

Friends of the Centre for English Local History

NEWSLETTER

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Friends of the Centre for English Local History - Public Benefit Statement

Our objectives are to provide financial and other support to the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester, and to its students, and to support the study of local history more generally.

Membership of the Friends is open to anyone with an interest in local history – no qualifications are needed, and there is no need to have been a student of the Centre for English Local History, or of the University of Leicester. Members receive a number of benefits. These include an invitation to local history seminars and an annual lecture, which are free of charge, and free use of the research library at the Centre. The Friends of the Centre for English Local History also organises a programme of study days, weekends, conferences and outings, which are open to members and non-members alike. The annual lecture is also open to non-members, upon payment of a small entrance fee. These events aim to increase people's knowledge about local history.

The Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester is widely respected because it helped to found local history as an academic discipline, and because it continues to be a source of high quality research and fresh ideas. It remains unique because it is devoted to the study of local history everywhere in England and Wales. The Friends of the Centre for English Local History provides bursaries and financial support to MA and PhD students who wish to pursue courses or research within the Centre, including payment of, or towards, course fees, the cost of field courses and research-related travel expenses. This helps students in financial need from any part of the world and all walks of life to pursue their interest in English and Welsh local history at the highest level.

The Friends of the Centre for English Local History also assists the Centre by providing volumes for its library, which students and members of the Friends may use for their research, and by assisting both financially and with practical help in the organisation of academic conferences, which further the spread of knowledge and are open to everyone with an interest in the subject. A small publication programme also makes high quality research available to anyone.

The cover picture shows an old thorn tree with mistletoe on the Shire Ditch between Herefordshire and Worcestershire, near British Camp.

Photo; © Sylvia Pinches

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EDITORIAL

This is my first Editorial of the Friends' *Newsletter*, a task I have undertaken with some trepidation. Anne Pegg is a hard act to follow; I am very grateful to her for her advice, but acknowledge that any mistakes or failings in the following are all my own, despite the help of Ann Workman with proof-reading. I am also very grateful to everyone who has written reports of seminars and events or sent in items of news.

For this really is the newsletter for everyone involved with the Centre for English Local History – staff (salaried and honorary), students, alumni and those who, not having not studied at CELH but sharing an interest in the subject and the 'Leicester approach', have become members of the Friends. If you are a newly-enrolled student, welcome. I hope that in reading through this you will gain an understanding of the breadth of activity and interests of staff, students and Friends, and of why an academic department (oh, all right, Centre) should have Friends. Membership of the Friends (and all students are automatically members) is a way of keeping in touch with the Centre and with friends in the broadest sense. It also enables one to pursue an interest in local history by attendance at seminars at the Centre and at outings, lectures, conferences and study weekends organised by the Friends.

The financial proceeds of Friends' events are used to support the Centre, the students in particular, in a variety of ways. From the very outset, when set up by the late Harold Fox, one of the key objectives of the Friends was to raise money to provide grants for students. This is still at the core of our charitable work; in the current economic climate it is perhaps more necessary than ever.

One other important activity is the publication of Occasional Papers. These are often, though not exclusively, outstanding M.A. dissertations. The length of a dissertation makes it difficult to publish – too long for an article and too short for a monograph; hence the Occasional Papers series. This summer we have published:

No. 10, M. Tedd, *Naming in Anstey 1850-1950: a Mirror of Social Structure*

Sylvia Pinches

THE CENTRE REPORT

The Centre over the past year has comprised Professors Peter King and Keith Snell, Professor Kevin Schürer (who is also the University Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research), Dr Richard Jones, Dr Andrew Hopper, and Dr Simon Sandall. In addition, we have four Postdoctoral Research Fellows: Dr Richard Ward, Dr Zoe Dyndor, Dr Emmanuel Berger, and Dr Pam Fisher. There are 16 honorary fellows involved in the work of the Centre as well. The Centre continued to flourish this year, indeed we have never had so many postgraduate students, notably people doing PhD degrees with us. We have had over 70 postgraduates working with us this year, on all historical periods. In addition, we are teaching large numbers of undergraduates, on about nine undergraduate modules.

Our external examiners are full of praise for our students' work, writing to the Vice-Chancellor about its originality and high quality, saying how publishable it is. This has been very gratifying.

Many projects have been underway this year, conducted by members of the Centre. Among these have been a major joint project on 'Harnessing the Power of the Criminal Corpse'; another on 'Death and community in rural settlements: changing burial culture in small towns and villages, 1850-2007'; one on 'Peasant farming in the west midlands, 1200-1540'; with further projects on 'Digging Into Data; or 'The Integrated Census Microdata'; and work on 'The County Community in Seventeenth-Century England and Wales'.

Members of staff have published over 25 scholarly publications, including five edited books.

Conferences have included 'Spotlight on the Centre', organised by the Friends of the Centre; the Fairfax 400 Conference; and a crime historians' workshop, and plans are underway for other events of this sort. These will include, for example, conferences on trials and juries, and on welfare history. Centre staff have given papers at many conferences elsewhere, such as at the Universities of East Anglia, Bath, Oxford, London, Warwick, the Open University, at Bolsover Castle, and in Istanbul, Oslo, the Orkneys, Berne, and in Finland.

Dr Simon Sandall has set up our ELH blog, which is proving very successful. We hope that all readers will enjoy this and engage with it: <http://centreforenglishlocalhistory.blogspot.com/>

Among initiatives underway in the Centre are:

An application to Shell to revive the 'Shell Guides' to British counties, as a complex web resource. The sums involved are large: £2,000,000, rising to £10,000,000. This involves ELH and TV programme makers, and will shortly go before the Shell Board of Directors. A detailed multi-faceted web presentation on Leicestershire has been created as a forerunner.

An application is being drafted for a £1,000,000 Wellcome Trust grant to develop a gallery on care for the soldiery and horses at the projected Naseby Battlefield Visitor Centre.

We are taking steps to secure digital scanning equipment which will allow us to create high-quality digital images from our extensive historic Hoskins-Attenborough photographic collection, and to digitize both ELH maps and our large collection of antiquarian prints. Related web resources are planned. This will transform our Map Room into a different kind of facility, of great benefit to us all.

An application to Norman & Underwood for £120,000 to employ a researcher to write a history of this famous Leicester company – this was initiated by the company, and is now being considered by them.

A grant application of about £1,000,000 for Research and Engagement in the UK's Agricultural Heritage, and the History of UK Food Security.

Co-ordination is underway between the Centre and the new Centre for Medical Humanities. This liaison is clearly something that will develop further in the coming years, given shared academic interests, for example in welfare history.

Among our other work, ELH staff are very heavily involved in external refereeing: the ESRC, British Academy, AHRC, Wellcome Trust, Leverhulme, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Australian Research Council, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), the Francqui Foundation, and so on. We have also been very active in media participation: e.g. Time Team; Radio 4 programmes; Michael Wood's *The Story of*

England, a history of Kibworth (our staff assisted the presenter in that, which followed from an earlier Centre book on Kibworth), and then were involved in *The Great British Story: A People's History*, about which we have been much consulted. Peter King will have been widely heard on the Radio 4 programmes, *Voices of the Old Bailey*. Our very long-standing contributions to the Victoria County History for Leicestershire continue strongly, currently in a funding bid for £300,000. W.G. Hoskins and Richard McKinley did much to pioneer this from within English Local History, writing so much of the original volumes, and their work has since been sustained through the efforts in particular of Christopher Dyer, Peter King, Andrew Hopper and Pam Fisher.

The main aim of the Centre continues to be the production of highly original, cutting-edge research, of an interdisciplinary kind, promoting comparative and public understanding of English and Welsh local and regional history (and thus national history), that relates to issues of current public concern, supplying a model of best historical practice for local and regional history which we hope will be emulated internationally.

Professor Keith Snell, Director

Dr Simon Sandall

I joined the Centre for English Local History as a Teaching Fellow in October 2011. Prior to this, I completed my BA in English Studies and MA in Early Modern History at the University of East Anglia. In 2009 I completed my PhD as part of an AHRC-funded project on popular memory at the University of East Anglia. My research interests are in the areas of custom, popular politics, popular protest and local legal cultures in early modern England. My doctoral work examined the nature of collective memory and its relation to the organisation of popular protest in the Forest of Dean between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. My current work pursues the role of popular litigation in containing violence, reassessing the relation between the central state and local communities during this period. I am also planning work on the relation between poverty and consumption in the particular cultural climate of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Dean.

Seminar programme 2011-2012

Prof. Mick Aston (Time Team and University of Bristol), 'The Winscombe Project, Somerset. The how and why of a local study'.

Professor Aston (or Mick as he preferred to be called) described how he had spent 20 years on the Shapwick project and he had been quite determined not to get involved in a study of his home parish of Winscombe in Somerset. However his curiosity overcame his resolution and he is now absorbed in the Winscombe Project. Although the two parishes are very dissimilar the lessons learnt from the Shapwick Project are proving very useful

Winscombe parish is well-documented and well-mapped. There is no Anglo-Saxon charter but adjacent estates do have them. In the late twelfth and early thirteenth century this estate became the property of the Dean and Chapter of Wells Cathedral, resulting in a wealth of documents to the nineteenth century. In medieval times the parish contained 22 documented dispersed settlements. It included part of Somerset Levels, upland pasture, some arable areas and quite a large amount of woodland, now mostly gone. In the drained marshlands in particular there was a system of land holding called Old Auster Tenure, which was peculiar to Somerset. In the medieval period there was no stinting and widows did not have to pay entry fines.

Another reason for doing the Project was that a lot of work had been done by other people, such as Maria Forbes, Caroline Thorn (now deceased) and Frank Thorn. At least 20 people are involved in the project. Ann Brooks of Manchester University has studied the influx of villas and mansions in the period from c1780 to 1930. Three architects who worked in the parish were William Railton (1801-1877), William Burges (1827-1881) and George Oatley (1863-1950). Other useful sources were the watercolours of Edward Theodore Compton and the writings of local historian Francis Knight.

There are several historic maps, which are providing useful information. These include a survey of c.1540 done for the Duke of Somerset. Another map showed the position of old lead mine shafts. In 1792 William White produced a map for the Dean and Chapter of Wells Cathedral.

Surveys have been conducted on the dates and condition of the older buildings, which are found mainly in the more remote settlements. There is an area of earthworks in the north of the parish and these have still to be investigated. Another deserted medieval hamlet called Wyke has been discovered. A very important technique has been the digging of 72 test pits in the search for pottery and other archaeological evidence. Probably as many as 500 pits will be needed.

It is important to tell other people, including the local community, about the aims and findings of the project. Mick emphasised that there are social reasons as well as academic ones for getting absorbed in this project. Informative leaflets are produced, talks are given in village halls, field trips organised and there is always a stall at the village fête.

Dr Frances Richardson (Kellogg College), 'The Women Farmers of Nantconwy, Snowdonia, 1750-1900'.

The question posed by Dr Richardson was why were there proportionately more women farmers in Wales than in England, and within Wales, a particularly high proportion in this part of south-eastern Caernarvonshire, from the lowlands of the Conwy valley to the high land on the flanks of Snowdon? The 1851 and 1901 censuses provide bare figures: in 1851 9% of farmers in England were women, while the average for Wales was 15%; the figure was 20% in Caernarvonshire and 22% in Nantconwy. Yet by 1900 the figure had fallen to c.13%, against the local and national trend. Sources for Nantconwy for the century before the 1851 census may have under-recorded female farmers. The 1748 Land Tax, for example, only recorded chief tenants and showed a mere 10% of female farmers while the 1840 tithe records showed 16%. Dr Richardson then addressed questions about the type of agriculture and the forms of land tenure and local culture that may have influenced the number of women farmers.

By 1850 the traditional pattern of leases for lives was giving way to annual tenancies. Major landowners, many of them absentee, tended to give the widow the first option, or failing her, a son or other relative. Rents were often in arrears and it was easier to let the family continue farming rather than to try to get the money from the deceased's estate and find new tenants.

However, widows were not given lower rents or other preferential treatment. There are examples of women running the farm for a year after their husband's death before notifying the agent and applying to take on the tenancy – thus proving that she could manage. The experiences of such women varied from Margaret Jones who ran the 600-acre Blwch Cynnyd farm for 42 years, despite rent increases of 26%, to Ellin Williams of Coetmore who could not pay the increased rent and surrendered the bulk of the farm, retaining only one quarter.

These Welsh farmers' wives, especially on the small holdings which were the norm, played an active part in the management of the farm and at death the majority of farmers left stock and implements of husbandry to their wives. There is evidence that the widows really did run the farms, though in some cases allowing a son to manage on her behalf, while she was nominally head of the household. Such women had social status but little real power – there are no recorded women churchwardens in Nantconwy nor were they jurors in the manor court. A few better-off widows sold up and moved to the market town of Llanrwst, but for most women there was little alternative to farm work. One consequence of widows' tenancies was that it was difficult for sons to get leases themselves. Sometimes children and grandchildren ran their own stock on the farms of their parents or grandparents. In an area originally devoted to a little arable and to cattle-rearing, sheep became more important in the 19th century, as did the neighbouring slate quarries which provided alternative employment for the young men of the farms. Landowners found it increasingly difficult to find tenants and sold off large tracts of land to sporting and quarrying syndicates. Small-holdings were thrown together and the number of farmers declined – whether men or women.

