textiles have been found at Catalhöyük in excavations directed by James Mellaart in the 1960s, and resumed by Ian Hodder in 1993. The oldest textiles date from the site's middle phase, 6700-6500BC. Fibres were at first identified as animal, perhaps wool, and later as flax, but as seeds are very scarce at the Neolithic site, and probably came

from wild plants, it was suggested that raw materials were imported. Identification of archaeological plant fibres is challenging, say Antoinette Rast-Eicher and her colleagues and, for the new study, samples were analysed with a scanning electron microscope. All turned out to be made from oak bast, from which very fine fibres can be made.

From *British Archaeology* Nov/Dec 2021; contributed by Ray Marjoram.

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SECTION & OTHER REPORTS

The Editor is most grateful for receiving these: they are the lifeblood of our Newsletter, and invariably are interesting and informative.

JOURNAL

Philip Riden

The entire Journal is (November 2021) in page proof and I have begun to make the index. This starts on p. 415, which will give some idea of how long this year's journal will be. The authors of one archaeological article still require some minor changes but otherwise it will only be a case of correcting errors that show up during indexing.

I hope to complete the index by the end of November and will then send the it to the printer. It may be held up by the current shortage of paper but I would hope it will be ready to distribute to members in January. I am sorry not to have got it out before the end of the subscription year, but it has become an exceptionally long issue in which the archaeological reports have caused some problems because of the number and complexity of the illustrations.

I understand the Society has received the promised publication grants from the two archaeological units which have articles in the Journal. On this basis, when the Journal goes to press, I would like to send an interim invoice to the Society for half what I estimate to the likely cost of production. This will be roughly equal to the sum of the grants. I will invoice for the balance when the Journal is published.

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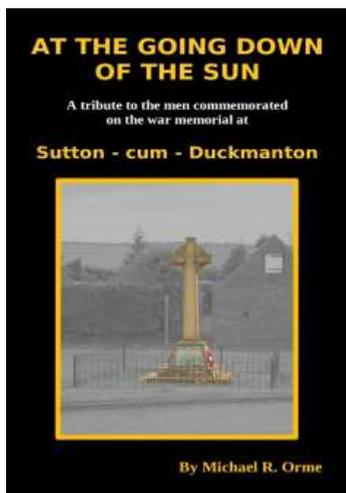
LIBRARY

Anne Allcock

After reopening in May the library has at last felt as though we are back to some sort of normality although we can only keep our fingers crossed that it will continue without disruption. The Wednesday afternoon opening hours extended for the spring and summer months, are now back to winter mode and we close at 3.30 pm. Saturdays 10am -12 are unaffected. Details of opening hours are on the website.

There have been four issues of the library *Newsletter* which have received positive feedback. As this is a new venture, we will be reviewing it after a year.

We have had our usual steady stream of members coming to browse and to borrow. It is pleasing to see a gentle increase in the number of members using the library, including two PhD students who visit regularly both of whom have found much useful information not as easily accessible elsewhere.



We received a notice about a new book recently published by Michael R Orme, *At the Going Down of the Sun*, a tribute to the men named on the War Memorial at Sutton-cum- Duckmanton. This is of interest to local, family and military historians, as is the new book added to the Library from the Derbyshire Record Society *The Derbyshire Musters of 1638-9, Part 1*. Part 2 will appear shortly and will be on the library shelves in due course after publication. Recently acquired too is *Chatsworth, Arcadia Now: Seven Scenes in the Life of a House*, a lavishly illustrated book by John-Paul Stonard charting the history of Chatsworth through its extensive collection of artworks.

This is only a selection; all new additions are in the searchable catalogue on the library pages of the website. If you have any suggestions for books or for the library itself please do get in touch.

The Society is fortunate to have a library which is accessible and under our own control. Many society libraries have been subsumed into university libraries or have disappeared altogether. The internet is a great resource but there is no substitute for browsing shelves full of interesting books. There was a successful Open Afternoon on the 27th November to promote the Society and the Library, about which a separate report appears elsewhere in this *Newsletter*.

A selection of recent additions to our library:

BOOKS

The Derbyshire Musters of 1638-9 Part 1 Victor A. Rosewarne, Editor, 2021.

This is the latest book from the Derbyshire Record Society and invaluable for those researching Family History. Part 2 is due out soon.

Burrow's Pointer Guide Map of Derby (Circa1950s).

How did we get around before Satnav and Google? This novel idea which was also created for other towns and cities allows you to find any street in Derby by means of an attached paper ruler. Of equal interest is the contemporary advertising.

Chatsworth, Arcadia, Now. Seven scenes in the life of a house. John-Paul Stonard. 2021.

A lavishly illustrated book describing Chatsworth's history through its painting and sculptures.

JOURNALS recently arrived (with some selected articles which might be of interest):

Antiquaries Journal: (Tattershall Castle and the newly-built personality of Ralph, Lord Cromwell; William Stukeley's house and green in Grantham 1726-9)

Hampshire Studies

Midland History: (Gilbert of Penn (Staffordshire) and his will of 1260; Industrial politics, technological expertise and scientific knowledge; The Birmingham metal button dispute of 1795-1800)

History of Engineering and Technology, formerly the *Transactions* of the Newcomen Society: (Tongland works in Galloway and the women engineers).

Anne Allcock
Hon. Librarian

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Were the Romans living & working in Belper? Denise Grace

In 2019 a 'rescue' excavation by two members of the Society took place in a garden in the Laund area of Belper, Derbyshire.

One fragment of glass was found, along with several hundred sherds of Romano-British pottery. This large number of pieces over a relatively small area may indicate a possible settlement. Also, the whole area produced very high metal detector readings of ferrous deposits in the whole of the garden. This concentration suggests possible industrial activity too. In the past Belper Laund coal and ironstone have been mined in the area and the adjacent clay deposits used in the local potteries.



Glass fragment in excellent condition: side and top view.

The glass is quite difficult to distinguish from early modern glass yet is characteristically Roman and appears to be part of a small flask called a *unguentarium*, for holding olive oil for bathing, perfumes or (as the name implies) other unguents. They are frequently found in burials and were high status vessels probably used in offerings.

Several sherds of fine examples of rare, roller-stamped Roman period pottery were found, possibly from one or two vessels. They are probably from Rossington Bridge, south of

Doncaster and/or Market Rasen, Lincolnshire. Investigations are ongoing more accurately to determine their origin, fabric identification and date.



Impress-decoration fragment of Parisian ware from Belper.

The Parisi inhabited an area comprising parts of Lincolnshire, Humberside and Yorkshire, with their civitas capital at Brough-on-Humber, Yorkshire, Roman Petuaria. Burials in East Yorkshire from the pre-Roman Iron Age were similar to those of the Parisii, a Gallic tribe living alongside the river Seine on land now occupied by the modern city of Paris, previously Lutetia Parisiorum..



Further fragments of Parisian from Belper.



The Parisi inhabited an area comprising parts of Lincolnshire, Humberside and Yorkshire, with their *civitas* capital at Brough-on-Humber, Yorkshire ER, Roman Petuaria. Burials in East Yorkshire from the pre-Roman Iron Age are similar to those of the continental Parisii, a Gallic tribe living alongside the river Seine on land now occupied by the modern city of Paris, previously Lutetia Parisiorum.

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ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

The Landmark Trust: Caroline Stanford

8th October 2021

With Covid19 still a concern, this talk on 8th October was delivered via a Zoom link by Caroline Stanford, the Landmark's in-house research historian. She gave us a masterly overview of the origin, purpose, and operating method of the Trust, before illustrating her talk with some examples of buildings in the area that the Trust had rescued and renovated for self-catering lets.

The Trust was founded by Sir John Smith and his wife Christian in 1965 who were concerned that many smaller historic buildings, not covered by the National Trust, were being lost. Their vision was that if such buildings could be rescued and renovated, people might pay to stay in them as self-catering lets, the income from which would pay for future maintenance. The capital for restoring the first few buildings was provided by the Smith's own Manifold Trust. Since those early days, the Landmark Trust has rescued more than 200 buildings, about 30% of which are Grade I or II* listed, spanning a date range from 1250 to 1972. Caroline then explained the current operating model that the Trust follows for each building.

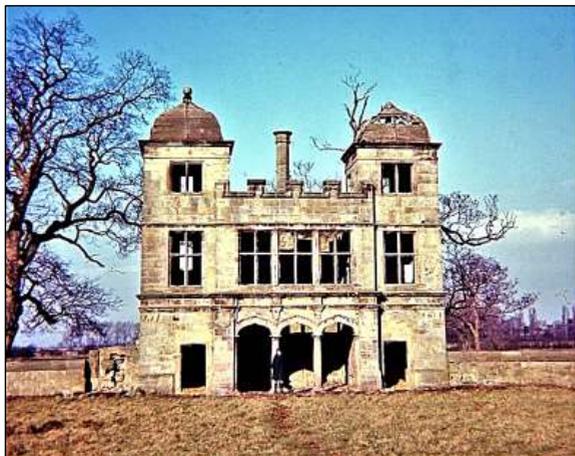
Before taking on a new project, the Trust examines how important the building is to the history of the nation (Caroline's own role), whether it is at risk, and, if renovated, would people want to stay for a holiday. Out of about 100 suggestions per year, about 10 are visited but only 2 or 3 go forward to seek funding. The Trust has its own in-house development team who raise the capital money for the project from charitable donations, grants, trusts, legacies and for a couple of projects, the Heritage Lottery Fund. Caroline made the point, very forcefully, that no Return-on-investment calculation is made. The value cannot be measured in economic terms.

For conservation reasons, the default approach is to repair a building but only if it is too ruined, to restore. The aim is to use heritage craft skills to make the highest quality repairs, being careful to avoid conjecture by thorough archaeological and historical research. Sometimes it is difficult to know whether to highlight a particular period or to remove later additions. The Trust sees it as a building for living in, not a museum. They have their own building conservation team in Berkshire and a separate furnishing team in the Cotswolds, something that continues the style and influence of Christian Smith from the very early days.

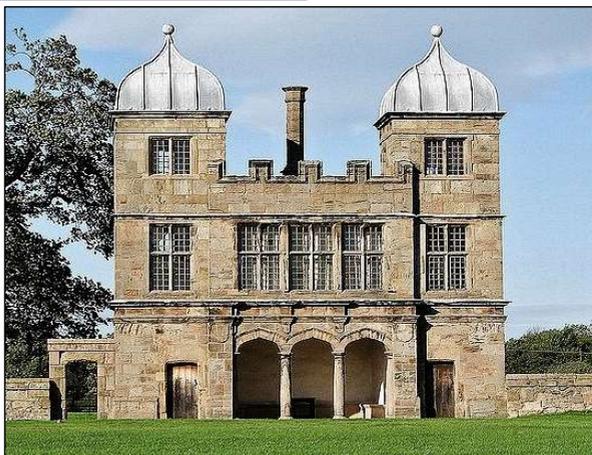
Caroline's first example was the Tixall Gatehouse, near Stafford, built around 1580 in a similar style to Hardwick, but to front an existing large Tudor mansion, since demolished. Famous for housing Mary, Queen of the Scots during the Babington plot in September 1586. It was acquired as a derelict site by Landmark in 1968, having lost all its floors, but then restored in 1975 by putting its floors and ceilings back and then finally adding wood panelling made from elm, in plentiful supply at the time of Dutch elm disease.

More locally, she described Swarkestone Pavilion (see previous page), a familiar sight when crossing the Trent by Swarkestone bridge. Built around 1632 by a local mason, Richard Sheppard, but according to Mark Girouard (supported by Sir Howard Colvin), to a design by

John Smythson, a contemporary document described it as a 'bowl alley howse' or perhaps, as suggested by Girouard, a banqueting house.



The pavilion (or 'bowl alley howse') in unrestored state from the south, February 1981, photographed by the late Michael Mallender. The figure in front is Margaret.



Swarkestone Stand as restored, photographed 29th August 2016

[M. Craven]

It had been restored in Victorian times after a lightning strike but eventually became derelict again. In such a state it managed celebrity status as the background to the cover of a Rolling Stones album. As a building essentially one room deep, restoration produced one main room, a kitchen in one turret and a staircase in the other turret that leads across the roof to the bathroom. An innovative Landmark solution, but perhaps less of a convenience for any night time visits.

Another local acquisition by the Trust, to rescue from demolition, were six terrace houses in North Street, Cromford, built for Sir Richard Arkwright in 1776 to house the workers for his new mills. Although again one room deep, they were well built, had a third storey with windows for the home knitters and even their own garden. Landmark added a room at the back as a kitchen and replaced the very steep winding staircase. The biggest challenge was the

comprehensive repairs required to replace the previous maintenance which had used cement pointing rather than the original lime mortar that allows the structure to breathe.



Knowle Hill, Ticknall, restored by Landmark Trust in 1995 (see also article below) [M. Craven]

Caroline's final example and historically most recent building was Alton railway station, built in 1849 for the Earl of Shrewsbury on the 'Knotty' (North Staffs) line. Surprisingly built in the Italianate style, because Pugin wouldn't provide proper drawings and costings, it was required to handle the very large number of visitors from the potteries (a forerunner of things to come). The line closed in 1965 when Staffordshire County Council then approached Sir John to take it on. Landmark incorporated the stationmaster's house, put bedrooms in the Italianate tower and then converted the booking hall to a dining room.

As a postscript, Caroline showed us a photograph of the Fairburn tower near Inverness, a complete ruin but now covered in scaffolding, while Landmark begin the task of restoring it 'to give the building new life', exemplifying one of the aims of the Trust. It was a pleasure to hear about the work of the Landmark Trust, given with such enthusiasm and clarity by its research historian Caroline Stanford.

David Jones

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Saving the Crescent and the Fifth Duke's vision

Richard Tuffrey, MBE

5 November 2021

Our speaker can little have imagined as he started his new job as Conservation Officer with High Peak Borough Council in 1989 that one particular site, Buxton Crescent, would be with him for the rest of his career (and beyond his retirement in 2018, as Special Advisor to the Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust) but so it proved to be.

And so, who better to guide us through the story of how, after more than 30 years in the re-making, one of Derbyshire's architectural gems and longest 'At Risk' building has been rescued from dereliction and brought back to life as the five-star Buxton Crescent Health Spa

and Hotel, offering ‘spa, wellness and holistic treatments’ for its visitors, using the warm thermal waters the hotel was first built to promote.



Buxton Crescent, in 1792

[DAS Library]

Between 1780 and 1790 the 5th Duke of Devonshire’s vision, to put Buxton on the 18th century map as a fashionable thermal spa destination to rival Bath, had resulted in the construction of John Carr’s centrepiece for the town, a gracious crescent in which two hotels, assembly rooms, six private lodging houses and shops combined to meet the needs and tastes of a discerning clientele, many of whom had been on the Grand Tour or had travelled in Italy. So successful were the hotels, St Ann’s and the Great Hotel, at either end of the building, catering to the higher end of the market, that the more modest lodging houses, with their communal dining, were soon converted into hotel accommodation too, a development anticipated by Carr in features of his original design.

Through changes in fashion, taste, transport, medical knowledge and treatment, Buxton’s popularity continued through the 19th and well into the 20th century, but by 1966 the Grand Hotel had closed and from 1970 had a new function as Derbyshire County Council offices and a library housed in the former assembly rooms, described by the Georgian Group as ‘one of the best rooms in Northern England’. In 1989 St Ann’s also closed, while still owned by a hotel chain, and when gales took the roof off the building in February 1990 and water poured in, High Peak Borough Council had little choice but to sheet the roof and board up the windows. For the Crescent, a Grade I listed building, and for Buxton, with a decaying centrepiece in the town, it was a low point.

Like many councils before and since, High Peak Borough Council was then faced with the prospect of initiating procedures prescribed under the Listed Building legislation – issuing a full repairs notice as a preliminary to a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) – that could result in their eventual ownership of a building with an estimated repair bill of £1m. In a rare example of the use of the legislation’s default powers, action was instead taken by the Secretary of State. A grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund provided £160,000 to pay the hotel owners and, with the whole of the site in public ownership, the long journey from rescue to renovation and reuse began with a grant from Historic England of £1m for essential repairs carried out in 1994-1996, at that date the largest grant ever given.

The key to this daunting ‘constructive conservation’ project - identifying what was special about the building while acknowledging the need for change - was to find a suitable new use for the crescent and to put in place a public and private sector partnership that could achieve just that. With a growing market in thermal spas not just in Europe (where the spa tradition had never died out), but also in Japan and China, the 5th Duke’s vision for Buxton proved to be the one for the future – to exploit the thermal waters with a hotel and spa.

After many false starts, and working in collaboration for a common aim, despite often being differently aligned politically, Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council jointly launched the Buxton Crescent and Thermal Spa project, with the backing of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England and in 2003 CP Holdings Ltd, owners of Europe’s largest spa resort operator, Ensana and the Trevor Osborne Property Group, which had a track record of successfully converting historic buildings, were appointed as private sector partners.

If getting this far had been demanding, many more challenges were to come from legal issues and national and international changes in the financial and political landscape. In 2006 ‘an army of lawyers’ descended to address the problem of how to cover the risk during construction work of disrupting or even cutting off Nestlé’s guaranteed supply of spring water which it bottled as Buxton Water. Two years later the developers lost their bank loans in the financial crash and a public sector spending review closed down all regional development agencies with a loss of £5m of funding overnight. Finally, with Lottery support, an enabling contract between the joint councils and the developer was signed in 2012 in a period of high prices in a volatile construction market.

As work began the true extent of the results of dereliction, neglect, alteration, adaptation and the removal (theft) of original fabric and fittings became apparent. Structural instability was not easy to address on a tightly restricted site (the River Wye had been diverted into a culvert beside the Crescent when it was built), sitting on top of natural springs with a varying water flow. But even though there were descending chimney stacks, there were also the surprise discoveries of original features and decorative schemes from various periods of the building’s history, such as the remains in St Ann’s Hotel of Georgian painted silk wallpaper overlaid by a lovely textured blue and white Art Nouveau ‘Lincrusta’ paper, the missing elements of which were recreated using modern 3-D printing.



Buxton, The crescent: work in full swing, 13th June 2017.

[M Craven]

While hotel guests can now enjoy a leading UK spa hotel, the nearby Buxton Crescent Visitor Experience provides the opportunity for all to learn about the town’s spa heritage, including a virtual reality balloon flight over the Peak, landing at Buxton in time for a ball in the Assembly Rooms.

After so many difficulties and disappointments over such a long period, the tenacity, patience and fortitude of those who saw this project through to completion – including our speaker – are truly deserving of the highest commendation and congratulation.