Dr Stuart Jennings (University of Warwick), 'Civilian Experience in Newark during the English Civil Wars 1640-48'.

Much has been written about the effect of the 1640-48 military campaigns on Newark, but what do we know about the everyday lives of the mass of people swept up in the bitter conflict between the King and Parliament? Dr Jennings has made a meticulous study of surviving slips of parchment written by ordinary people and local petty

officials, including letters, accounts and diaries. These overlooked scraps of day to day life help to give us an understanding of bigger questions.

For instance, how did people decide which side to support? John Twentyman kept an account of the war. In it he states that when the King left Newark, taking with him the three loyal regiments, the town was left undefended and emptied of gentlemen. 'In November', he wrote, 'a troupe of Parliamentary cavalrymen appeared from Lincolnshire to claim the town'; but far from giving in, the townsfolk turned out in defence of their town, loyal to their King. Twentyman's nephew was sent to fetch the muster drum. His loud beating brought out civilian men and women armed with bricks and pitchforks, who routed the Parliamentary troupe. You could argue that Newark folk simply hated Lincolnshire 'Yellowbellies', but the people were also demonstrating a strong allegiance to the local Royalist gentlemen.

Another question concerns horses. When Henderson arrived with 4,000 troops how were their horses accommodated? Horses require pasture or, lacking pasture, oats and beans to eat. All of these became increasingly in short supply for two reasons. Firstly, to protect the medieval walls from canon fire massive earthworks were constructed and faced with turfs cut from pasture up to five and six miles away. Secondly, the hungry townspeople were having to eat the oats and beans. Colonel William Staunton's accounts show that the horses had to be taken as far away as north Leicestershire to find grazing land.

The wars imposed huge financial burdens on ordinary people and, often, ruin. A petition, surviving because a lack of parchment forced Alderman Thomas Waite to write his will on its back, is a heart rending plea from a widow destitute after her house was burned 'by a grenado' and all her goods destroyed. With her husband dead where were she and her seven children to go? Other parchment slips record the huge sums demanded of village folk by both Royalists and Parliamentarians.

The records that have shocked Dr Jennings most record the high mortality of ordinary Newark folk. Parochial records were maintained throughout the wars showing that typhus was rampant, killing around a quarter of the civilian population. Plague was also present in Newark. John Twentyman stated that plague arrived with Prince Rupert,

coming from Bristol, where plague was endemic. Deaths subsequently rose 200-300%. To try to stem the spread of infection townspeople were shut into their houses with oatmeal and beer brought to them, door to door, as recorded in the constables' accounts. When the garrison finally surrendered and marched out of the town they took plague with them into the whole of north Nottinghamshire. The constables' accounts, however, record only civilian deaths. Presumably, the soldiers billeted with civilian families suffered equally from typhus and plague. With this in mind, a close watch is now kept on any rebuilding in Newark in the belief that somewhere there may be an undiscovered military plague pit.

Dr Jennings's meticulous research has 'enabled us to hear the hidden voices of those who were there, and carried the brunt.'

Prof. Elizabeth Edwards (Director: Photographic History Research Centre, De Montfort University) 'Locating Histories: the photographic survey movement, 1885-1914'.

Former CELH MA student, Prof. Edwards is an historical and visual anthropologist with particular interests in photographic history.

The photographic survey movement came into being at a time of rapid change. Modernity was bringing with it anxieties and there were constant local reminders of the disappearance of the cultural past. The movement owes its existence to Jerome Harrison who, in 1885, promoted the idea of survey projects. Debate in the photographic press led to five such surveys (based on local photographic societies) being initiated between 1888 and 1889. This included the Warwickshire Photographic Survey, of which Jerome Harrison and Benjamin Stone were both members. It was Stone who in 1897 formed the National Photographic Record Association and these photographic archives began to be deposited at the British Museum.

In total 77 surveys have been identified with greatly varying coverage. Some, like Exeter and Yorkshire have no surviving photographs at all, whilst others like Surrey have 12,000. The aim had been to make a permanent, representative photographic record of existing buildings, landscapes, archaeology, ethnography and even notable persons. The amateur membership of these surveys was expected to apply their skills

and local knowledge to contribute material for the later use of other scholars. The work of 1,000 of these photographers has survived, represented by 55,000 photographs, believed by Edwards to be generally unseen since they were deposited. Locally, the surveys would occasionally exhibit their work but the overall impression is that the collections 'disappeared into the archives'; dissemination did not appear to be a primary objective. The photographs are usually to the highest of technical standards, thoughtfully composed and exposed, often with high aesthetic values even though it was for the information they contained that the photographs were taken. The surveys were usually based around local photographic societies whose members were more likely to be borough engineers than antiquarians.

Edwards is particularly interested in the photographer and the subjectivity of the process. Their local knowledge of how light fell on buildings, aided by the then new ordnance survey maps meant that a degree of planning could go into each photograph. This was not photojournalism but history writing through photographs. Most surveys began with the usual church, manor house etc. but the self-conscious visualising of the local that drove the process meant that the interests of each survey member became significant. Kent and Sussex societies closely observed the timber-framed buildings of their counties whereas King's Lynn became obsessed with ecclesiastic subjects, particularly church interiors and exteriors. The movement was not concerned with social improvement but the modern was not always ignored; the Norfolk movement, for example did record shoe factories, railways, political suffragettes and in 1911 an aeroplane! There was clearly little exchange between regions.

This movement was overtly nostalgic but none of this detracts from the benefit present-day historians can gain from the collections.

A full exposition of this paper is now available in Edwards' monograph *The Camera as Historian: Amateur Photographers and Historical Imagination, 1885-1918*, published in 2011.

Prof. Ann Hughes was unable to give her paper on 'Preachers and hearers in Revolutionary London, 1640-1660'. In her absence, Profs. **Steve King and Keith Snell** gave a presentation about the new Centre for Medical Humanities. See the article on p. 39.

Dr Amanda Capern (University of Hull), 'Women and Land in Early Modern Yorkshire'.

Female land ownership is a neglected area of research. Dr Capern is collecting a data base of early modern women's land ownership, regardless of the acreage owned, using a variety of primary sources including letters, memoirs, title deeds, rent rolls and land tax assessments. To what extent did female land holding define women's relationships within families? Is the strongly held view that widows received only a life interest in their land actually true? Was there a female counterpart to the male concept of landownership, with all its social expectations? Did land descend only with the male line and the male name?

In early modern Yorkshire female landowners seem often to have lived on 'old' land, with old houses and old churches. For instance, Anne Clifford, born 1590, inherited her father's lands in Yorkshire and Cumbria on his death in 1605. During the Civil War her church at Ninekirk, Cumbria was destroyed. In her 1659 diary she records how she employed craftsmen to restore it. Today you can still walk across the fields she owned to her church of St Ninian's, Ninekirk, and admire the box pews, pulpit, screen and poor box as they were when completed in 1660-62, whilst the plasterwork above the sounding board still boast her initials. She also oversaw the restoration of other churches and buildings including her castles at Skipton and Broughham. Anne Clifford exhibited a strong sense of place. She marked the spot where she and her mother last met in 1654 with a cross. She noted the births of her grandchildren and the places where they stayed, specifying whether on her land ('the lands of mine inheritance') or without.

How was land transmitted from one generation to the next? Between 1600 and 1800 around fifteen per cent of leasehold land was inherited by women. Anne Clifford experienced years of litigation following her inheritance. She kept her deeds and documents securely in her own strong box. Other women are recorded as having to hide their title deeds to keep them secure. They could be threatened, or experience actual violence, or be held against their will in attempts to force them to part with their land. Arabel Thompson, for instance, despite violence and physical abuse, and being forcibly kept in a convent, spent her life refusing to sign away her possessions. A woman could protect the inheritance of her land by giving

it away to her chosen heir during her lifetime. This could be a way to disinherit sons. Between 1600 and 1750 a little more than a quarter of women who owned land left their land to female heirs. Women owning land had rights by law but were increasingly denied by custom. During the nineteenth century the law eroded women's rights associated with land ownership.

David Stocker (English Heritage), 'New Lords for Lincolnshire: making an impression on a remote county'.

David Stocker, Honorary Visiting Professor of Medieval Studies at Leeds University, presented a paper on work carried out over many years with Paul Everson. He aimed to present a biography of a place, Tattershall in Lincolnshire, concentrating on the way that possession of this estate symbolised political power over the centuries. He examined how the landscape of ritual had altered over those years with changing occupants, and how the landscape had been deliberately manipulated in order to give the castle and estate at Tattershall its context. Tattershall Chase lies at the foot of the 'Linwood', an ancient forest, and was the traditional gateway to Lindsey, giving it a strong strategic position. Place-names show this to have been an early hunting estate. On the northern edge of the estate were a number of moated houses, producing, for example, timber, tannin, charcoal, lime and bricks.

The Domesday Lords soon adopted the name *de Tateshale*, and their lands included the Cistercian Abbey at Kirkstead. The relationship between the abbey and the secular lord was significant. The chapel of St. Leonard, all that now remains of the abbey, was built on its southern edge. Its dedication is significant, as St. Leonard was a 6th-century French hermit, who asked the French king for an enclave in the forest. A formal agreement between the abbey and the Tattershall estate in 1299 set up a *cordon sanitaire* within the monastery land where hunters were not permitted. The chapel acted as a private and privileged entrance to the monastery for the lords of the estate – the public entrance was to the north. It represented the boundary between secular and religious, between life and death.

In the 13th century, Tattershall became the *caput* of the region, receiving a market charter in 1201, and licences to crenellate in the 1230s. In 1419, the estate passed to Ralph, Baron Cromwell, Lord

Chamberlain and later Lord Treasurer. He built the still-standing 'tower on the moor'; brick-built and standing prominently above the landscape, it acted as a fantasy castle, showing his dominance over both county and landscape.

Following the dissolution of the monasteries, the estate was held by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk (it subsequently passed to the Clintons, the Earls of Lincoln, in 1574). Brandon's actions in relation to two of the monasteries he controlled were particularly symbolic. At Barlings Abbey, a house was built on the site, leaving the ruins of the abbey intact to display the ruinous consequences of opposition to the crown. Kirkstead was reformed as a hunting lodge, along with stud farm and kennels – the *cordon sanitaire* was thrown into the Chase! Throughout the changes of history, successive owners of the estate used its position, and the relationship with the religious houses, in different, but equally significant ways, to prove their own dominance of the landscape.

After an interesting paper, illustrated with photographs, engravings and maps, the question session included a discussion on the symbolism of the use of brick as a building material on the Tattershall estate, and the nature of the early medieval hunting grounds in Lincolnshire.

Dr Lorie Charlesworth (Liverpool John Moore's University), 'On considering the poor law from a legal perspective in national and local history'.

As so many of the staff and students, past and present, of CELH have an interest in aspects of the poor law, there was a full house to hear Dr Charlesworth discuss issues which she had covered more fully in her recent book *Welfare's Forgotten Past: A Socio-legal History of the Poor Law*, (Cavendish-Routledge, 2010).

Dr Charlesworth is an academic lawyer and took the stance that historians do not fully appreciate the intricacies of the law. Although during the course of her lecture a few specific points were made that helped us poor historians appreciate the process of law (explaining that a writ of *certiorari* was the best means of appeal for a pauper, challenging the Overseers on a procedural error, for example), there was more heat than light in her presentation. She castigated historians who have wrongly suggested that 'black letter law' was modified at local level, rightly pointing out that while the law might be ignored by Overseers

and JPs, it could not be modified by them. However, her contention that no social historian is working on the legal aspects of the poor law elicited an audible drawing in of breath around the room.

One strand of her discourse centred on whether paupers had a *right* to relief. She maintained that there was no originating act that established such a right. During the, at times animated, discussion which followed, it was pointed out that early Tudor legislation was predicated upon the moral right of the poor to relief. A long and lively discussion followed, about whether lawyers and historians could work together to understand these important questions. The jury is still out.

Prof. Chris Woolgar (Southampton), 'Cultures of food in late medieval England'.

Chris Woolgar presented a paper on research carried out in preparation for a forthcoming book on the cultures of food. The talk was broken into four separate sections: elite cuisine, ecclesiastical food, demotic food and the role of women, and changing technology, though his published work will cover much more.

To begin with, he examined the position of food in the noble household, with its emphasis on thin and spicy sauces, and the recurring aim that food should be 'reshaped'. He also explained the restrictions placed on food by religion, with around half the days of the year (Fridays, extra days in Lent and Advent, saints days) requiring abstinence from meat. With several examples given of guild feasts, including menus with as many geese served as there were diners, Professor Woolgar also looked at the foreign influences on elite gastronomy (there are numerous examples of foreign cooks being employed). In the elite household, food was overwhelmingly prepared by men, but the nature of events was such that large numbers of other staff, including children, would be brought in to assist. Despite the desire that their food should stand as evidence of their status, there is still evidence of use of 'ordinary' foodstuffs in elite households.