Note that this was the Society’s second ‘real’ talk after the long hiatus in meetings due to Covid-19 and the first ‘hybrid’ talk with the speaker and his audience in person in St Mary’s Church Hall and another audience simultaneously on line enjoying the talk by Zoom. Our special thanks to Tony Brookes for working out the technology to achieve this and to Tony and Ian Mitchell for watching over it all on the night.

Rosemary Annable

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INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

**Anna Babcock with Elin Price:
Stone Quarries on Cracken Edge: 22nd July 2021**

This walk was inspired by the presentation given by Elin Price at the 2021 Derbyshire Archaeology Days, in which she described a level 1 survey she undertook whilst on placement with the Peak District National Park for her MA degree in Landscape Archaeology.



The Kraken Wakes! - a pause for breath (or, to admire the incomparable views)

A small group of members assembled at Chinley station on 22 July, which turned out to be one of the hottest days of year. We were met by Elin, together with Anna Babcock who is the Cultural Heritage Team Manager for the Peak District National Park, and Peak Park Ranger Andy Shaw. Climbing the hill in the heat was hard work, but we were rewarded with magnificent views of a wide panorama from Kinder Scout to Chapel-en-le-Frith, and some fascinating industrial archaeology.

Flags and slates for paving and roofing have been extracted from the 16th to the 20th century, by quarrying on the surface and underground mining. Remains include trackways, quarry faces, adit entrances, ruins of buildings and a winding house for a gravity worked railway incline – Elin’s survey identified 59 surviving features in all. As always, the survey raised plenty of questions and pointers for further research; relating the surface features to the documentary evidence of early land ownership in strips known as ‘slate breaks’ is difficult, and while some of the underground workings remain accessible, they have not been fully surveyed. One of our members on the walk, George Needham, is actually the owner of some of the land, and he was able to add to the information that Elin and Anna had gathered.

This was a most enjoyable day out, and of course a welcome opportunity for members to meet face to face after a long spell of interacting remotely. Thanks are due to Anna for leading the walk, Elin for sharing the results of her research, and Andy for keeping an eye on our safety and, most importantly on this very hot day, carrying a backup supply of water.

Ian Mitchell

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Ian Mitchell
Railways and canals of the Trent Triangle
11th September 2021

'You arrive at Trent. Where that is I cannot tell. I suppose it is somewhere near the river Trent; but then the Trent is a very long river. You get out of your train to obtain refreshment, and having taken it, you endeavour to find your train and your carriage. But whether it is on this side or that, and whether it is going north or south, this way or that way, you cannot tell. Bewildered, you frantically rush into your carriage; the train moves off round a curve, and then you are horrified to see some red lights glaring in front of you, and you are in immediate expectation of a collision, when your fellow-passenger calms your fears by telling you they are only the tail lamps of your own train!'

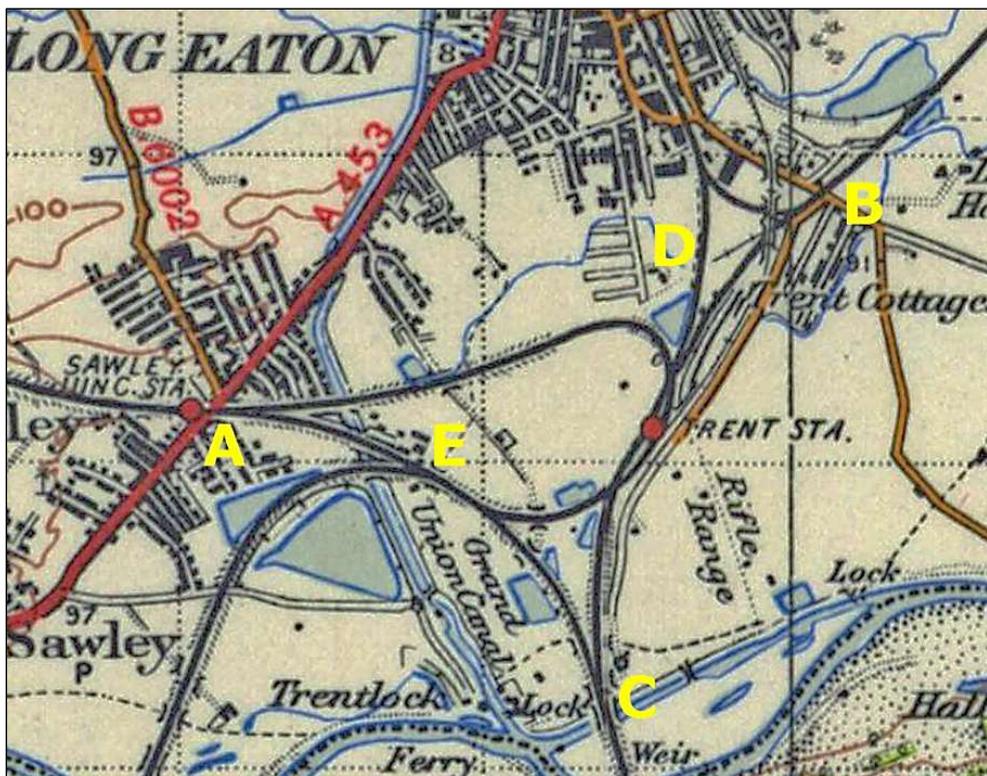
Sir Edmund Beckett (1816-1905)

A conveniently sized party of 12 assembled at Trent Lock on a pleasant sunny afternoon for an exploration of the 'Trent Triangle', ably led by Chairman and local resident Ian Mitchell.

The Triangle encompasses the fiendishly complex web of railway lines that form a series of junctions on the south side of Long Eaton, linking the routes from Derby to Nottingham, Leicester, and London St Pancras, plus a few others, and entangled further by the pre-existing presence of the Erewash Canal and the Cranfleet Cut.

To detail all the history here would take too many words, but suffice to say it began quite simply in 1839 as a large triangular junction with apices at Sawley Junction in the west, Long Eaton Junction in the east, and Trent Junction in the south. This elegant symmetry was distorted just eight years later when the Erewash Valley line was opened, making the triangle into a crossroads and necessitating a flat crossing – Platt's Crossing – where the newcomer intersected the west to east leg of the triangle. An inconvenient arrangement, the crossing only endured until 1862 when the Midland Railway re-jigged things, the main development being the opening of Trent station (one of only a few in the UK named after a river), which, located in the middle of nowhere, was principally a place where passengers changed trains. As part of this the west to east leg was curtailed at Long Eaton Junction and turned southwards to serve the station, thus enabling Platt's Crossing to be consigned to history. Subsequently known as the Trent North Curve, a corresponding Trent south curve (officially the Sheet Stores Curve) made a new more modest triangle with Trent Junction at its base and this enabled trains from Derby to still reach Nottingham while calling at Trent station *en route*.

Further complications came about in 1869-73 with the opening of a line from Trent (Sheet Stores Junction) via Castle Donington to Stenson Junction on the Derby-Birmingham line – essentially a bypass avoiding Derby for goods traffic – and lastly the Trent High Level Goods Lines of 1901, that provided an uninterrupted route from the yards at Toton towards London, flanking the rest of the complex just to the east. Apart from the Trent North Curve and Trent station (closed in 1968) all of this is still in use today, Ian's commentary being punctuated at frequent intervals by passing trains, both freight and passenger.



The Trent Triangle in 1946 (A: Sawley Junction; B: Long Eaton Junction; C: Trent Junction; D: Site of Platt's Crossing; E: Sheet Stores). To complicate matters the Roman Road from Little Chester to Willoughby-on-the-Wolds (Margary 182) crosses the Trent on an alignment which passes through the 'Y' of Sawley, lower, left.

[National Library of Scotland, reproduced with permission]

Our tour involved visiting each apex of the original triangle and all things in-between. It started with a walk up the Erewash Canal and here, unexpectedly moored amongst all the pleasure craft and elephantine houseboats, we found a proper 'industrial' boat: the *Vesta*, Stewarts & Lloyds (Coombs Wood Tube Works, Halesowen) Tug No 3. Dating from 1935, this was once operated locally by the Stanton Iron-works Company (an S & L subsidiary) and is on the National Register of Historic Vessels.

A series of railway bridges once spanned the canal in quick succession and two still do, these carrying the Stenson and Derby routes. Missing is that for the Trent North Curve, now just indicated by a slight narrowing of the waterway. The Curve was taken out of use in 1967 and has vanished without a trace, although its solum is occupied (inexactly) by the modern Fields Farm Road and it was this that we followed, pausing to inspect Barker's Pond, one of at least seven borrow pits created by the railway builders and later used for fishing.



Moored on the Erewash Canal, Tug No 3 Vesta, a preserved working boat built in 1935 by Harland & Wolff Ltd, Woolwich. Originally Gd. Union Canal Carrying Co., later Stanton No. 61 and finally owned by Stewarts & Lloyds [Mark Higginson]

A detour through some modern houses brought us to the remarkably well-preserved Midland Railway Sheet Stores, complete with its own canal basin. It was here that the MR made and repaired the tarpaulins that were used to protect merchandise carried in open wagons from the weather and thievery. Grain sacks were similarly dealt with. The complex originated as a rail and water served coke store as in the early days of railways steam locomotives used coke rather than coal; but it was converted to its later use in 1854 and operations continued until 1963. A variety of buildings ranging in date from the 1840s to the 1890s survive, some of them featuring the MR's characteristic diamond/hexagonal-paned cast iron windows. Today, the site is part marina and part industrial estate.

A further section of the busy Fields Farm Road ensued before we dived off into some woodland surrounding the surprisingly secluded Forbes Hole, another ex-borrow pit and now a nature reserve. In fact, our path was on the residual formation of the North Curve, at the end of which we could view the site of Trent station, of which no trace remains. It had a wide island platform with extensive red-brick buildings (including a refreshment room) in Gothic style with gabled glass and iron canopies to either side. Access for passengers on the east side was via a subway, but on the west side there was a path, some three quarters of a mile long, which eventually – after negotiating the North Curve and the sidings of a wagon works – came out on Main Street in Long Eaton. This is mostly now lost but a few hundred yards of vestigial tarmac remains and took us back to Fields Farm Road once more.

Noting some of the many furniture and upholstery makers that now seem to comprise Long Eaton's staple industry (once it was lace), we arrived at a level crossing on the Erewash Valley line. There used to be a signal box here called North Erewash Junction, controlling a further bit of the Trent complex. This was a north to east curve connecting to Long Eaton Junction and used mainly by local passenger trains running through to Nottingham off the Erewash Valley. After these were withdrawn in 1967 it became surplus to requirements and was closed. It is now built over.

It was at this point that what might be a further chapter in the history of the Trent Triangle got its first mention for it is here that HS2 ('if it is ever built', as our leader appended each time) will come through Long Eaton on the approach to the proposed East Midlands hub station at Toton. Most likely on a viaduct, this is the most contentious section of the planned route.² Still following the streets, we were soon at the eastern apex of the Triangle. Long Eaton Junction is these days just a level crossing (Meadow Lane Crossing) for there is no longer any junction. On the Nottingham side is the site of Long Eaton's first station (there have been four, including Trent), which was open from 1839 to 1862 when Trent replaced it. Nothing remains now but the *cottage ornée* style building survived until the 1930s if not longer.



Trent Cottages, a railway colony lost between the tracks.

[Mark Higginson]

Turning south down Trent Lane, the High Level Goods Lines kept us company on the right for about a mile. After a while an arch penetrates the embankment and this leads through to Trent Cottages, a little enclave of 10 Midland Railway dwellings and the one-time station master's house (see illustration, previous page), squeezed between the Nottingham and the High Level lines.³ More modern is the large Trent power signal box, state of the art when commissioned in 1969 but redundant since 2013. Some at least of these buildings will fall foul of HS2 ('if it is ever built').

By now the urban sprawl had been left behind and our surroundings were rural, apart from the cooling towers of Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station looming over the ridge on the other side of the Trent. One of only three remaining coal-fired plants in the country, it is due to close in 2024, but is working hard at the moment to offset the current high price of gas (50 per cent of

² Since this report was written the Government has announced that the eastern leg of HS2 connecting Birmingham with Sheffield and Leeds will be curtailed at East Midlands Parkway, just south of Trent.

³ Without doubt the work of MR architect from 1850, John Holloway Sanders (1825-1884), son of the railway's general manager, Joseph – Ed.

Britain's power stations are gas-fired). Indeed, a train of imported coal from Immingham came through as we approached.

Towards the end of Trent Lane is Cranfleet Farm and here we joined the towpath of the Cranfleet Cut, a short length of canal bypassing a section of the River Trent, which we followed back to Trent Lock. A parallel pair of railway bridges span the Cut, one carrying the main line to St Pancras and the other the High Level Goods Lines (no longer at a high level by this point) and immediately north of these is Trent Junction, the third and final apex of the Trent Triangle.



The Cranfleet Cut. HS2 ('if it is ever built') would span the navigation in the middle distance.

[Mark Higginson]

This was a comprehensive exploration of a fascinating location and our Chairman is to be congratulated on making its many complexities both intelligible and interesting.

Mark Higginson

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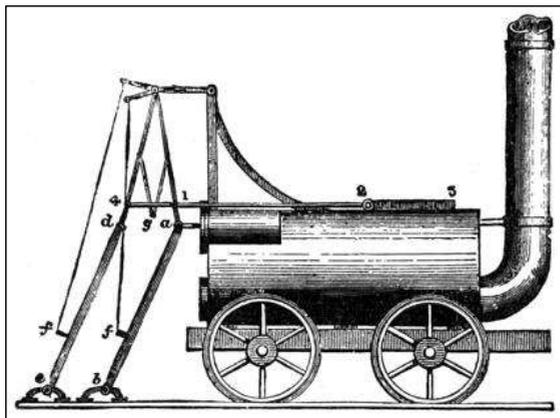
Tim Castledine
Chief Engineers of the Butterley Company in the 19th Century:
12th November 2021

Our speaker, from Ripley, is of the fourth generation of his family to work for the famous Derbyshire engineering company, and he gave us a splendid presentation about some of the key figures who ensured its success throughout the 19th Century.

The original partners in the company were the engineers Benjamin Outram and William Jessop, together with Francis Beresford and John Wright who were landowner and banker respectively. By 1806 three blast furnaces were in production and the company had established a reputation for the manufacture of cast iron pipes for water supply and mine drainage and various types of railway track. After the death of both Outram and Beresford, the remaining partners employed William Brunton to lead the company forward, and he proved to be the first of five distinguished Chief Engineers (CE).

Brunton (CE 1807-1815) had previously worked for Boulton & Watt in Birmingham and used this experience to establish Butterley's reputation as a manufacturer of stationary and marine

steam engines, including the first Liverpool ferry. The company was also supplying cast iron bridges, including Vauxhall Bridge in London and one at Lucknow in India. He was succeeded by Joseph Miller (CE 1817-1825) who had a similar background in steam engines and introduced higher pressures and expansive working to economise on fuel.



William Brunton's 1813 Traveller, as used at Crich quarry for two years (prior to suffering a messy boiler failure during a demo.

Joseph Glyn (CE 1825-1850) continued the trend, supplying paddle wheeler marine engines for the Russian Navy and beam engines connected to scoop wheels for draining the fens. The 60hp Streatham Engine of 1831 has been preserved near Ely in Cambridgeshire. He was followed by Edward Reynolds (CE 1852-1860) who was a member of the Institution of Naval Architects as well as of that of the Civil and Mechanical Engineers – ships were now being constructed from wrought iron and Butterley were providing beams and other components to the shipyards.

The fifth great engineer was Sir John Alleyn, 3rd Bt. (CE 1852-1880) who lived at Chevin House, Duffield and worked alongside Reynolds to begin with, later developing the special ‘Butterley Bulb’ deck beams for warships and deep section joints used in fireproof concrete floors in cotton mills.

The talk was illustrated with some fascinating images – one that sticks in the mind is the interior of St. Pancras train shed nearing completion with a railway wagon loaded with beams of the type used in HMS *Warrior* in the foreground – linking two Butterley products from this period that have survived to the present day.

Ian Mitchell

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The International Early Engines Conference

Conferences are now starting to happen again ‘in person’ rather than online, and one of the first that I have attended was the Second International Early Engines Conference held at the Black Country Museum on 8-10th October 2021. It focused on the first hundred years of steam engine development. A number of the papers related to Derbyshire and may be of interest to DAS members.

Cliff Williams and Steve Grudgings presented ‘The Travels of the Pentrich Engine’. This described the Newcomen type pumping engine dating from 1791 which has just celebrated 100 years as an exhibit at the Science Museum in London. The engine was constructed at Pentrich Colliery by Francis Thompson of Ashover, who was responsible for at least 24 similar engines between 1748 and 1803. The engine was moved to Staveley Lower Ground Colliery in 1819, but returned to Pentrich 20 years later, and worked there up until 1915 when it was recognised as one of the last survivors of its type and preserved.



Ian Castledine’s paper was ‘Chevin Tower – an engine house hidden in plain sight’. He described his research into the prominent local landmark on the hill above Milford railway tunnel. The building has always been associated with the tunnel and there have been various theories about its use as a survey tower during construction of the North Midland Railway, or a means of signalling train movements after the railway opened. This paper presents an alternative theory that the building was an engine house, housing a vertical winding engine linked to two of the shafts that were sunk from the hilltop during the tunnel excavations.

Chevin tower today.

Two papers related to metal mining in the Peak District. Lynn Willies described the 1819 Trevithick water pressure engine from Wills Founder Mine and its re-erection at the Peak District Mining Museum in Matlock Bath, whilst Bill Whitehead talked about the 1788 Boulton and Watt engine at Ecton Mine and the highly ingenious winding mechanism by which it raised ore from a great depth. This talk was brought to life by the speaker’s cartoon illustrations and a splendid model of the winding arrangements, made using the K’Nex construction toy system.

As well as the presentations, the conference included a visit to a preserved water pumping station near Lichfield and the Black Country Museum’s ‘Red by Night’ evening opening, including a live demonstration of forging white-hot metal with a steam hammer.