Food in the monasteries saw significant changes in the late medieval period, with a gradual relaxation of the stringent rules set by St. Benedict, and the introduction of more meat into the diet. Professor Woolgar touched on the elaborate rules concerning the preparation and

consumption of cheese, of which vast quantities were eaten (the abbot's table at Abingdon was supplied with around 40lbs of cheese a day). The concept of food as a reward was also a feature of monastery life.

Whilst the kitchen was the domain of the man in the elite household, the role of the woman was dominant in peasant and modest households. Evidence for common food culture is, understandably, more difficult to find, and Professor Woolgar discussed some of the areas where glimpses into the medieval kitchen can be found, for example in heresy trials and inventories. It is clear that a strong link existed between the kitchen and the garden, and the female was dominant in both. It was also found that peasant food emulated that of the elite where possible; for example, prepared sauces would be used, but containing items available in the garden rather than expensive spices.

Finally, looking at cooking paraphernalia and technologies, we saw the change from the simple pot-over-a-fire technique in the early medieval period, to the introduction, in the richer households, of the kitchen range by the end of the period. Along with this came truly specialist items which can be identified from personal papers, such as eel-pots, lamprey-spits, and pottage dishes.

The question session included a discussion on garlic, the effect of sumptuary laws on food, medicinal uses of food, the falling price of spices, and the culture of food within military units.

Prof. Mark Stoye (University of Southampton), 'The Prayer Book Revolution of 1549'.

Professor Stoye started by outlining the background and causes of the uprisings in Devon and Cornwall which have become known as the Western Rebellions. The reign of Edward VI heralded the start of a stricter Protestant kingdom with action in 1549 to ban Catholic doctrine and ceremony enforced by the Act of Unity. The Book of Common Prayer was to be printed in English and injunctions were issued that in all services English was to be used.

The first major revolt began in June 1549 with a gathering at Bodmin, then the largest town in Cornwall, led by the mayor Henry Bray and two Catholic landowners Sir Humphrey Arundell and John Wynslade. A number of the gentry and their

families took refuge in St Michaels Mount just off the coast near Penzance where they held out for three days. This proved to be a turning point in Cornwall where support for the rebellion grew out of a real affection for the old religious ways. Despite the fact that almost 50% of the population in West Cornwall spoke Cornish they were familiar with the services in Latin. The rebel cause was not just supported by artisans, miners and farmers but also by a number of the gentry and priests.

In Devon there was much support for the retention of the old ways galvanised in particular by an incident at Sampford Courtenay where the parishioners forced the priest to revert to the practice of using Latin for the service. The justices tried to overcome this insurrection a week later but in this incident a local man was killed with a pitch fork. This event attracted the attention of many followers who were glad to join the contingent of rebels from Cornwall making their way through Devon. With numbers swelling to around 7000 they marched on Exeter where they lay siege to the city for five weeks. The authorities were naturally perturbed by these events and Somerset sent Sir Peter Carew with a force who firstly tried to negotiate but eventually had to confront the rebels but they were beaten at Crediton. In July an army of 8000, containing many foreign nationals, under the command of Lord John Russell made their way to Exeter where the rebels were eventually routed at the Battle of Clyst Heath. This engagement was one of the bloodiest ever recorded at the time with even experienced commanders commenting on the vicious slaughter. Eventually the rebellion was defeated at Sampford Courtenay; the leaders Arundell and Wynslade were duly caught and executed in London.

During the siege of Exeter the rebels had drawn up a list of demands that included that the Cornish language be used in the prayer book, that the gentry be limited to one servant only, and amongst others that baptism be permitted on weekdays rather than Sundays only. It has been said that this was the start of the disappearance of the Cornish language although Welsh retained a dominance despite similar restrictions on its use.



Centre publications 2011-12

Staff

Keith Snell

(Professor of Rural and Cultural History)

Co-edited Journal

Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture, 22:2 (October, 2011), 120 pp.

Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture, 23:1 (April, 2012), 120 pp.

Articles in Journals

'Belonging and community: understandings of 'home' and 'friends' among the English poor, 1750-1850', *Economic History Review*, 65: 1 (2012), pp. 1-25.

'The MA in English Local History, at the Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester', *Local Population Studies Newsletter* (Autumn, 2011).

Articles in edited volumes

'Tolpuddle, Dorset', in D. Musgrove (ed.), *100 Places that made Britain* (London: BBC Books, 2011), pp. 300-303 (co-authored with the editor).

Reviews

Maggie Smith-Bendell, *Our Forgotten Years: a Gypsy Woman's Life on the Road* (2009), in *Rural History*, 22:2 (2011), pp. 276-8.

Kate Tiller (ed.), *Berkshire Religious Census, 1851* (2010), in *Oxoniensia* (2012).

George Redmonds, *Turi King and David Hey, Surnames, DNA, and Family History* (2011), in *History* (2012).

Peter King

(Professor of English Local History)

Articles in Journals

'Urbanisation, Rising Homicide Rates and the Geography of Lethal Violence in Scotland 1800-60', *History*, 96, July 2011.

R. Jones

(Senior Lecturer in Landscape History)

Books

R. Jones (ed.), *Manure Matters: Historical, Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2012).

Articles in edited volumes

'Thinking through the manorial affix: people and place in later medieval England', in R. Sylvester and S. Turner (eds), *People and Place in Medieval England* (Oxford: Oxbow, 2012), pp. 255-71.

'Why manure matters', in R. Jones (ed.), *Manure Matters: Historical, Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2012), pp 1-12.

(with P. Cullen), 'Manure and middens in English place-names', in R. Jones (ed.), *Manure Matters: Historical, Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2012), pp. 97-108.

'Understanding medieval manure', in R. Jones (ed.), *Manure Matters: Historical, Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2012), pp. 145-158.

(with C. Lewis), 'The Midlands: medieval settlements and landscapes', in P. Stamper and N. Christie (eds), *Rural Medieval Britain and Ireland, AD 800-1600: Settlements, Landscapes and Regions* (Oxford: Oxbow, 2012), pp. 186-205.

Andrew Hopper

(Lecturer in English Local History)

Books

Jacqueline Eales and Andrew Hopper (eds.), *The County Community in Seventeenth-Century England and Wales, Studies in Regional and Local History Series*, 5 (Hatfield: University of Hertfordshire Press, 2012).

Andrew Hopper (ed.), *The World of John Secker, 1716-1795, Quaker Mariner* (Norwich: Norfolk Record Society, 75, 2011).

Articles in journals

‘Turncoats and Treachery’, cover article, *History Today*, vol. 62, 9, September 2012.

Reviews

B. Kane, *The Politics and Culture of Honour in Britain and Ireland, 1541-1641* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), in *Journal of Early Modern History*, 15 (2011), 466–8.

S. Marsh, *The Battle for London* (Stroud: Amberley Publishing, 2011), in *The London Journal*, 37:2 (July, 2012), pp. 142-3.

A. Walsham, *The Reformation of the Landscape: Religion, Identity and Memory in Early Modern Britain and Ireland* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), in *Rural History*, 23:1 (April, 2012), pp. 119-20.

Simon Sandall (Teaching Fellow)

Articles in journals

‘Social psychological perspectives on sixteenth-century English rebellion’, *Journal of Integrative Physiological and Behavioural Science* (submitted for publication June 2012).

‘Protest and fraternity in the Forest of Dean, c. 1550-1640’, *Fruhneuzeit-Info* (submitted for publication June 2012).

‘The Jerningham family of Costessey: recusant gentry in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century East Anglia’, Published through the School of History, University of East Anglia (August 2011).

Christopher Dyer (Leverhulme Research Fellow; Emeritus Professor of Regional and Local History) (Includes items omitted in the last *Newsletter*)

Books

A Country Merchant: 1495-1520. Trading and Farming at the End of the Middle Ages. (Oxford: OUP, 2012).

Caldecote, Hertfordshire: A History of the Village (Caldecote, 2010).

(with Andrew Hopper, Evelyn Lord and Nigel Tringham), *New Directions in Local History since Hoskins* (Hatfield: University of Hertfordshire Press, 2011).

(with Matthew Tompkins), *Dartmoor’s Alluring Upland: Transhumance and Pastoral management in the Middle Ages* by Harold Fox (Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 2012).

Articles in journals

‘Excavations and documents: the case of Caldecote, Hertfordshire’, *Medieval Settlement Research*, 24 (2009 [publ.2010]), 1-5.

‘Philip Rahtz and medieval rural settlement’, *Medieval Settlement Research*, 26 (2011) [publ. 2012]), 75-8.

Articles in edited volumes

‘Methods and problems in the study of social mobility in England (1200-1350)’, in S. Carocci (ed.), *La Mobilità Sociale nel Medioevo* (École Française de Rome, 2010), 97-116.

‘The crisis of the early fourteenth century. Some material evidence from Britain’, in D. Boisseuil, P. Chastang, L. Feller and J. Morsel (eds.), *Écriture de l’Espace Social. Mélanges d’Histoire Médiévale Offerts à Monique Bourin* (Paris, 2010), 491-506.

‘Luxury goods in medieval England’, in Ben Dodds and Christian D. Liddy (eds.), *Commercial Activity, Markets and Entrepreneurs in the Middle Ages. Essays in Honour of Richard Britnell* (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2011), 217-38.

‘Modern perspectives on medieval Welsh towns’, in R.A. Griffiths and P.R. Schofield (eds.), *Wales and the Welsh in the Middle Ages. Essays presented to J. Beverley Smith* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2011), 163-79.

With Paul Everson, ‘The development of the study of medieval settlements, 1880-2010’; (with Keith Lilley), ‘Town and countryside: relationships and resemblances’, in Neil Christie and Paul Stamper (eds.), *Medieval Rural Settlement. Britain and Ireland, AD 800-1600* (Oxford, 2012), 11-30, 81-98.

‘Harold Fox: his contribution to our understanding of the past’, in Sam Turner and Bob Silvester (eds.), *Life in Medieval Landscapes. People and Places in the Middle Ages* (Oxford: Windgather Press, 2012), 8-14.

‘The late medieval village of Wharram Percy: farming the land’; ‘The late medieval village of Wharram Percy: living and consuming’; ‘The inventory of William Akclum and its context’, in

S. Wrathmell (ed.), *A History of Wharram and its Neighbours* (Wharram, a Study of Settlement on the Yorkshire Wolds, 13, York University Archaeological Publications, 15, 2012), 312-27; 327-40; 342-9.

‘The value of fifteenth-century Inquisitions Post Mortem for economic and social history’, in M. Hicks (ed.), *The Fifteenth-Century Inquisitions Post Mortem. A Companion* (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2012), 97-115.

Reviews

D. Rollison, *A Commonwealth of the People* in *Times Literary Supplement*, 24 Sept. 2010, p.10.

K. Pitt, *Finsbury’s Moated Manor* in *Med. Arch.*, 54 (2010), pp. 519-20.

Victoria County History of Sussex, vol. 5, part 2 in *Archives*, 36 (2011), pp. 92-3.

B. van Bavel, *Manors and Markets; Economy and Society in the Low Countries, 500-1600*, in *Bijdragen en Mededelingen betreffende de Geschiedenis der Nederlanden [Low Countries Historical Review]* 126 (2011), pp. 105-6.

A. Chapman, *West Cotton, Raunds. A Study of Medieval Settlement Dynamics*, in *Medieval Archaeology*, 55 (2011), pp. 415-16.

N. Higham and M.J. Ryan (eds.), *Place-Names, Language and the Anglo-Saxon Landscape*, and *Landscape Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England*, in *Medieval Settlement Research*, 26 (2011), 80-1.

J. Luiten van Zanden, *The Long Road to the Industrial Revolution*, in *American Historical Review*, 117 (2012), pp. 271-2.

P.D.A. Harvey, *Manors and Maps in Rural England*, in *Rural History*, 23 (2012), pp. 111-13.

K. Tiller and G. Darkes (eds.), *An Historical Atlas of Oxfordshire*, in *Midland History*, 37 (2012), pp. 118-19.

Translations

An Age of Transition, original published 2005, translated into Chinese (Beijing, 2010).

Honorary Visiting Fellows

Alan Fox

Articles in edited volumes

‘Regional variation in farming terminology, 1500-1720’, S. Turner and B. Silvester, eds, *Life in Medieval Landscapes; People and Places in the Middle Ages: : Essays in Memory of Harold Fox* (Oxford: Windgather Press, 2011).

Reviews

P. Bysouth, *Hertfordshire’s Icknield Way: Nineteenth-Century Migration Frontier and Marriage Obstacle* (EAH Press Cambridge, 2010), in *Local Population Studies*, 86 (2011), pp. 110-112.

Graham Jones

Articles in edited volumes

‘Constantine and his mother build a city: Helen of Edessa and Martyropolis’, in Miša Rakocija (ed.), *Niš and Byzantium. Tenth Symposium, Niš, 3-5 June 2011. The Collection of Scientific Works X* (Niš: University of Niš, 2012), pp. 481-507.

Reviews

The Victoria History of the Counties of England. A History of the County of Cornwall, Volume II. Religious History to 1560. By N. Orme; with a contribution from O. Padel (2010), *Antiquaries Journal* 91 (2011), pp. 373-4.

Paul Cullen, Richard Jones and David N. Parsons, *Thorps in a Changing Landscape*, *Explorations in Local and Regional History* 4 (Hatfield: University of Hertfordshire Press, 2011), *Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions* 85 (2011), pp. 195-97.

The Searcher: The Journal of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, 2 (Spring 2011), *Art and Architecture, Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions* 85 (2011), pp. 198.

Mark Page

Articles in journals

‘Shops and Shopkeepers in Medieval Hampshire: Evidence from Fareham and Havant before the Black Death’, *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society*, volume 66, 2011, pp. 153-65.

Articles in edited volumes

‘Rotherfield Greys’, in *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire, XVI, Henley-on-Thames and Environs*, ed. Simon Townley, (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2011), pp. 266-302.

‘Rotherfield Peppard’, in *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire, XVI, Henley-on-Thames and Environs*, ed. Simon Townley, (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2011), pp. 302-37.

‘The Smallholders of Southampton Water: The Peasant Land Market on a Hampshire Manor before the Black Death’, in *Life in Medieval Landscapes: People and Places in the Middle Ages. Papers in Memory of H.S.A. Fox*, ed. Sam Turner and Bob Silvester, (Oxford: Windgather Press, 2012), pp. 181-97.

‘Town and Countryside in Medieval Ivinghoe’, *Records of Buckinghamshire*, volume 51, 2011, pp. 189-203.

Sylvia Pinches

Articles in edited volumes

(with J. Cooper), ‘Herefordshire’, in J. Beckett, M. Bristow, E. Williamson, *The Victoria History of the Counties of England: a Diamond Jubilee Celebration* (London: University of London, 2012), pp. 56-7.

Kate Tiller

Books

Religious Census Returns 1851 for Berkshire, Berkshire Record Society, 14 (2010), lx +133pp.

Associate Editor for UK entries for C. Kammen (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of Local History* (Alta Mira Press, US, 2012);

Articles in journals

‘Local History and the Twentieth Century: an overview and suggested agenda’, in *International Journal of Regional and Local Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (2011).

Articles in edited volumes

‘Chapel people in 1851: the example of Berkshire’, in C. Skidmore (ed.), *Changing faces of chapel and chapel people* (Chapels Society, Miscellany 2, 2010).

‘The Place of Methodism. A study of three counties’ [Berkshire. Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire], in P. Forsaith and M. Wellings (eds), *Methodism and History* (Oxford, 2010).

‘Civil War 1642-1649’; ‘Early Modern Shops and Shopkeepers’; ‘Agriculture 1750-1970’; ‘Labouring Lives’; ‘Education in the Nineteenth Century’; ‘Church and Chapel in 1851’; and (with Chris Gilliam) ‘Poor Relief 1834-1948’; in K. Tiller and G. Darkes (eds), *An Historical Atlas of Oxfordshire* (Oxfordshire Record Society, 2010, reprinted 2012).

‘Local History in England’ and ‘Local History in Ireland’, in Kammen, op.cit.

Matthew Tompkins

Editor

(with C. Dyer), *Alluring Uplands: Transhumance and Pastoral Management on Dartmoor, 950-1550* by H.S.A. Fox (Exeter: Exeter University Press, 2012).

Articles in edited volumes

‘Counting houses: using the housing structure of a late medieval manor to illuminate population, landholding and occupational structure’, in S. Turner and B. Silvester (eds), *Life in Medieval Landscapes: People and Places in Medieval England: Essays in Memory of Harold Fox* (Oxford: Windgather Press, 2011), pp. 225-238.



Book launch of Harold Fox's Dartmoor's Alluring Uplands



The book at Hound Tor

Photo ©Richard Jones

As every Friend by now surely knows, Harold Fox's posthumous book, *Dartmoor's Alluring Uplands: Transhumance and Pastoral Management on Dartmoor, 950-1550*, came out this year, published by the University of Exeter Press. The book was formally launched by the Press on Monday, 12th March 2012 at Nicholl's Hall in Lydford in Devon. Fifty invited guests assembled, including Harold's siblings, Jo Peters, Phoebe Kelly and Frank Meeres and other family members. Also present were Mick Aston, Roger Kain, Colin Platt, Ros Faith, Todd Gray, Frances Griffith (Devon County Archaeologist), the author Ian Mortimer, who lives on Dartmoor, and representatives of several Devon local history societies and journals. Some Lydford residents also joined the throng, it having been announced in the parish church the previous day that a book about Lydford was to be launched.

The University of Exeter Press generously provided wine and other refreshments, and the assembly enjoyed four informative and witty talks about the book and its author by Chris Dyer, Tom Greeves (a Dartmoor archaeologist), Andrew Fleming of St David's College, Lampeter (author of *The Dartmoor Reaves*), and Anna Henderson of the Press. Such praise was heaped on Harold's originality of approach, important findings and skill in presenting them in readable and elegant prose that afterwards copies of the book flew off the Press' stand, manned by Helen Gannon (though one local resident, leafing through her newly purchased copy, was heard to complain that the book hardly mentioned Lydford at all). Matt Tompkins was even asked to autograph a copy - a first!

Lydford was an appropriate venue for the launch, as this former Anglo-Saxon borough on Dartmoor's flanks was the administrative centre for the moor in the middle ages; many of the records Harold consulted would have been created in the town. A poster made for the launch, illustrating the extensive research in original medieval records which underpinned Harold's scholarship, is now on display in the hallway of Marc Fitch House - on it can be seen a photo of a court roll of the manor and forest of Dartmoor, recording a court held at Lydford in 1479. The court would probably have been held in Lydford castle, which still stands, but might perhaps have taken place in the Castle Inn next door, to which Chris and Jenny Dyer, Matt Tompkins, Tom and Elisabeth Greeves, Andrew Fleming and Ros Faith adjourned after the launch for an excellent lunch.

The event was marked by unnaturally perfect weather; blue skies, warm temperatures and gentle breezes showed Dartmoor's softer side, and many of the guests took the opportunity to combine the event with visits to the moor's antiquities, such as the deserted medieval hamlet of Hound Tor, much referred to in the book.

For those of you who have been in a cellar for the last few years, the book had almost been completed when Harold sadly died in 2007, leaving a partially typed-up manuscript that still needed some work before it could be published. Matt Tompkins and Chris Dyer edited the book and completed it, helped by many people who provided illustrations and information, and by financial support from Harold's family, Eleanor Vollans and the Friends. It is the first book to be written about medieval Dartmoor for more than a century, and takes as its central theme the importance of Dartmoor as a pasture for lowland Devon. Every summer up to 10,000 cattle were driven up well-defined drove-ways to the moor's extensive pastures. Before the Norman Conquest keepers from the lowland communities stayed on the moor with their animals, milking cows and making butter and cheese in seasonally-occupied huts. Later the animals were left for months in the care of herdsmen employed by the crown and of local farmers - these were mainly beef cattle, from which lowland farmers made good profits because demand for beef was increasing.

Matt Tompkins

W. G. Hoskins' description of the landscape created by the medieval colonisation of the wastes of Devon:

It also brought into being a new kind of landscape, or rather, one which had rarely been seen in earlier centuries: a landscape of small, enclosed fields (often hardly more than an acre or so in size) surrounded by hedge banks that resembled the walls of a fortress. On and around the Moor, especially, the massive boulders and blocks of granite - - strewn about as though by a giant hand - were picked up and carried to the boundaries of the new fields to form titanic walls of rubble masonry. The long lane from the highway into the farmstead was lined on either side by such walls, as at Cholwich Town today; the little fields of pasture and corn were bounded by them; and the farmhouse and its buildings were constructed of the same natural unhewn material:

The old well-trodden lane
Shaded with broad-leaved sycamore, and
hung
Along its rocky sides with soft green moss
And sunny stonecrop: at whose farther end
The open porch, beneath o'er-arching boughs
Gleams like a welcome.

Between these thousands of new farms ran narrow lanes, winding, climbing and falling, linking farm to farm, or farm to highway, each parish having a network almost completely independent of the next. It is in these generations between 1150 and 1350 that the characteristic Devonian landscape was born; the lanes, the small irregular fields, the little parish church, alone among the trees, with its late-Norman or Early English font.

W.G. Hoskins, *Devon* (1954; *Devon Books*, 1992)pp. 71-2.

NEW YEAR ON DARTMOOR

This is newness: every little tawdry
Obstacle glass-wrapped and peculiar,
Glinting and clinking in a saint's falsetto. Only you
Don't know what to make of the sudden slippiness,
The blind, white, awful, inaccessible slant.
There's no getting up it by the words you know.
No getting up by elephant or wheel or shoe.
We have only come to look. You are too new
To want the world in a glass hat.

Sylvia Plath

Papers presented at seminars, conferences etc.

Staff

Peter King

Organised the Crime Historians day workshop at the ELH Centre, March 2012.

‘The Geography of Homicide in Nineteenth-Century Britain; Exploring and Explaining Spatial Patterns of Lethal Violence’ at the ‘Making Sense of Violence?’ Conference, University of Bern, September 2011.

Lecture to the British magistrates association on the history of the summary courts – at British Academy in London – Oct 2011.

‘The Killing of Constable Linnell. The Impact of Xenophobia, and of Elite Connections in Shaping Eighteenth-Century Criminal Justice’ to the Early Modern Seminar, Leicester University Oct. 2011.

Paper/comment The ESRC sponsored Penal Cultures Conference, Nottingham, March 2012.

Inaugural lecture, Leicester University May 2012, ‘Homicidal crime Across Space and Time. Why are some Countries so Much More Murderous than Others?’

Paper/detailed commentary on papers at the Conference on the Comparative History of Poverty at the German Historical Institute London, May 2012.

Opening plenary lecture, on ‘Patterns of Interpersonal Violence and the State’s Changing Use of Different Forms of Execution in England and Europe 1750-1900’ at the ‘Violence, Power and Society’ Conference, University of Jyväskylä, Finland June 2012.

Richard Jones

‘Thorps in Yorkshire’, Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland Annual Conference, University of York, 29 October 2011.

‘Making sense of place in Anglo-Saxon England’, Shaping Anglo-Saxon Landscapes, University of Oxford, 10-12 February 2012.

‘Heritage and the unmaking of the English landscape’, Heritage and Sustainability,

University of the Highlands and Islands, Kirkwall, Orkney, 28-30 May 2012.

‘What’s in a place-name?’, BBC Great British Story, Appleby Magna, 8 July 2012.

Andrew Hopper

‘The world of John Secker, the Quaker Mariner’, for the Norfolk Record Society, St Nicholas Church, Great Yarmouth, 8 September 2011.

‘Turncoats and Renegadoes during the English Civil Wars’, National Army Museum, Chelsea, 22 September 2011: this public lecture is available on video www.nam.ac.uk/whats-on/lunchtime-lectures/video-archive/turncoats-renegadoes.

‘The Hothams and the Civil War’, The History of Tudor and Stuart Yorkshire, BALH Day Conference, University of Hull, 5 November 2011.

‘From Pennine yeoman to city gentleman: the social mobility of Captain Adam Eyre’, Spotlight on the Centre, 18 February 2012. A revised version of this paper has recently been accepted for publication in *Social History*.

‘To what extent did Cromwell’s death signal the return of the monarchy?’, Sovereign Education A2 Lectures day entitled ‘Cromwell and the British Crisis of State, 1642-1667’, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, 12 March 2012.

‘William Cavendish, Marquis of Newcastle as a Royalist General’, The Horse as a Cultural Icon Conference sponsored by English Heritage, Bolsover Castle, 14 April 2012.

‘Images of Fairfax in Modern Literature and Film’, Fairfax 400 Conference, Centre for English Local History, 30 June 2012.

Conference Organiser: Fairfax 400, University of Leicester, 30 June – 1 July 2012.

Simon Sandall

‘Emotions in common: protest and affective bonds in the Forest of Dean, c. 1550-1640’, History and Social Psychology Workshop, London School of Economics, July 2011.

‘Social drama, collective memory and popular protest: the Forest of Dean “Skimmington” riots, 1628-32’, International Society for Cultural History Annual Conference 2011, University of Oslo, August 2011.

‘Protest and fraternity in the Forest of Dean, c. 1550-1640’, Justice and Authority in East and West before 1800 Conference 2011, Swedish Research Institute, Istanbul, October 2011.

‘Custom and popular memory in the Forest of Dean, 1580-1680’, School of Historical Studies: departmental research seminar, University of Leicester, February 2012.

Co-organised the conference and gave the closing address ‘Folklore, protest and community in the Forest of Dean, 1600-1632’, Folklore and popular belief in the British world, 1500-1900 Conference, University of East Anglia, May 2012.

‘Neighbourhood and betrayal: the Walsingham conspiracy of 1537’, *The Experience of Neighbourliness in Europe, 1000-1600 Conference 2012*, Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, Bath Spa University, May 2012.