Ian Mitchell

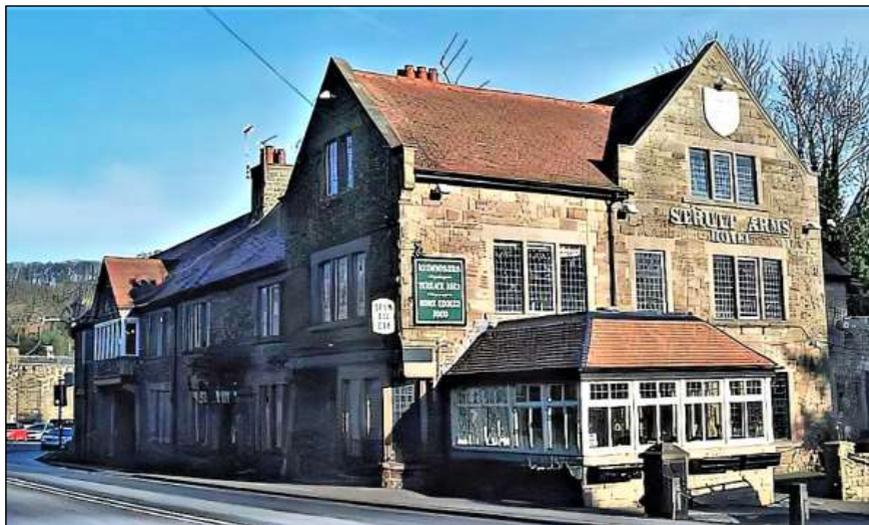
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LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

**Milford Walk: Jane Whitaker
14th August 2021**

On Saturday 14th August Jane Whitaker, a Belper North Mill Guide, took nineteen members around Milford. *Muleford*, in the Domesday Book, was a small hamlet by a ford on the Derwent until the advent of Jedediah Strutt’s cotton spinning mill, built about 1780 using local gritstone from nearby quarries.

Roy Christian rightly compared the area to the mill buildings at Darley Abbey. The site of Strutt's Mill is between the Derwent and the recently restored and re-opened *Strutt Arms* pub which was built on the foundations of a former farmhouse. The pub has the original stone coat of arms of the Strutts above the doorway (not the one the College of Arms allowed to Lord Belper in 1856, though!), but the one on the pub sign is not the original.



The Strutt Arms: built c. 1905 (Col. Maurice Hunter FRIBA for Herbert Strutt) to replace The Beehive, Frederick Staniforth, the landlord, accordingly translated from the old to the new!

Strutt built a lock-up adjacent to his mill to house workers suspected of misdemeanours and even naughty children from the school he built. Strutt built and lived in Milford House (designed by his eldest son, William FRS, an amateur architect and engineer) which later became headquarters of a light engineering firm but is now a nursing home. William Strutt also contrived the weir, although a turbine eventually replaced the water wheel.

Additionally, family-owned farms in the area provided milk and meat for the workers. A butchery was situated near to Strutt's Baptist and Unitarian chapels. Strutt also built gas lamps, now Grade II listed, so the workers could come and go in the dark hours.

In 1790 Strutt built the bridge (again a design claimed by his son William) which carries the main road (A6) across the Derwent and thus by-passes the older road from Duffield Bridge through Makeney; remnants of a toll gate can be seen over a wall.

Over seven hundred employees worked at the mills by 1818, most of them living in nearby cottages which still today line the east side of the main road facing the river. Other cottages are on the steep side of Hopping Hill going towards The Chevin; others line narrow terraces cut out of the hillside. The name Hopping Hill recalls the annual Swan Hopping (called Swan

Upping on the Thames) when in the Medieval period foresters working in Duffield Frith marked the young swans with the badge of the Duchy of Lancaster.

In 1832 the tallest chimney in the Derwent Valley was built at the mill opposite the *Strutt Arms* although some felt it could have been erected as a status symbol. Nevertheless, by 1880 the mills were no longer fit for purpose and were taken over by the English Sewing Cotton Company. Many of the mill buildings were demolished, and new ones had already been built at Belper. Chevin Homes own most of the former mill sites now.

Chris Francis

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**Ian Mitchell: 'Books do Furnish a Room?'
Friday 22 October 2021**

After 18 months since the last in-person talk, the Local History section were pleased to host around 30 members for Ian Mitchell's fascinating discussion about book collecting during the 'long 18th century', inspired by the owners of country mansions who noted that many of the old leather-bound books on display were nothing to do with the house, and had instead been purchased by the yard at Hay-on-Wye 'to impress the Americans'.

The number of books published increased about five-fold each year and by the end of the period there were approximately 1000 across 300 different towns, including 20 in Derby by the 1840s (there had been just three in the 1740s) and 14 other towns in the county with at least one bookseller (compared just two in the 1740s). Although by at least the 1730s Derby booksellers were advertising in the *Derby Mercury*; including Samuel Fox of Cornmarket, Derby. Books could be bought bound or unbound and there was also a very sizeable second-hand market. By 1800, maybe 75% of town dwelling men could read at least a little, though perhaps not much and most of the people buying books would have been able to read them, but they were not necessarily being bought to be read. Reading was a popular pastime, but also about status.

The library was a public room of the house, accessible to visitors, with certain items expected to be found and featuring displays of art and other curiosities, with a sofa and writing table. The 18th century library may be a status symbol, but for some it was more than that, with items frequently rebound to improve display, and the pages bleached to improve appearance.

There is a considerable modern literature available relating to book collecting and a number sources for further study, including trade directories, newspapers, domestic accounts recording book purchases (e.g., Sir Henry Fitzherbert), correspondence of and with booksellers. Of particular note are the published diaries of Edmund Harrold, a Manchester wigmaker and bookdealer and the inventory, published by the Derbyshire Record Society, of Ashover's Titus Wheatcroft, whose varied library included books on the secrets of women in childbirth.

Another notable local bibliophile was William Boothby of Ashbourne Hall (c.1638-1707) whose archives demonstrate that he was a dedicated, demanding and knowledgeable book collector. His letter books reflect the difficulty of ordering books because transport unreliable and roads in poor repair and how particular he was about the binding of his books: 'I design my books for posterity', but also frequently complains about the cost to his main supplier.

Many customers (such as Boothby) were very specific about desires and in their instructions and it helped to build a good relationship with different book shops and sellers. Some collectors had a clear plan, other didn't. The library at Kedleston was at one extreme of book collections, it was not spectacularly large, about 3,000 items, but the quality is excellent: 15th and 16th century publications that would have been regarded as collectors' items when purchased, 18th century novels, architectural tomes. Unlike some stately homes, Kedleston is regarded as well-planned collection. For those who wanted to read and not just admire, there were various private subscription libraries, including the Derby Philosophical Society, The Mechanics' Institute and Alderman Drewry's Book Society in Derby, where the length of loan based on the size of book.



Kedleston Hall, the Library. [M. Craven]

Book collecting was a time-consuming and expensive passion. Dibden describes the symptoms of 'book madness' afflicting the male sex as a passion for large paper, uncut, illustrated, unique, vellum, first editions, 'true editions' and blackletter. The cure for which is directing one's studies to useful and profitable works.

Becky Sheldon

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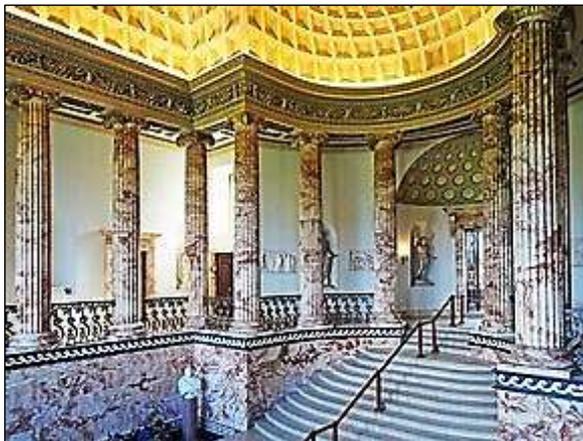
2002 SUMMER TOUR TO NORTH NORFOLK

The much-postponed tour to North Norfolk is now scheduled to take place from Sunday 10th July to Thursday 14th July, 2022. Much of our arrangements remain the same as originally scheduled and we are presently fine tuning the itinerary.

The tour will depart from and return to Derby bus station on a Skills coach and we will be staying in *en suite* rooms at the *Globe* Hotel in Kings Lynn, owned by Wetherspoons. David Carder will be our tour guide.

The rooms are booked on a room only basis, but it is anticipated that we shall all breakfast at the Wetherspoons establishment and the cost of this will be included in the overall cost of the

tour. We are also including three evening meals on the Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday to be taken at the *Stuart* hotel, which is a short walk or taxi ride across the town. The Monday evening meal will not be included or arranged for you, but we anticipate that many will find it convenient to dine at the Wetherspoons. The cost of all visits will be included in the tour price, with the exception of National Trust and English Heritage properties (presently Oxburgh Hall (NT) and Castle Rising (EH) are on the itinerary). Some of the other sites we propose visiting are Holkham Hall, The Thursford Collection, Walsingham, Burghley House and Ely.



Holkham Hall, entrance hall: a riot of Derbyshire alabaster (actually from Fauld, Staffs.) and Ashford Black Marble, sourced by the young Joseph Pickford when his homonymous uncle was contractor to build Kent's stunning house for the Cokes.

Since our initial offering, we feel it prudent to raise the cost to £470. The final amount will be payable in May, less of course any deposit you have paid.

We have nearly a full complement of people who booked for the tour for 2020 and we should be grateful if you could confirm by the end of January, whether or not you intend to travel. If there are other members of the Society who would like a place, please contact Jane Heginbotham with a request for either a double or single room and we will allocate any spare places at the end of January.

Mrs Jane Heginbotham

Jane.heginbotham@btinternet.com

01773 609629

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STRUTT'S NORTH MILL BELPER
Open for Visits in 2022 but, beyond that...?

by Trevor Griffin

Strutt's North Mill in Belper has been open to the public as a museum and visitor centre for over 25 years. Due to the withdrawal of local government funding and the possibility that the building may need extensive restoration in the near future, the opportunity to visit the museum might not exist for much longer.