Honorary Visiting Fellows

Graham Jones

‘Forests and Chases of England and Wales’, poster display at Deer and People conference, organised by the University of Nottingham, held at the University of Lincoln, 8-11 September, 2011.

‘Bartlemas – a rare and precious survival of national importance’, ‘Medieval hospitals – and looking after lepers’, ‘A king, a jester, and a saint who challenged Satan’: Series of poster displays for the University of Oxford, Dept. of Continuing Education, East Oxford Community Archaeology Project, Oxford, September-November, 2011.

‘Location, location, location: Leper hospitals in the landscape’, University of Oxford, Department of Continuing Education, East Oxford Community Archaeology Project, Oxford, 9 December 9, 2011.

‘Europe – The long view’, Stamford (Lincolnshire) European Studies Group (U3A), 12 April, 2012.

‘The Marriage of the Rains of May: Cross-cultural windows on the ethnographic reception of Constantine and Helen’, Nîs, Annual Ss Constantine and Helen Conference, 3-5 June, 2012.

Mark Page

‘The Victoria County History of Northamptonshire: Corby before Industrialization’, Oct 2011 to Uppingham Local History Group

‘A Northamptonshire Forest Village: Corby from the Middle Ages to 1870’, March 2012 to Lyddington Manor History Society

Sylvia Pinches

‘A parish through the prism of an Easter and Tithe Book: Ledbury, 1597-1607’, 10th Parish Symposium, University of Warwick, 25-27 May 2012.

Kate Tiller

‘English Local History: the state of the art revisited’, Wolfson Lecture, University of Cambridge, May 2011.

‘Doing Local and Regional History’, Open University, Milton Keynes, November 2011.

‘Oxfordshire: anatomy of a county’, Oxfordshire Family History Society, January 2012, and talks to various local societies.

‘Parsonages: a social history’, University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall, March 2012.

Inaugural Lecture

Professor Kevin Schürer, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise gave his inaugural lecture on 20th March 2012. He took as his topic ‘The Local Historian’s Theme: Revisited’.

Professor Schürer explained how the Centre for English Local History had helped to found local history as a respected academic discipline since its formation in 1948. In a press release before the event, he said:

“The main challenge local history has faced is its ability to be recognised as a legitimate sub-discipline within university-based history teaching.”

“The Centre for English Local History has had a huge impact over the past 60 or so years. It helped to fundamentally shape the direction of local history and establish it as a respected and justified sub-discipline of history.”

Prizes, Awards and Appointments

John Nichols Prize

The winner of the John Nichols Prize 2012 was Professor Philip Batman for his dissertation 'The survival of Rural Core Families: Bolton Percy and Poppleton in the Ainsty of York from Enclosure to the Second World War'.

The John Nichols Prize is awarded annually. The value of the prize is £100. Briefly, the rules are as follows:

Essays must be submitted on or before 31 December. They must be typewritten, on one side of the paper only, with double spacing for the text, and single or double spacing for the footnotes. They must not exceed 20000 words in length, excluding footnotes. References should be given at the foot of the page, and preferably in the forms adopted as standard in the publications of the Centre. Communications should be addressed to John Nichols Prize, Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester, Marc Fitch Historical Institute, 5, Salisbury Road, Leicester, LE1 7QR. A stamped, addressed envelope should accompany the typescript.

Readers currently on the MA course or who have just finished their dissertations should note that unrevised dissertations may be submitted provided that they have achieved a distinction.

McKinley Prize for the best Dissertation

The McKinley Prize 2012 was awarded to Professor Philip Batman for 'The survival of Rural Core Families: Bolton Percy and Poppleton in the Ainsty of York from Enclosure to the Second World War'

University Merit Award

Congratulations to Andrew Hopper, who in April 2012 won a University Merit Award in recognition of his contribution to the university over the past year

Andy is now the Admissions Tutor for the School of Historical Studies, and will also be taking over from Pete King as Admissions Tutor for English Local History for the next academic year

College Prize

Mandy de Belin has been awarded one of the Doctoral Inaugural Prizes by the College of Arts, Humanities and Law for the academic year 2010-2011. Her thesis was entitled 'Transitional Hunting Landscapes: Deer Hunting and Foxhunting in Northamptonshire, 1600-1850'. It was originally supervised by Harold Fox, with Christopher Dyer and Richard Jones taking over when Harold retired. Mandy delivered her doctoral inaugural lecture entitled 'The Hunting Transition: Deer, Foxes, Horses and the Landscape' on 29 February 2012. She has also been appointed an Honorary Visiting Fellow in the Centre for English Local History for the valuable work she will be performing for the Naseby Battlefield Project in designing materials for their landscape history galleries.

Grants

Richard Jones has received a £54,000 AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award in association with VCH Leicestershire, 'Connecting Charnwood: a medieval woodland landscape in Leicestershire, its internal and external links'.

Outreach

Appleby Magna Grass Roots Festival, 8 July 2012

Professor Kevin Schürer, Dr Richard Jones, Dr Andrew Hopper and Dr Simon Sandall were part of a strong University contingent attending this event in association with the BBC's 'Great British Story', hosted by the Sir John Moore Foundation at Appleby Magna. Andy highlighted the work of the Centre and Richard spoke on place names. Simon delivered a presentation on 'The Memory Palace of Charnwood Forest', with a series of 'hands on' activities relating to reading the landscape of eighteenth-century Charnwood. Dr Pam Fisher from Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust provided information to visitors on how they can unravel the many layers of changes that most parish churches display to discover more about the history of their village, whilst Dr Julie Attard talked about the Victoria County History in Leicestershire.

Devon Field Course April 2012



The Class of 2011/12 at Brent Tor.

This year saw a small, but perfectly formed, group of six students on the annual trip to Devon – the size of the group meant that we could travel down by minibus, ably driven by Richard Jones, rather than under our own steam. Likewise, once there, the minibus made a far more convenient means of transport in the narrow Devon lanes than a 54-seater would have done.

On arrival at Exeter on Saturday, we found ourselves on the top floor of the highest hall of residence on the campus – and no lift! That was going to be fun. An even bigger shame was that they hadn't got us booked in for an evening meal until Monday - so off to the local Wetherspoon's (The Imperial Hotel) for dinner.

They were expecting us for breakfast on Sunday morning, but we hadn't been expecting to share our meal with a crowd of rugby players dressed as Roman soldiers!

Other than that, it was a fairly normal day. If you can call it normal to dash around the south of Devon for over 10 hours, with no more than two hours in any place. Some fascinating discoveries for all of us, and a few conundrums, including for Richard. What, for example, is the Brutus Stone in Totnes? And what is the purpose of the crooked chimneys to be seen throughout the South Hams? A trip into Exeter for a curry rounded off Sunday - most enjoyable!

Monday saw us venturing onto the moors for the first time. We were joined for the day by Drew Campbell who had done the course several years ago in the company of Harold Fox. Our first stop was at Lustleigh, where Drew promptly dashed to the aid of a woman who had caught her fingers in the mechanism of a pushchair! Then on to Hay Tor, with its fascinating quarries and tramway, and a walk down to the cottages. Then Hound Tor. This was a special place for Harold Fox, and it was appropriate that Richard carried with him a copy of Harold's posthumous work, *Dartmoor's Alluring Uplands*. After lunch at Widecombe, Richard decided to add an extra stop into the planned itinerary. Grimspound is an excellent site, with numerous bronze-age hut circles in a fine state. Then a drive around Princetown and a stop at Dunnabridge Pound before returning to Exeter, where, for once, there was a meal waiting for us!

It is regularly stated that it never rains on the Devon trip. This year it didn't rain - it poured! But we were mainly lucky, the only time we were totally caught in it being on the Tuesday afternoon when we were left to our own devices in Exeter – imagine a group of us each sheltering under our own tree on Southernhay! Our views about Exeter University fell further that evening, when we went for dinner only to be told that we had to go to a different building to eat. It wouldn't have mattered if we'd known earlier, but now we had a choice between risking the rain or climbing back up 14 floors to collect our coats!

Wednesday saw us at Topsham and Broadclyst, followed by a pretty disastrous trip to Cullompton. I wonder if this town will feature in future itineraries. The church was locked, but a notice on the door informed us that staff at the neighbouring community centre could let us in. Unfortunately, this was news to the manager there! Not all of us were disappointed at not visiting the interior - one of our team has a phobia of churches, and another has little interest in them. Finally a wander around Whimble took Richard back to his student days, and attracted the interest of a frisky herd of cattle.

Up to the north of the county on Thursday, visiting Chittlehampton, Appledore, Stoke and Bideford. And Friday we returned to Dartmoor. The drive there took us through a torrential hailstorm, but by the time we arrived at Brent Tor the weather had calmed down. Breathtaking views! And the walk around Merrivale, with its

combination of pre-history and tin-mining, was one of the highlights of the week. A visit to Tavistock and Lydford brought the course to a close, with just the journey home on Saturday to deal with.

So that was that – a fascinating week. Richard put so much work into it, for which we are all most appreciative. But two themes, two periods, two counties? What's that all about????

Robert Mee

According to Harold Fox, many medieval Devon cattle were red: 'for example, in court rolls of Ashprington for 1440 (a cow), of Werrington in 1366 (a bull) and of Holsworthy in 1399 (an ox). The court rolls of Dartmoor itself reveal other examples. It should be added that there is some difficulty in reconciling this good medieval evidence with what other writers have said about the colours of post-medieval livestock types in Devon.'

Fox, Devon's Alluring Uplands, p. 47



Caption Competition:

1. New recruits gather to apply for the 2012 M.A. course.
2. Reinforcements are brought in to help Richard search for Mary (*see last year's newsletter!*)
3. Richard's lecture on the '*History of Manuring*' attracts much attention.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PhD THESES

Liz Allan

‘Chepyng Walden/Saffron Walden 1439-90: a small town’

There is scope for clarifying characteristics that distinguish small towns in the Middle Ages both from larger and lesser settlements and from each other. This will involve investigating their economy, their role in their area and their social structure and government.

The topic of urban decline in the period has been the subject of much debate and small towns, of course, are relevant to this, while potentially having features which make their experience distinctive. Chepyng Walden increased dramatically in wealth and population during the later Middle Ages and has an unusually large and rich corpus of contemporary documents in which to seek explanations.

It has been called a ‘cloth town’, yet in this period its relationship to the nearby cloth area which was very prosperous in the early sixteenth century was not overtly a primary generator of its expansion but the role of the saffron industry was publicly acknowledged at the time by clear references. Both the economic structure of at least parts of Walden’s region and its opportunities in distant markets had distinctive characteristics in which an increasingly dominant and relatively close London played a significant part.

Though lacking the multiple layers of larger towns, the structures of society and government were clearly defined. A distinct elite, already evident by 1440, and in which mercers were particularly prominent, became more oligarchical, over the period concentrating its power in the Holy Trinity Guild, which by the early sixteenth century was the effective government. Nevertheless, the courts of the manor and borough struggled with considerable disorder and disregard for custom, which were doubtless influenced by the increasing population and notable disparities in wealth. There are signs, too, that though the burgesses’ rights were limited, the elite themselves felt increasingly able to show disrespect for manorial institutions.

Congratulations to member John Young, who has been awarded a PhD from the University of Birmingham. The title of his thesis is ‘The Gloss

Graham Brown

‘Stanley Abbey and its Estates 1150-c.1640’

This thesis assesses the impact of a Cistercian monastery on the landscape and how, in its turn, the landscape influenced the monastery. It also tests some of the traditional early ideals of the Cistercians such as their attitude to colonisation, land clearance, administration of their territory and dealings with secular society. This study also goes beyond the monastic period and examines what effect the suppression of the monastery had on the landscape and community.

The research of monasteries has tended to be insular and concentrate on the recording of their standing fabric or the excavation of the church and conventual buildings; however, this thesis approaches the subject from a different perspective and examines not only the abbey but its territory using archaeology, architecture, documents and map evidence in a holistic, ‘landscape’ manner.

In order to understand why the monks chose Chippenham Forest for their monastery the geomorphology of the region and the pre-monastic landscape is first assessed since it probably affected later colonisation.

Using the earthwork survey plan of the abbey features within the precinct are identified. It is clear that, following its suppression, the west range of the abbey was converted into a mansion house with gardens and parkland beyond, which are revealed on the plan. Similarly, archaeological evidence would suggest that similar conversions were undertaken at some granges.

The abbey’s granges were located in diverse locations; some were in isolated positions while others were on the edge of existing settlements. It is also clear that the monks held manors at an early date, but within some of these manors there were also granges, thus the monks held a compact blocks of land in severalty, but also owned the demesne with tenants owing dues to the abbot.

and Glossing: William Langland’s Biblical Hermeneutic’.

M A Dissertations 2012

Philip Batman

‘The survival of Rural Core Families: Bolton Percy and Poppleton in the Ainsty of York from Enclosure to the Second World War’

This study examines families in two parishes near York, Bolton Percy and Poppleton, whose genealogies outlasted all others throughout the nineteenth century. Some of these were 'core families' that 'belonged' to the village. A surname index was devised by which the concentration of families in a population was assessed. This was applied to nineteenth century censuses and surveys, and memorials in churchyards. Complex differences were present between established families in the two parishes. Established families became more prevalent in Poppleton, but less prevalent in Bolton Percy, over the later nineteenth century.

Parliamentary enclosure had radically different effects on landownership in the parishes. Enclosure favoured the gentry and clergy in Bolton Percy, and the small landowner in Poppleton. All established families in Poppleton occupied land at some time, but few Bolton Percy established families owned land. These different trends in land occupancy were exacerbated throughout the nineteenth century. Established families in Bolton Percy lived from trades allied to agriculture, but similar families in Poppleton were farmers who adapted to market gardening towards the end of the nineteenth century.

The Anglican Church dominated Bolton Percy, but Nonconformity was stronger in Poppleton. The surname indices of gravestones show that established families were memorialised in greater number in Poppleton than in Bolton Percy. Core family graves are highly conspicuous in Poppleton churchyard. By contrast, most established Bolton Percy families were not buried in prominent positions and were not accorded core status.

At outbreak of the Second World War, long-established families of the nineteenth century no longer held land in these parishes. Market gardening flourished in Poppleton, but land in Bolton Percy had fallen into neglect. Decisions made around the time of enclosure had propelled established landed families in Poppleton into core

status, and established families in Bolton Percy into lives supporting their landed neighbours.

Carol Beardmore

‘The Rural Community through the Eyes of the Land-Agent’

The land-agent has been examined by historians such as D. Spring and G.E. Mingay in a relatively general manner or in conjunction with the professionalism of the role. This study instead will concentrate on the rural community through the correspondence of the Castleman family from c1818 to c1854. William Castleman acted as the local land-agent for the Dorset and Somerset estate of the Marquis of Anglesey. It will be argued that while the tenant farmers and labourers may have left little behind in the form of written records the letters of this land-agent provide a unique window into the workings of both a reasonably large estate and the rural community itself. Although there is a wealth of information within the correspondence this study will concentrate on four themes: the tenants, labourers, elections and schools. Much of the land-agent's working life was taken up with his dealings with the tenants. William's correspondence gives an intimate view of the problems faced by tenant farmers in the first half of the nineteenth century. The labourers suffered great distress in the immediate post-war period. The Swing riots were an indication of the consequences of low wages and under-employment. The estate incorporated the political borough of Milborne Port and William Castleman acted as political agent for the Marquis. Research has tended to concentrate on the larger boroughs in the period before the Great Reform Bill of 1832, but the Marquis took his patronage of this small borough equally seriously. Although the Marquis did not personally found any schools on the estate the Castlemans on his behalf dealt with requests from those who wished to establish schools and applications for financial help from those already in existence. The aim of this study has been to investigate the rural community as seen by someone who dealt with all its problems on a day to day basis.

Stephen Brownness

'Witnesses to Change: Early Domestic Travel Writing in the Fens'

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Fens – the largest area of uninterrupted wetland in England – underwent unprecedented change in terms of its landscape, the use to which the land was put and the impact this had on the way of life of its local people. At the same time, the concept of travel for reasons other than trade and employment was gaining momentum, largely as a result of improvements to the travel infrastructure. A good number of those who travelled for 'curiosity' recorded their observations for posterity, if not necessarily for publication, and some of these visited the Fens in its time of great change. This dissertation has used these records, some by well-known figures such as Celia Fiennes and Daniel Defoe; others by hitherto lesser or unknown writers such as Christopher Merret and Mary Yorke, to compare and contrast their observations and attitudes over this two hundred year period.

The socio-economic changes brought about by drainage and enclosure and the reaction of the local Fen people whose traditional way of life was threatened are first outlined by reference to mainly secondary sources. These are then further illustrated by the primary source material produced by the travel writers themselves. The dissertation also examines changes to the travel infrastructure in terms of navigational aids, improved roads and accommodation in the form of roadside inns and likewise shows the travel writers' experiences of these facilities.

The travel writers are shown by this approach to have differing interests which is reflected in the varying degrees to which they focus on the changes which were occurring in this region. However, many of them share a common disregard for the ordinary people of the Fens which often descends into contempt.

Diane Charlesworth

'The Development of the Churches and their Landscapes in North- West Gloucestershire, AD1000-1300'

The aim was to investigate the development of the churches within their landscapes during the period AD1000-1300. Firstly, by addressing the origins of parishes, secondly, exploring the relationships

between the churches and their settlements, and thirdly, tracing the architectural development of the church buildings.

Key sources of evidence were the church buildings and the landscape itself, along with tithe and ordnance survey maps, air photographs, historic environment records and place-names. This part of Gloucestershire is not rich in documentary sources, but the Newent Cartulary was particularly valuable, along with archival and diocesan material of church plans and terriers. Also helpful were the Calendar of Documents Preserved in France, the *Episcopal Acta* of Hereford and the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica*.

The methodology used was a combined multidisciplinary approach using cartographic, topographic, place-name and documentary evidence to reconstruct previous *parochiae* and hundred areas in relation to multiple estates and similarly to reconstruct settlement landscapes. The development of the churches was traced through study of the fabric and form of the buildings within a broad chronological framework.

Minster evidence is slim, but Newent emerged as the strongest contender for a later secular establishment and yet Dymock was clearly a very important church too. The *parochia* may have been co-extensive with the Botloe hundred. Fragmentation took place around the edges of the two royal estates with the boundaries probably established by the late 11th century. The area was anciently settled with a British presence and with a dispersed pattern of settlement and two market towns. The classic pairing of church and manor house predominated, with the river Leadon and Roman roads being significant in manor house and church location. There are no firmly dated Anglo-Saxon church buildings, despite some lingering styles, but Norman work is in abundance, clearly influenced by wealthy patrons supporting the Dymock School of stone carving. Early English work in comparison, is small.

Philip French

'The Making of a Local Regiment: A case Study of the Leicestershire Regiment and its Antecedents c.1770 to c.1902'

This case study examines how the 17th Foot/Leicestershire Regiment became a local regiment. The paper is divided by historical

periods and each section looks at government policy within the social, economic and military context of the time. The 'localness' of the regiment is assessed in two ways; how many local people joined it and how it is perceived by the local press.

A profile of the regiment is obtained by looking at soldiers' birthplace, occupation and age, at various key periods. The samples are drawn from individual documents such as Chelsea pension records, or, when available, census data and enlistment registers. The effectiveness of the Leicestershire regiment as a local 'brand' is gauged by looking at the amount, type and depth of local press coverage.

Although the local connection starts in 1782 with the allocation of a county title in addition to its number there is little immediate impact on the local profile of the 17th Foot. In reality both the government and individual regiments take a pragmatic approach to recruitment and continue to enlist men from a variety of sources. It is not until the 'localisation' policies of the 1870s culminate in the opening of a local barracks that a truly local 'brand' is created.

The regimental system was and is seen as a vital ingredient in *esprit de corps*. However, a regiment's own traditions and professionalism are probably more important to its morale than any 'local' connection. Despite this soldiers also express a need to be appreciated 'at home'.

Katie Hancock

'Gender and Recorded Homicide in London 1750-1799'

Overall this is a study of homicide in London from January 1750 to December 1799 relating to gender. It provides insight into how the genders differed, or were similar, both in the way they committed murder and in the way they were punished for it. The reason for the differences is inferred in places but does not constitute the main focus of the investigation; the main focus is on the how, when and where of homicide and how the punishments were imposed rather than why it was committed, or punished, in a particular way. The main text is statistically based, principally using the Old Bailey Sessions Papers, supported by the newspaper articles for the period studied and the presiding justice's notes of the selected cases for primary information. Work from other historians

has been used as a comparison to, and to contrast with, the information discovered in this study as well as providing important contextual information. The discovery was that there were some aspects of homicide that were the same for both genders, such as they tended to kill men more than women, and others which differed, such as using a diverse selection of weapons to commit the murders. Equally there were similarities and differences in the way the genders were punished; both were found guilty in the same proportions but the sentencing they received was different. This study came to a very simple conclusion that the genders committed murders in different ways and also were treated differently by the courts when they were punished for committing the crimes. The conclusion also provides a list of potentially interesting topics for expansion to make a more complete picture of gender and homicide in eighteenth century London.

Ben Harvey

'Swinton, South Yorkshire – A very 'Northern' parish? Pauper Narratives 1799-1837'

This work has not only placed the parish of Swinton within the wider historiography on the regional traits of the out-parish relief system in the early nineteenth century, in terms of the behaviour of both its paupers and overseers; but has also sought to examine the existence of these parsimonious Northern traits within other parishes that dealt with Swinton, as they reflected upon its behaviour. This interaction between parishes is a much understudied area of the topic; and even more so is the last chapter which considers letters written from illegitimate fathers that owed money to Swinton. The bulk of the source material has been Swinton's extensive Poor Law correspondence, written both by the paupers and the overseers of other parishes requesting money from Swinton, and often involving appeals from the overseers on behalf of the paupers, along with the father's letters. This has been added to with examination of the overseers' account books, removal papers, bastardy orders and warrants, and dole papers.

Throughout the work these letters have been considered with regard to their rhetorical and manipulative devices, along with underlying causal motivations. Other studies have been leaned on where possible, in order to

contextualise the sources within the field of regional differences. Quantitative measurements of techniques in the letters have also been used, to show how representative the example fragments are, as well as some extended analysed narratives to put the letters in perspective, and contextualised alongside those written by others. The study finds that Swinton largely fitted the characteristics of a typical Northern parish in the attitudes of both of its overseers and paupers, and especially in the easily defined characteristics such as pension payments. However, caution must be urged before quickly judging the parish, as by necessity of geography it had to work with numerous harsh Northern parishes that were quick to paint Swinton as unreasonable, and when considered alongside the actions of the fathers, the overseers of Swinton were relatively dedicated and responsible.

Bryan Horton

‘The Kidderminster carpet weaver: His migration response to the technological change from hand loom to power loom weaving between 1851 – 1881’

The aim of this dissertation is to identify the migration response of Kidderminster-born carpet weavers to the technological change from hand looms to steam powered carpet weaving looms during the period 1851 to 1881.

The study examines Kidderminster born carpet weavers and their families’ migration, the carpet weaving industry of England and Scotland, the opportunities for migration and assistance through family, friends, Poor Law board, subsidies by overseas countries and the Brussels Carpet Weavers Association. It covers the changing weaving technology, the weaver’s work and home life, the carpet weaver’s master, industrial conflict, religion and the changing landscape of Kidderminster.

Primary sources include the Census enumerators’ records from 1851 to 1891, the *Kidderminster Shuttle* and *Worcestershire Chronicle*. Secondary sources included Acton Taylor’s *History of the Carpet Trade*, (of which there are only 2 copies in existence), extensive literature of migration studies, carpet technology, the carpet industry and the social history of the carpet weaver and Kidderminster.

A chapter identifies the changing weaving technologies of the Kidderminster carpet industry from the hand looms of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries through to the change to steam powered looms from 1851 up until 1881. The next chapter covers, firstly, the weaver’s handloom life up until 1851 and secondly, the power looms period up until 1881. The results chapter identifies the migration patterns of the Kidderminster-born weaver to other carpet weaving centres.

The study found the technological change to power looms in the 1850s caused a loss of over 1800 looms, a net decrease in the Kidderminster population of over 6000 people, and by 1881 over 40% of the Kidderminster-born carpet weavers had migrated away from Kidderminster.

Amanda Leedham

‘Gravestones and Identity from the Five Ancient Parish Churches and Churchyards of Leicester’

The aim of this research is to investigate the theme of identity on gravestones and church memorials. The primary data that has been used are the five ancient parish churches and churchyards in the city of Leicester, Saint Mary de Castro, Saint Martin’s, All Saints, Saint Margaret’s and Saint Nicholas. Each of the churches and churchyards contained a vast amount of fantastically preserved gravestones and memorials with large amounts of information more than was expected. The information was gathered by recording, photographing, and transcribing the gravestones and memorials and then the information was split into the most common themes of identity present. Symbolism and beliefs looking at the language and the images that are present on the stones in wonderful detail and preservation. Children, family, and ancestry, looking at the way family ties are depicted, who they identify themselves with, and the way that children and infants are memorialised or not at all as was found with many just being a number at the bottom of a relatives stone. Occupations, the different types of occupation that were present with the most common being the political occupations of the Aldermen and the Mayors and finding that there are only two mentions of Leicester’s most famous form of manufacturing, hosiery. Also a person’s sense of belonging, writing the place that they belonged to on the stone whether that is a town, village, or the house

they lived in. This showed that these parishes were open parishes and that people came to the city from across the county and the country. The gravestones and memorials in the churches have a vast amount of information and this research just scratched the surface. Each church has many different stones and memorials but the theme of identity is the same across the board, people wanted to be remembered, they just depicted this in different ways.