The building itself is important since it is the oldest intact surviving ‘fireproof’ iron framed mill in the world. There is an older fireproof mill at Ditherington near Shrewsbury but that is now held up by a steel frame whereas the Belper mill remains as built in 1804.

Jedediah Strutt worked in partnership with Richard Arkwright and Samuel Need to build the pioneering mills at Cromford (1771) and Belper (1776). Although Arkwright was the innovator, ideas man and driving force, Strutt had the practical experience of having already built mill buildings and machinery in Derby and Nottingham. Incredibly, the turbines in what is left of the 1776 Belper (South Mill) site are still generating electricity from waterpower today. Or put it another way, power has been generated from water at this site in Belper for the whole period of the existence of the United States of America!

Jedediah died in 1797 and the Belper operations were taken over by his three sons, William, George Benson and Joseph. William was an amateur architect and competent engineer with an interest in solving the problem of how to create fireproof mills. Fires were a major problem for cotton mills with their wooden construction, oily machines, bare candle illumination and inflammable raw material; insurance would have been prohibitive. William was in correspondence with Charles Bage who designed Ditherington mill. He also had several building projects in which he introduced fireproof elements. So, when the old North Mill burnt down in 1803, he seems to have quickly dusted off plans he had developed for a fireproof building and 18 months later the new building was up and running: the building one sees today. It was considered in its time to be a wonder of the age and a model for future mill construction. Indeed, it pioneered modern building techniques that eventually led to the development of skyscrapers.

Visitors can see many of the features that William introduced, including the cockle heating system (which he later used in his design for the Derbyshire general Infirmary) that was widely adopted and was why he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He also installed a hoist, which was a water-powered lift controlled by a boy who spent his working day riding on top of the lift cage. Although there had been lifts before 1804, the original lift shaft is still in use today and is recognised as being the oldest one that has remained in continuous use in the world, another remarkable feature.

The museum displays tell the story of the Strutts, the processes involved in cotton spinning, of the workers and how Belper developed. It has the best display of early cotton spinning in Derbyshire. These include a carding engine, one of only two survivors originally installed in the North Mill in 1804; its partner is in the Science Museum. There is also an original Arkwright water frame and lantern frame from Cromford, a replica Spinning Jenny and mule. Cotton thread from the mill was used to make socks in the town and the displays include an 18th-century framework knitting machine and a later one with Jedediah Strutt’s revolutionary Derby Rib attachment. If the museum closed, all these machines, most of which are on loan,

would be dispersed. A visit means that you can see them all together in a proper cotton mill environment.



Strutt's North Mill: interior with visitors on a typical day.

[Trevor Griffin]

Opening times for the museum are available on the website. There is a small admission charge that includes a free guided tour. Visitors regularly comment on just how much they gain from the experienced guides. The message is simple, visit soon so that you do not miss experiencing this unique site and collection that tells a story of how Derbyshire once led the world.

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ANCHOR CHURCH, DERBYSHIRE by the Editor

We in Derbyshire were much intrigued by the recent study of Anchor Church at Foremark, Derbyshire, an excellent *précis* of which appeared in *Current Archaeology* for October 2021, for the article conveys the impression that the site's antiquity came as something of a surprise to researchers from the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester (the Royal Agricultural College, as was), although it would have come as no surprise whatever to most members of this society!

Edmund Symons and his team enthusiastically recorded and analysed the site and suggested, in an article in *Proceedings* of the University of Bristol Speleological Society that it was not only an aristocratic summerhouse but also a hermit's cave, possibly that in which St. Hardulph of Breedon-on-the-Hill (Leics.) sent his declining years.⁴



Richard Keene: Anchor Church, Ingleby, c. 1860, copied with permission from the Mundy Lysons by the late Don Farnsworth. [Derby Local Studies Library]

None of this, however, is new. Apart from the onomastic clue, ‘Anchor Church’, there are two stories from 12th century annals relating to it. Abbot Geoffrey of Burton, in his *vita* of St. Modwen (her traditional Irish origin has always struck me as dubious; judging from her somewhat Anglicised name, she was surely British⁵) mentions the saint’s dealings with a hermit of Breedon, a possible pointer to the Hardulph supposition.⁶ Another version tells of St. Modwen’s miraculous visit to Willibald, a hermit at Ingleby (in which township the Anchor Chapel lies) and her dealings with a King Aldfrith who, in reality, was a late eighth century

⁴ *Anchor Church, Derbyshire, Cave Hermitage or Summer House?* in *op. cit.* 28 (2021) 3f.

⁵ cf. the legendary Madrun ap Gwethefyr: *Bonedd y Saint* 45, in Bartrum, P C., *Early Welsh Genealogical Tracts* (Cardiff 1966) 61. The same first element, deriving from a Celtic deity, can be found in Madoc; Modwen, allowing for mutation and the addition of *wyn* = white, seems convincing in this context, although the name in its British/Old Welsh form, is unique as far as I know. As Farmer makes clear (Farmer, D. H., *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*, (Oxford 1978) 281) there were three saints of this name, two others being certainly Irish and another Scottish (albeit from a Brythonic speaking part). In the 630s, the date at which the (unreliable) sources place her, Saxon domination had barely been consolidated in the area, cf. Rhygyfarch ap Sulien’s slightly surreal story of St. David establishing a proto-monastic house at Repton: *Buchedd Dafydd*, 13.

⁶ Name, see Cameron, K., *The Place Names of Derbyshire* English Place-Name Society Vol. XXIX, 3 Vols. (Cambridge 1959) III. 635; Geoffrey of Burton, trans. & ed. Bartlett, R., *Life and Miracles of St. Modwenna* (Oxford, 2002) 82f, translated from BL Harl. MS Cleo A.ii; St. Hardulph: Farmer (1978) 183.

Northumbrian ruler, like the supposed *doppelgänger* of St. Hardulph.⁷ Thus, the existence of an eremitical cave in the right place was in fact well known from the 12th century, even if the legends, supposedly relating to events in the mid-seventh century, are fanciful in the extreme

From that, we have a mention of the cave at Ingleby in the Burdett MSS in the Derbyshire Archives at Matlock in 1648, and another in the Repton parish register of a decade later.⁸ In c. 1713, the first Historian of the county, William Woolley, wrote in describing the Burdett seat at Foremark:

‘About half a mile eastward upon the side of the Trent is a large cave dug out of the rock in form of a chapel, still called Anker Church – has been, as tradition informs us, an anchite’s cell and it really is a most solitary, pleasant place.’⁹

The article also refers to Thomas Smith’s well-known painting, now in the collections at Derby Museum, as being dated 1745; in fact that is the date of the well-known engraving made from it, for the painting itself is as little earlier, and its dating is crucial to the dating of the early modern modifications undertaken on the site by the pleasure-bent Burdetts.¹⁰ These initial modifications to the site were almost certainly made shortly after the date of a comprehensive plan (in Derbyshire Record Office) for the re-ordering of the parkland surrounding Foremark Hall of c.1737.¹¹



Thomas Smith of Derby: a fête champêtre at Anchor Chapel, Foremark, c. 1737.

[Derby Museums Trust]

⁷ Farmer, *loc. cit.*

⁸ DRO 5054/18/5

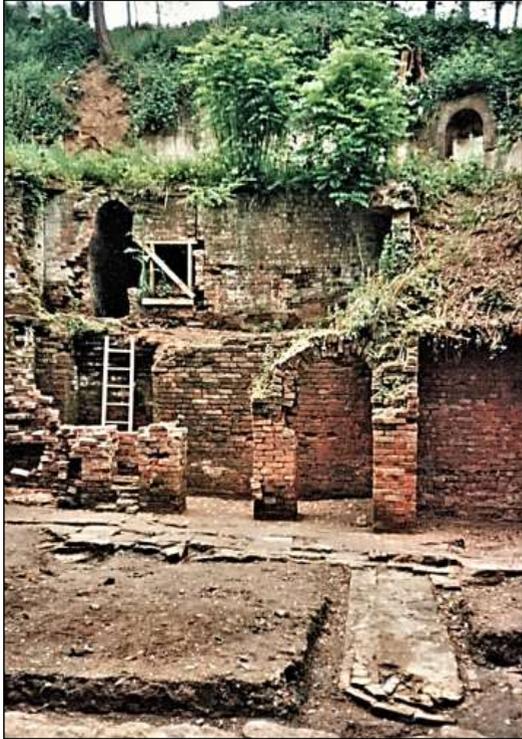
⁹ Woolley, W. (ed. Glover, C., & Riden, P), *History of Derbyshire*, Derbyshire Record Society Vol. VI (Chesterfield 1981) section 109, p. 143.

¹⁰ Engraved by François Vivares and published 8/1745

¹¹ DRO D5054/26/1, thought by the DRO to be possibly by H. F. Gravelot, but perhaps by Thomas Hand.

What Smith painted was a *fête champêtre*, almost certainly held to celebrate the completion of the works and as part of the coming-of-age of the future Sir Robert Burdett, 4th Bt. (1716-1796). In that context, I suspect, comes the later report of the discovery of human bones there, not to mention vestiges of a depiction of the human figure.¹² Some lackadaisical research on show here, perhaps.