Neil Quinn

'Rates and Reform: The Lancaster Poor Law Union, 1870 – 1911'

This dissertation examines the Lancaster Poor Law Union during the years 1870-1911, which saw this mostly rural area undergo substantial industrial and population expansion. This time-span is associated with considerable change in the Poor Law system, including the notorious crusade against outdoor relief, which was followed by a gradual shift towards the creation of separate institutions to deal with different classes of pauper. At the same time, economic problems and developing poverty scholarship encouraged a change in public perceptions of the poor, which were reflected in the kinder treatment instituted in many Unions.

The presentation of these years in mainstream historiography as a smooth progression from the harsh deterrent policies of 1834 to the prototypical Welfare State has been contested in recent scholarship. My study tests the hypothesis that this journey was far from straightforward by examining the response of the Lancaster Board of Guardians to the challenges of the era. Sources including minute books, local newspaper reports and census data are used to discover the policies of the Guardians, the priorities and factors that influenced them, and how these changed across three distinct periods.

It concludes that the Board responded enthusiastically to measures for limiting the extent of pauperism, and showed only slightly less zeal for the reforms implemented to improve pauper treatment. However, their efforts were often hampered by unwillingness to spend money or cooperate with other unions. Moreover, while they were somewhat open to outside influence and some Guardians steered more towards reforms than others, their fundamental outlook on poverty remained the same.

Neil would like to thank the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire for its generous research grant, which covered his travel costs while undertaking this research.

Jane Rowling

'“Interference from People that Don't Know Sod All”: A Twentieth Century Oral History Study of Farmers' Experiences with Outside Bodies in Lower Wharfedale, Yorkshire'

The historiography of farming in the twentieth century has focused largely on change in agricultural methods. This often appears as nostalgia about working with horses, or dry statistics about crop tonnages harvested per year. This work aims to go further, to investigate farmers' opinions, and set them in the context of the changes and events which have occurred over the previous century. The main sources used were interviews with nine members of the farming community of Lower Wharfedale, near the North Yorkshire – West Yorkshire border. By studying a small area it is possible to get a detailed picture of how national events have affected farmers at an immediate, local level. These interviews were compared with autobiographies from the wider Yorkshire farming community, agriculturally-related newspaper articles, and political publications aimed at farmers. The themes explored using these principle sources are: national legislative change, danger and disease, interactions with non-farmers, and the nature of the rural community itself. This method has shown that farmers here have gone from having confidence in their importance to Britain, to feeling marginalised and insignificant. This can be traced back to the separation of farmers from the general public by government legislation and electoral material in the war years, and a loss of interest in agriculture. This has led to feelings that decisions and expectations have been imposed from above, without understanding for how the countryside functions. Farmers' close family links to place and occupation contribute to resentments building up over time, but they also make the community resilient. It has survived the twentieth century by adapting its structure to changing farming methods. It has been implied that this represents the destruction of a way of life, but these interviews show the rural community in this area remains rich and full of characters.

Christopher Side

‘Migration from the Wiltshire Village of Chute during the Nineteenth Century’

Migration within England has hitherto been investigated by studying in-migration *to* a specific place and by the aggregate analysis of county-level birthplace census data. Despite the obvious insufficiency of data, Ravenstein, in the late nineteenth century, formulated characteristics of migrational behaviour which have endured. This study describes an attempt to track everyone, potentially 1500 people, born during the nineteenth century in Chute, a rural Wiltshire village; the community’s complete migrational history being considered. Parish registers and CEBs (1841 to 1901) provide a series of dated locations (waypoints) throughout the individual’s life. Useful data was obtained for 890 people. This method presents a direct measure of migration from a single point.

Chute exhibited a net annual out-migration of between 1 and 2 per cent throughout the century. As time went on, the proportion of native Chute inhabitants declined and incomers came from increasing distances. However, a third of those born in Chute never lived elsewhere, mostly male agricultural labourers. One fifth made a single move, almost entirely to places south of a line from Bristol to the Wash. People who remained within 20 miles of Chute tended to make fewer moves than those who moved further away. Those who moved directly outside a twenty mile radius did not return.

In general the findings were in line with the existing literature although some significant differences were encountered. For example, only 39 per cent of first moves were to a place within 10 miles of Chute which is far smaller proportion than previously accepted and step by step migration was not encountered. Although short distance migration was frequent, in general people moved much further than is commonly quoted. Interestingly, no evidence for socio-economic advancement as a result of migration could be detected.

Vivien Weller

‘Coercion, compliance or conversion? The impact of Religious Change in North-East Warwickshire between 1530 and 1559’

The series of contradictory religious changes that took place in the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary brought dramatic changes to the lives of the people in North-East Warwickshire. This dissertation examines the local impact of these policies and considers the response of the local people, through the use of primary sources, such as wills, churchwardens’ accounts, letters and accounts. The study goes beyond purely ‘Reformation’ issues and includes aspects of the role played by the pre-Reformation church in local society. Two key themes are considered throughout. The first examines evidence for the Traditional view that there was widespread conversion to Protestantism in Warwickshire before 1559. The second considers evidence for the post-Revisionist view of a dynamic, participatory Reformation, carried out by a willing population. This study has found no significant demand for change before 1534 and there is little evidence to support the notion of widespread conversion to Protestantism later on. Although a minority were converted by the late 1550s, they obeyed the policies of the Marian regime, as they had those of her father and brother. For the majority, conservatism in religion persisted throughout the period. However, once change began, people of all ranks had little choice but to participate; the social elite were involved in implementing religious policies and the common people obeyed. Apart from taking opportunities for personal gain from the Henrican and Edwardian dissolution policies, there is little sense that Warwickshire people embraced successive religious changes enthusiastically and some indication that concerns over social and economic distress overrode spiritual concerns. Nevertheless, their overriding response to successive religious changes was obedience to their rulers, acquiescence to each new doctrine and compliance with each new religious practice.

Andrew Whiting

‘Merely ‘mechanical’, ‘ministerial’ and ‘menial’, or much, much more? What was the role of professional attorneys in late thirteenth-century litigation as revealed by evidence from the 1286 Buckinghamshire eyre?’

This dissertation is concerned with the activities of professional attorneys at the 1286 Buckinghamshire eyre, an itinerant court providing royal justice for local litigants. The eyre’s proceedings have been edited and published in translation by Dr Lesley Boatwright, who also kindly made available her Latin transcription of the court rolls. Contemporary unofficial reports of four cases heard at the eyre have been edited by Dr Paul Brand and published in both the original Anglo-French and in translation.

The dissertation’s underlying argument is that the contribution to the litigation process of medieval attorneys has been under-researched and under-valued by some historical commentators, and that it was by the 1280s much more significant than has been traditionally stated. Early chapters prepare the ground for subsequent discussion of the research evidence. The thirteenth-century

justice system in which professional attorneys operated is briefly described, as are respectively their origins, professionalization, duties and the formalities of appointment. Each stage of their development, as identified in this introductory section, is shown as a contributor to their collective condition in 1286.

Much of the dissertation examines closely the respective roles of sixteen men identified as the leading professional attorneys at the eyre. Such themes as the nature of their practices, whether sole or in apparent partnership with others, work-types, how busy they were, whether specialist or generalist, what sorts of clients they had, whether claim-minded or defence-minded, success rates and the location of their practices are discussed. Their participation in the process of court advocacy is considered, data being presented that strongly suggests it to have been a large part of their collective workload at the eyre. Overall, the evidence allows the dissertation to conclude that the contribution of professional attorneys to late thirteenth-century justice was substantial, significant and much greater than hitherto acknowledged.



THE FRIENDS

Publications by Friends

Pam Buttrey

A History of Droxford Station: 1500 years of history (Southampton: Noodle Books, 2012)

Hubertus Drobner

Lehrbuch der Patrologie, 3. (revised and updated edition, Frankfurt, 2011).

Patrologie: Úvod do studia starokřesťanské literatury (Prague 2011) (Czek translation of the above).

Augustinus von Hippo, Predigten zur Apostelgeschichte (Sermones 148-150). Einleitung, Text, Übersetzung und Anmerkungen (*Patrologia* 26), Frankfurt 2012. 278 pp.

‘Sermo sancti Augustini De eleemosyna (Haffner 1 und Étaix 3 = 350 B-C). Kritische Edition’, *Übersetzung und Kommentar: Augustinianum* 52 (2012) 257-297.

‘Erik Peterson und die Patrologie des 20. Jahrhunderts: Pietismus, Hellenisierung und Melito von Sardes’: in *Erik Peterson. Die theologische Präsenz eines Outsiders*. Giancarlo Caronello (ed.), (Berlin 2012), 87-102.

Susan Kilby

‘A different world? Reconstructing the peasant environment in medieval Elton’ *Medieval Settlement Research*, 25 (2010) 72-77.

Edgar Miller

‘A community approaching crisis: Skye in the eighteenth century’, in C. Dyer, A. Hopper, E. Lord and N. Tringham, *New Directions in Local History since Hoskins* (Hatfield: University of Hertfordshire Press, 2011) pp. 127-42.

Anne Pegg, ed. *Friends of the Centre for English Local History Newsletter* (2011), 34 pp.

Robert Peberdy

‘Urban Economic History’ and ‘Local Government’ (part) in S. Townley (ed.), *A History of the County of Oxford*, vol. 16, *Henley-on-Thames and Environs* (Boydell and Brewer, Woodbridge, 2011), pp. 78--104, 104—112.

Richard Stone

Books

Buildings in Derbyshire: A Guide (Stroud: Amberley, 2011).

Articles in journals

‘Social Designs’, *Local History Magazine*, 135 Jul/Aug 2011.

‘In Search of Ancient Turf Mazes’, *Local History Magazine*, 138, Jan/Feb 2012.

Mike Thompson

‘Peasant Names on Glastonbury Abbey’s Polden Hills Manors between 1189 and 1352: Some Straws in a Wind of Change’, in S. Turner and B. Sylvester (eds), *Life in Medieval Landscapes: People and Places in Medieval England: Essays in Memory of Harold Fox* (Oxford: Windgather Press, 2011).

Mike Thornton

‘Lord’s Man or Community Servant? The Role, Status and Allegiance of Village Haywards in Fifteenth-century Northamptonshire’, in S. Turner and B. Sylvester (eds), *Life in Medieval Landscapes: People and Places in Medieval England: Essays in Memory of Harold Fox* (Oxford: Windgather Press, 2011), pp. 213-224.

Penny Upton

‘The Demesne and its labour Force in the early Middle Ages: a Warwickshire Case Study’, in S. Turner and B. Sylvester (eds), *Life in Medieval Landscapes: People and Places in Medieval England: Essays in Memory of Harold Fox* (Oxford: Windgather Press, 2011), pp. 239-250

If you are a Friend and publish a book or an article during the year and would like it listed here, please send the details to the Editor:

Dr Sylvia Pinches

CELH, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester, LE1 7QR.

Email: smp38@le.ac.uk

Friends' Papers for Purchase

Enquiries to: Publications Sales, Friends of CELH, 5 Salisbury Rd., Leicester, LE1 7QR.

New:

No. 10, M. Tedd, *Naming in Anstey, 1850-1950: a Mirror of Social Structure*, £6 inc. p&p.

Still in print: all at £4.00 inc. p&p.

No. 4, Marion Aldis and Pam Inder, *John Sneyd's Census of Ipstones in 1839*.

No. 7, Geoff Wolfe, *Keeping the Peace: Warwickshire, 1630-1700*.

No. 8, Pam Fisher, *An Object of Ambition? The Office and Role of the Coroner in Two Midland Counties, 1751-1888*.

No. 9, S. Pinches, M. Whalley & D. Postles (eds), *The Market Place and the Place of the Market*.

No. 10, Derryan Paul, *Why so Few? Rebuilding Country Churches in Herefordshire, 1662-1762*.

Bibliographies

Pam Fisher, Alan Fox, Mike Thompson: 'English Local History at Leicester: A Bibliography and History, 1999-2008'.

Published as a free download from the Friends section of CELH website:

<http://www.le.ac.uk/elh/> or as a CD for £2.00. Paper copies on request.

Margery Tranter, Ken Hawker, John Rowley and Mike Thompson (eds), *English Local History: The Leicester Approach. A Departmental Bibliography and History, 1948-1998*. £4.00 inc. p&p (reduced from £11.50).

Explorations in Local History Series

Vol. 1 H. Fox, *The Evolution of the Fishing Village: Landscape and Society along the South Devon Coast, 1086-1550*. £7 inc. p&p.

Annual General Meeting 17 November 2011

Committee: The following were elected to serve for the following year.

Chairman:	Frank Galbraith
Secretary:	Alan Fox
Treasurer:	Ann Schmidt
Programme Secretary:	No nomination
Membership Secretary:	Freda Raphael
Newsletter Editor:	Sylvia Pinches
Information Technology Coordinator:	Andrew Wager

Committee Members (minimum of two, maximum of six): Amanda de Belin, Sarah Gilpin, Noel Tornbohm. One Staff Representative and two Student Representatives would be appointed later. [**Note:** Staff Representative: Andrew Hopper, Student Representative: Robert Mee]

Chairman's Report: Frank Galbraith thanked all the members for the support he had received during the year. He pointed out that the main aim of the Friends was to support the Centre through the provision of funds for purchases, but in particular to provide grants to students. We have provided around £3000 in grants in the year 2010/11. Another aim is to provide a focus for like-minded people, especially alumni.