That irreverent *bon viveur*, the Revd. William Bagshaw Stevens, Headmaster of Repton, recounts in his *journal* as having travelled to the site by boat *en famille* with the Burdetts (to whose children he was tutor) to dine *al fresco* there in 1790; he also mentions a lengthy poetic inscription he saw there on a later visit.¹³



Sir Robert Burdett was something of a troglodyte, too, having adapted another ancient cave into a *hypogeum* in a bosky ravine on the site of a folly built to replace an eccentric Hardinge family house at Knowle Hill on his estate.¹⁴ The fact that Sir Robert was a Whig and friend of Sir Francis Dashwood, 2nd Bt. (14th Lord le Despencer) of West Wycombe Park, much given to caves and grottos for convivial use, may well be thought instructive here.¹⁵ Other descriptions of the site, all acknowledging its traditional antiquity may be found in *The Beauties of England and Wales* and the Lysons' *History of Derbyshire*.¹⁶

Knowle Hill under excavation by the Landmark Trust July 1991: the entrance to the dining cave is upper right.
[M. Craven]

One wonders whether Edmund Symons knows about that cave (now in the care of the Landmark Trust, on which see above) or the others along the Trent, including at Newton Solney

¹² *Topographer* for the year 1790 II (London 1790), 40; Lysons, S & D *Magna Britannia* vol. V *Derbyshire* (London 1817) 243

¹³ Galbraith, G. (ed.) *Journal of the Rev William Bagshaw Stevens* (Oxford 1965) 55 7 n. 465; inscription: 186

¹⁴ Work done by William Hiorne of Warwick and his assistant, Harford: Burdett MSS, Wiltshire County Record Office, accounts A1/1f

¹⁵ Dashwood: GEC *et al.*, *The Complete Peerage* 2nd rev. edn. Vol. IV (London 1916) 284-285 & n (c)

¹⁶ Britton, J. & Brayley E. E. *The Beauties of England and Wales* Vol. III (London 1802) 401-402, (Knowle Hill: *ibid.* 403); Lysons (1817) *loc. cit*

and elsewhere, as well as the well documented hermitage at Dale Abbey. I must say, I often feel that tapping into local expertise often helps when undertaking these projects and the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, for instance is a veritable treasure house of such expertise.

In sum, one is disinclined to suppose that anyone ever doubted the antiquity of the site, but a close examination of the two Burdett depositories might reveal more about the works actually carried out by the Burdetts which, if better understood, might more closely refine analysis of the site. The connection of St. Hardulph with the site is just as speculative as those of Willibald, St. Modwen and King Aldfrith. The connection, noted in the research, of another Northumbrian ruler, Eardwulf with Hardulph, also rests on late sources and circumstantial evidence, although the iterated Northumbrian link may be instructive, especially bearing in mind the burial in Derby of yet another Northumbria royal exile, King Alhmund (St. Alkmund), allegedly killed by Eardwulf himself c. 800.¹⁷ Strangely, both ended as the victims of *coups* and both ended up laid to rest in the same area.

Now there's scope for further research.

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OPEN AFTERNOON AT STRUTT'S **Anne Allcock and Ian Mitchell**

Now that the DAS library is well established in its new home at Strutt's in Belper, it was decided to hold an open afternoon on 27 November, to give members and non-members a flavour of the material that we hold and of the wider activities of the society.

In at the door came 37 people, despite the weather and about half of those were non-members, which was very encouraging. We had use of the whole of the old school library and so were able to display a considerable amount of material which had not been on view for a very long time. Many of our older books were out for visitors to look at including the lovely Grangerised version of S & D Lysons' *History of Derbyshire*, which we received in a bequest. People enjoyed being able to see all the books at first hand.



Also on display were a selection of some of the holdings we have at the Derbyshire Record Office including photographs and an excavation diary of Duffield Castle from 1957, and a description of the rights, privileges and boundaries of Wigwell Grange in the parish of Wirksworth, according to the old terrier of the Abbot of Darley, with a plan from the 18th century.

¹⁷ Farmer (1978) 10.

Keith Reedman kindly scanned our collection of glass slides from the DRO. None had captions but six were printed off so visitors had fun trying to guess where they might be. The book sales too generated quite a lot of interest. Photos from previous DAS trips and finds from digs were displayed, and it was good to see people examining and asking questions about the material. We also made use of an adjacent meeting room, in which four members gave short presentations on projects undertaken by the society.

The first speaker was Ian Mitchell, on Morley Park Blast Furnaces. Francis Hurt first established an iron working business using water power at Alderwasley on the River Derwent and then went on to purchase the Morley Park estate for its coal and ironstone reserves. The first furnace was constructed at Morley Park in 1780 using coke as the fuel, and a steam engine to generate the blast of air into the furnace. The site was leased to the Mold family in 1811 and they rebuilt the furnace and added a second one in 1818-1825. The furnaces continued to operate until 1874 by which time they were very out of date, and the site then fell into desuetude. Luckily, it was saved when the area around them was opencast, protected as a scheduled ancient monument in 1967. In 1984 they were bought and conserved by the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust. DAS then agreed to act as the custodian for the site and, since 1987, the IAS has organised regular maintenance parties, supported by Historic England who have funded grilles to prevent access to the interior of the furnaces.

The second talk was from Keith Reedman, who spoke about a collection of watercolour sketches of local scenes that was donated to the DAS in 1925. The artist, Zachariah Boreman, was employed by the Derby china works during the late 18th century, and the sketches would have been used as source material for decorating china. They are of considerable interest as they depict contemporary developments, such as the Arkwright and Strutt cotton mills as well as Peak District scenery. For many years the watercolours were held in the society's collection at the Derbyshire Record Office and we were occasionally asked for permission to reproduce one of them, but after a trial with a few examples the society decided to fund the removal of the paintings from the album in which they were contained, and have them professionally cleaned and conserved. The cleaning process revealed writing on the back of many of the paintings, which provided new information on the date and subject matter. Digital scans have been taken, so that a full set of low-resolution images can now be viewed on our website, and we can provide high-resolution copies on request without disturbing the originals. The collection is now on long term loan to Derby Museums Trust where they can be studied alongside their china collection which includes contemporary work by the same artist.

The third speaker was Rosemary Annable, on the topic of Cromford Bridge Chapel, another historic monument in the society's custodianship. This was given to DAS in 1943 by Charles Payne who had bought it with surrounding land from a sale of the Arkwright estate earlier in the century. Conservation work and a limited archaeological excavation was undertaken in the 1950s. The earliest documentary reference to a chapel in Cromford is 1504, and on stylistic grounds the bridge with which it is connected appears to date from the late 14th or early 15th century. It seems likely that the chapel fell into disuse after Richard Arkwright funded the construction of a church for Cromford, and there are references to it being used as two dwellings. Today, three of the walls and foundations remain, alongside a 'fishing lodge' in

separate ownership that continues in use by the local fly fishermen. Unlike Morley Park, the site has not been regularly looked after by the society in recent years, and the time has come when it requires some attention and possibly site interpretation.

The final talk was by Denise Grace, who spoke about two recent community archaeology projects in Belper. The first of these was undertaken behind buildings on Belper Market place where it had been hoped to find traces of Belper Manor House. What was found were remains of walls, floors and a hearth belonging to a small workshop of around the 18th century, used in the preparation of iron. It maybe had a roof supported by posts set in lime mortar on an older floor surface, and could have belonged to a blacksmith, nail manufacturer or farrier. An amazing range of finds was unearthed with pottery from the 19th back to the 9th century, along with clay pipes, coins and metal working debris, some of which was under a later floor surface and contemporary with the earliest pottery. The second project focused on a garden backing onto a footpath in the Laund Hill area of the town. The results are set out in this Newsletter above, pp. 9-10. These finds push the history of Belper back to the Roman era and imply that the Laund Hill footpath is of ancient origin, perhaps a connection to Rykniel Street.

This is the first time the Society has done anything like this for a very long time and we would like to think it fulfilled what it set out to do so many thanks to everyone who made it possible.

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NOTES

THE WIRKSWORTH TOWN TRAIL

CLlr Barry Lewis, Chair of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership (and of the County Council), recently launched the publication of a new town trail for Wirksworth. It links people and places associated with the burst of technological innovation we call the Industrial Revolution. It was written by Barry Joyce MBE for the Wirksworth Civic Society.



On the trail: the editor's favourite Wirksworth places of refreshment: The Black's Head, Market Place, here seen 1st September 2018.

Barry, in congratulating the Wirksworth Civic Society for its enterprise, remarked that the trail was great value for £1 and would, he hoped, give pleasure by revealing places, people and their stories with links to that milestone in our nation's life. He went on to point out that Richard Arkwright was, of course, the principal figure and that he must have looked to Wirksworth as 'the big town', just up the hill from the hamlet in which he chose to develop his system for mass production of cotton thread using water

power. At the same time that he was perfecting his system, by building his big second mill in Cromford, he was also establishing a smaller mill in Wirksworth. Here he used steam power as an experiment to recycle the tiny stream this which powered it.

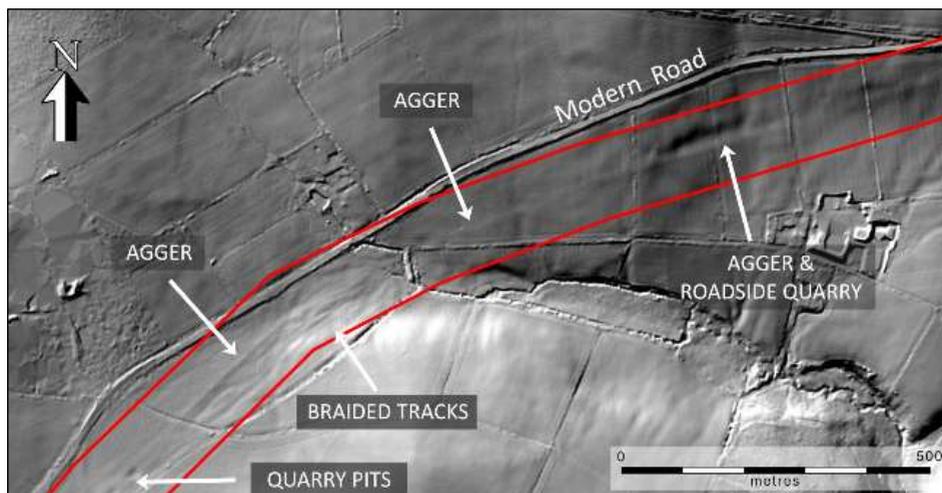
Needless to say, readers will have to get a copy of the trail to learn more about this and the other parts of the story – including about his son, Richard Arkwright, junior and how he became ‘the richest commoner in England.’ He invested vast surplus funds in Topliiss’ Wirksworth Bank in 1804 and transformed it into a joint stock bank called Richard Arkwright & Co. in 1829 which issued currency notes.

The trail is for sale at The Museum of Making in Derby, at Cromford Mill, Scarthin Books in Cromford, Wirksworth Heritage Centre, and various shops in Wirksworth too.

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MOVE OVER THE *VIATORES*: HERE COMES THE RRRRA!

The Roman Roads Research Association (RRRA) was formed in 2015 to advance knowledge of the Roman road network and promote the study of Roman roads and Roman heritage throughout the British Isles. The Association’s work is inspired by the late Ivan D. Margary, whose *Roman Roads in Britain* (1955) remains the most comprehensive gazetteer ever compiled. Now in its fifth year, the RRRRA launched volume I of its Journal, *Itinera* at the end of April this year. Volume II is due out early in the New Year; a pdf version of *Itinera* is available free to members with a print version available to purchase. Membership reached 340 by summer 2021 and continues to climb. The Association’s website, is *Roads of Roman Britain*.



Lidar image of a recently discovered Roman road in Cornwall, showing the characteristic raised mound known as an agger, the quarry pits which provided road material, and braiding - eroded hollows worn by traffic running alongside the Roman road after lack of repair made part of it unusable.

The site features the first phase of the RRRRA's comprehensive gazetteer of Roman roads in Britain, and includes every Roman road in Yorkshire or leading into Yorkshire (53 in total). It also features new interpretations of the British sections of the *Antonine Itinerary* and the *Notitia Dignitatum*. Regular Newsletters have also been published for members. The Association has also mounted a number of lectures so far mainly on Zoom.

The RRRRA continues Margary's work by researching Roman roads using modern technology such as LiDAR, which uses lasers fired from an aircraft to create an incredibly accurate model of the earth's surface beneath any vegetation, revealing surviving archaeology otherwise not visible. New discoveries will be given numbers in accord with Margary's principles and added to a searchable database.

The example on the previous page is of a Roman road in Cornwall, where until recently there was no firm evidence of any Roman roads at all. This was spotted in 2018 but at least one other road has recently been identified in the county during lockdown, thanks to volunteers with the Understanding Landscapes project led by Dr. Chris Smart of the University of Exeter.

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LECTURE PROGRAMME

January – May 2022

We are aiming to hold our talks for the first half of 2022 as hybrid events that can be attended online via Zoom or in person at St. Mary's Church Hall, Darley Lane, Derby, DE1 3AX. The link to register for the online talk will be circulated to members by email the week before each event, and places for non-members to attend online can be booked via Eventbrite. Non-members are also very welcome to attend in person.

Friday 7 January at 7.30pm – Industrial Archaeology Section

Vic Hallam – one man and his company

Robert Mee

From the 1920s to the 1990s, this Langley Mill firm was the leading producer of pre-fabricated buildings (and much more) in the country.

Friday 14 January at 7.30pm – Archaeological Research Group

Work of the Finds Liaison Officer

Meghan King

Meghan King is the current Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, working for both Derby Museums and The British Portable Antiquities scheme, previously working for the Treasure Department at the British Museum. Meghan gained much of her voluntary experience working with previous FLOs; she will talk to us of her work and bring along some finds.

Friday 21 January at 7.30pm – Archaeological Research Group

Rivers and riverine place-names

Dr. Richard Jones

Early medieval place-names offer unique insights into local environmental conditions over a thousand years ago. Focusing on the rivers and riverine-place-names of Derbyshire and neighbouring counties, this paper will explore what these names have to say about the rivers and their behaviour in the past, and how we might draw on this information to live with the growing threat of flooding in the twenty-first century.

Saturday 29 January (experimental time) at 2.30pm – Industrial Archaeology Section

The life & times of Warney Mill in Darley Dale

Tony Bonson

John Else was the miller at Warney Mill from 1847 to 1869 during which time he built a new mill at Warney. Fortunately, many documents concerning John Else's business and the building of the new mill have survived. The talk covers the history of the mill before the arrival of John Else, together with the milling history of the Else family. The story of the mill after John Else's death up to the present day is also covered. John Else's documents have provided the basis of a book that not only tells this story but also gives a glimpse of rural life in the mid-19th century when the world we know today was just emerging.

Friday 4 February at 7.30pm – Local History Section

Tales from the Lichfield Consistory Cause Papers 1558-1730

Richard Clark

From 2016 to 2018 the speaker re-visited the Consistory Cause Papers to further his research for a potential book, *Parishes and Parsons: the Church of England in Derbyshire*. Lots of photographs were taken and the following eighteen months were taken up in writing up cases of interest on a database, after a great deal of transcribing. In the talk Dr. Clark will explore some of the problems these papers pose as evidence and discuss some of the strengths and weakness of what they offer. On the way there will be some of the other stories these papers contain – the occasional whiff of scandal and, perhaps, a source of mirth.

Friday 18 February at 7.30pm - Local History Section

The Old Roads of Derbyshire

Stephen Bailey

Derbyshire has a wealth of old roads, lanes, tracks, holloways and paths, some dating back thousands of years. It is a network which links a fascinating variety of sometimes enigmatic monuments, from fortified hilltops and stone circles to ruined abbeys and hermitages. This talk traces the development of these roads, from prehistoric ridgeways, Roman streets and medieval pilgrimage routes, the growth of the turnpikes (the heyday of the stage coach era) and finally to leisure use by cyclists and walkers. Travellers of all kinds are included: 'jaggers' with their packhorse trains, pilgrims, drovers, higglers, pedlars and tramps, passengers in coaches and waggons, as well as the essential infrastructure of bridges, toll booths and inns.

Friday 4 March at 7.30pm – Industrial Archaeology Section

Powering the Derbyshire Derwent Valley

Ian Jackson

In the second year of his PhD, Ian Jackson is looking at the historic development and use of waterpower in the Derbyshire Derwent Valley, learning from past challenges and solutions to unlock the renewable energy potential in the future.

Friday 19 March at 7.30pm – Local History Section

The Chatsworth Archives and Library

Aidan Haley

The speaker is the Archivist for the Chatsworth Estate, and is also responsible for the library at Chatsworth House. The talk will give an overview of the creation of the archive and how it is cared for and used – there is a lot of interesting research going on. For the library, it will cover its creation, its history, the room it sits in, and some of the key collections.

Friday 25 March at 7.30pm – Society Lecture

The rise and fall of early medieval Mercia

Professor Barbara Yorke

In 800AD it would have appeared that the kingdom most likely to expand so that it would take over all of England was Mercia. Yet less than 100 years later it had all but disappeared as a political entity. This talk will consider the rapid expansion of Mercia from early in the 7th century under a series of exceptional kings, its strengths and weaknesses, and the reasons for its later eclipse by Wessex. Examples will be taken from Derbyshire where possible. Barbara Yorke is Emeritus Professor of Early Medieval History at the University of Winchester. Her publications include *Kings and Kingdoms of early Medieval England (1990)* and *The Conversion of Britain (2006)*.

Friday 1 April at 7.30pm – Society Lecture

Celtic art, craftsmanship and patronage

Dr. Wendy Morrison FSA

The usage of the term Celtic will be defined and discussed, before investigating the earlier Continental precursors of British art, the earliest Celtic art produced in Britain, and the development of various insular styles. We will examine briefly the different techniques for producing decorated objects, and the types of artefacts as vehicles for art with combinations of forms, layouts and elements of design. Also, how art reflected the social standing of owners, the final pre-Roman developments and what happened to Celtic art forms in the Roman-British period. Dr Wendy Morrison currently works for the Chilterns Conservation Board as project manager of the NLHF funded 'Beacons of the Past' hillforts project. She is also senior associate tutor for archaeology at the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. Her research areas are prehistoric European archaeology and landscape archaeology, with over a decade of excavation experience in Southern Britain, the Channel Isles and India.

Saturday 7 May at 2.30pm

Annual General Meeting at Strutts in Belper

Full details will be circulated in the Spring, but there will be a display of material in our Library and a talk or talks in addition to the formal business of the AGM

DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SECTION OFFICERS 2019-2020

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Secretary and CBA representative	Janette Jackson
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Council representative	Peter Robinson



Fragments of a medieval burial slab found in a farmyard at Trusley. It is presumed to have come from the ancient church there, replaced in 1713. The word 'Nasere[th]', with reversed 'N', can be made out on the upper fragment. Nothing heraldic obtrudes.