He reviewed the years events: the weekend study visit to the Trafford area of east Cheshire; Hoskins Day with Dr Angus Winchester of Lancaster University; the one-day outing in September to the Malverns.

The Chairman thanked all the Committee for their hard work over the past year. In particular he mentioned Lydia Pye and Anne Pegg, both of whom have completed their five years in office as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor respectively, and are leaving the Committee.

Proposed change to the Constitution: The existing item at 10.4 reads 'The quorum for General Meetings shall be twenty Friends'. It was proposed to replace this with 'The quorum for General Meetings shall be fifteen Friends. The quorum for a change in the Constitution shall be twenty Friends'. The amendment was proposed by Frank Galbraith, seconded by Anne Pegg and carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS for year ending 30 Sept. 2011

	General Fund	Harold Fox Memorial Fund	<u>Total</u>
Receipts			
Subscriptions	£2,076.00		£2,076.00
Donations	£751.00		£751.00
Book Sales	£496.00		£496.00
Fundraising - other	£50.00		£50.00
Publications	£103.20		£103.20
Other Events/visits	£470.81		£470.81
Dividends/Interest	£384.27		£384.27
Refund of Gift Aid tax	£493.36		£493.36
<u>Total Receipts</u>	£4,824.64	£0.00	£4,824.64
Payments			
Student Support	£2,900.00		£2,900.00
Hoskins Lecture	£83.08		£83.08
Newsletter	£297.72		£297.72
Subscription to Brit. Assoc of Local History	£58.00		£58.00
Harold Fox Memorial Fund			
Drawings, footnotes, part publication		£717.00	£717.00
General Expenses	£127.35		£127.35
<u>Total Payments</u>	£3,466.15		£4,183.15
Net Receipts/(Payments) for the year	£1,358.49	(£717.00)	£641.49
Opening Bank Balances at 1st October 2010	£7,709.34	£717.00	£8,426.34
Closing Bank Balances at 30th September 2011	£9,067.83	£0.00	£9,067.83
<u>Bank Balances at 30 September 2011</u>			
CAF Bank - Gold Account			£5,201.86
NatWest Bank			£3,865.97
			£9,067.83
<u>Investment Assets (belonging to General Fund)</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	
To 14 March 2011		30.9.11	
5010.129 units in CAF UK Equity Growth Fund	£7,500.00		
10942.919 units in CAF Bond Income Fund	£7,500.00		
	£15,000.00		
From 14th March, migration to IM CAF			
6880.6140 units in IM CAF UK Equity Fund B Income	£6,880.61	£6,216.74	
6676.8450 units in IM CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income	£6,676.85	£6,493.73	
	£13,557.46	£12,710.47	
Net loss on Investment Assets due to migration	(£1,442.54)		
<u>Total Funds</u>			21, 778.30

Your Friends

The committee work very hard to put on events for the Friends, to raise money to support students, to do a myriad of things to help and promote the Centre for English Local History. This work can only be successful if supported by the wider membership of the Friends.

Things that you can do to help:

- Make sure that your membership is up-to-date.
 - If you pay by standing order, is it for the current amount? (£12 for one, £15 for two people at the same address).
 - Do you pay tax? Have you completed a Gift Aid form?
 - When did you last come to an event? Please think of coming.
 - Could you help at Hoskins' Day or conferences?
- Do you live in an interesting area? (I'm sure you do!) – could you help organise a day visit to your town or district?
 - Could you help organise one of our Study Weekends?
 - Do you regularly come to the Thursday seminars? Would you write a short (500 words) report of one of them for the Newsletter?
 - Would you write a report (c.1,000 words) about one of the other events you attend?
 - Please send any items of news (publications, awards, obituaries) for consideration for the Newsletter.
 - You do not have to be on the committee to do any of the above. However, a committee always needs new blood. Please do consider joining us.



Alan Fox, Freda Raphael, Frank Galbraith and Sylvia Pinches stuffing envelopes 2011

Friends' Events 2011-2012

Malvern outing

On Saturday, 17th September 2011, a group of Friends convened at the Malvern Hills Hotel. Following coffee we were introduced to Ian Rowat, Warden and former Director of the Malvern Hills Conservators and our first speaker.

The Conservators manage most parts of the Hills and the surrounding Commons according to the Malvern Hills Acts 1884 to 1995. Their aim is to conserve the area for the enjoyment and recreation of the public, while maintaining the rights of the registered commoners. One of their chief tasks is to manage unenclosed land which could quickly return to woodland.

Protection for British Camp (an Iron Age hill fort) as an ancient monument and SSI and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty involves the regular clearance of threatening tree growth. Once cleared, the acid grassland supports characteristic flora, such as birdsfoot trefoil, harebells, a little gorse and some ling, helping to sustain butterflies and other insects. The Shire Ditch is a notable feature of the hills, a dyke reputedly constructed by Gilbert de Clare as a result of a dispute with the Bishop of Hereford over deer trespass. Archaeologists have demonstrated that the ditch connects British Camp with Midsummer Hill which would date it to around 2000 BC. A Norman motte and bailey castle built on top was the inspiration for Elgar's 'Caractacus'. All of the area has had open access with right to roam since.

After this introduction we travelled by coach to Little Malvern Priory. The Priory was founded in 1127 by monks sent to what was a remote and wild area, from the Benedictine monastery of Worcester. The 14th-century poet William Langland was probably a pupil here. The church today is small but very tall and there is evidence all around that the original Norman structure was much larger. What we see is only the tower and chancel with adjoining ruins and the remnants of an original arcade of Norman pillars. The Priory was in a ruinous state by the 15th century when

Bishop Alcock, statesman, diplomat and architect, discharged the prior and undertook some restoration, notably adding the great east window. Restored again after severe damage in the Civil War, the stained glass portrays members of the royal family in Alcock's time, including Edward V and his brother, the 'Princes in the Tower', Elizabeth Woodville, Queen to Edward IV, and their daughters. Under Alcock, the tower was enlarged in the Perpendicular style.

Gardiner's Quarry is one of several quarries in the. Our next alfresco talk was given there by three of the Community Conservation Champions - a very knowledgeable group of trained amateur geologists - who explained that the Malvern Hills are a unique geological feature in Britain, having been formed some seven million years ago in the Southern Ocean. The rock's red intrusion (Malvern stone) was used as a decorative feature in many of Malvern's buildings but has proved to be weak, requiring extensive restoration. Quarrying ceased in the 1970s.

Following the morning of stimulating talks and visits we were conveyed to the nearby village of Storridge where the ladies of the local Women's Institute provided us with an excellent lunch. Malvern's historic renown as a spa and popular tourist centre was presented at intervals during the day by two of the Friends. Malcolm Muir read extracts from the diary of the Reverend Edward Rowden (1780-1869) describing the honeymoon tour made with his wife to spa towns including Malvern, with a poem of 12 stanzas in praise of the 'donkies' which carried them to the Malvern heights. Freda Raphael also regaled us with spa stories from *The Spas of England and Principle Sea-Bathing Places. Vol. 2: The Midlands and South* by A B Granville, MD, FRS, first published in 1841. Dr Granville visited Malvern in 1837, but he was less than impressed with Malvern's curative properties. He wrote that: 'The very fact that the "deadly east" stares in the face of Great and Little Malvern would

and must disqualify those otherwise picturesque and well located villages, as residences for real invalids’.

Our first stop in Malvern was a guided tour of the Priory. Great Malvern Priory was founded in 1085, initiated by a monk, Aldwin, with the support of Wulstan, Bishop of Worcester and a charter from William I. The modest original Norman building was enlarged and enriched in Perpendicular style in the years between 1440 and 1460. At the Dissolution, the Priory survived as a parish church through the efforts of the townspeople who raised the purchase money of £20, the current parish church having fallen into disrepair. Major restoration work was again needed in the 19th century when, from the wealth engendered by visitors to the spa, Sir George Gilbert-Scott was commissioned to direct a full restoration. Among the notable features are the early Norman font, medieval tiles and elaborate misericords, the earliest set dating from the 14th

century. The stained glass windows are the glory of the church, some containing fragments of that given by King Richard III. The Magnificat window contains a portrait of Henry VII and also a rare portrait of his son, Prince Arthur, who died aged 16 in 1502. The set of Millennium Windows are a magnificent example of contemporary stained glass. A photographic record can be accessed at www.cvma.ac.uk.

The next two hours were free to explore the town and many Friends took the opportunity to research the teashops before returning to base. Those who were feeling fit undertook the optional walk to the hillfort of British Camp as others left for home. Sincere thanks are due to Sylvia Pinches for organising such a varied and interesting day.

Freda Raphael



Friends almost blown away at British Camp.

Photo ©Freda Raphael

Spotlight on the Centre

18 February 2012.

Some fifty people assembled on a Saturday morning to find out about what is going on at CELH. Director of the Centre, Prof. Keith Snell began with an overview, 'The Centre: current research and developments', which gave the audience an appreciation of the breadth of current work. Then a mixture of staff and postgraduate students gave short papers on a very wide variety of topics.

Prof. Peter King then spoke on 'Local justice: the varied geography of the bloody code and of criminal justice practices 1700-1850'. PhD student Susan Kilby took us back to 'A different world? Reconstructing the environment of the medieval peasant'. The next two papers saw us moving forward in time, both papers dealing with aspects of the past that have to be teased out of the records. Prof. Steve King, 'The experience of being poor, 1700-1830s: A reflection on the end of 20 years of work'. Michael Tedd spoke on 'Nicknames and oral history in Anstey (Leicestershire) in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries', giving us a taste of what would be published as an Occasional Paper later in the year.

Hoskins' Day 2012

'Hot!' was the word that characterised the proceedings at this year's Hoskins' Day celebrations. At a sizzling 27 degrees, those attending might have been forgiven for wishing they were lingering in the open fields rather than listening to a lecture about them. However, the eighty attendees were well rewarded for their stoicism by hearing a brilliant exposition on 'The Origins of the Open Fields' delivered by a vivacious and almost mischievous Susan Oosthuizen. Her light and airy delivery thinly disguised the scholarship beneath the surface, as with scarcely a note in sight, she breezed through a stimulating content, illustrated by a triple display of highly-informative

After the usual fine spread of lunch, organised by the committee, the Friends were pleased to hear the first lecture to them by newest-member of staff, Dr Simon Sandall, who spoke on 'Custom and popular memory in the seventeenth-century Forest of Dean'. MA student Carol Beardmore, then told us about 'The land agent and the rural community in nineteenth-century Dorset'. Dr Andrew Hopper took us back to the seventeenth century, with 'From Pennine yeoman to city gentleman: the social mobility of Captain Adam Eyre'. The final talk by former MA student Drew Campbell, 'Canals and communities', was a most entertaining presentation, interweaving tales of contemporary life on the 'Cut' with a history of the politics behind the cutting of the Ashby canal in the eighteenth century.

A plenary discussion chaired by Keith Snell and Frank Galbraith rounded off a most stimulating day

Sylvia Pinches

slides, bringing a new perspective to an old theme.

Refreshments afterwards at No. 1 Salisbury Road were gratefully received, whilst a particularly varied display of books and journals attracted many purchases. A copy of the late Harold Fox's recent book on Dartmoor, kindly donated by the editors, Chris Dyer and Matt Tomkins, was raffled and raised the sum of £61.00.

An altogether highly enjoyable and worthwhile celebration!

Noel Tornbohm

Hoskins' Lecture 2012

Dr Susan Oosthuizen: 'Medieval Open Fields and their Origins'

Doctor Susan Oosthuizen, University Senior Lecturer at Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education, gave this year's Hoskins' Lecture. Her subject was the origins of the medieval open fields, a much debated question which has recently seen a renewal of interest, prompted in part by Dr Oosthuizen's own work.

Her most important contribution to the debate has been *Landscapes Decoded. The Origins and Development of Cambridgeshire's Medieval Fields*, Explorations in Local and Regional History, no. 1 (Hatfield, 2006), in which she advanced theories based on a detailed analysis of four parishes in the Bourn valley in Cambridgeshire. In a 2007 article in *Agricultural History Review*¹ she extended those ideas to the rest of country, to argue that common fields may have originated in the kingdom of Mercia in the 'long 8th century' (c670 - c840) - an earlier origin than the more usually proposed 10th century. Her talk, profusely illustrated with maps and photographs, presented these theories, though with some new additions and modifications - as she explained, they are work in progress, still in development.

Dr Oosthuizen began by defining some terms. 'Open fields' are, of course, areas of farmland divided between two or more cultivators, but without physical boundaries between the holdings. In the past she and others have followed Joan Thirsk in drawing a distinction between Open Fields and Common Fields. These were virtually identical physically, but differed as to the farming systems operating within them. Open Field systems were less regularly laid out and organised (often subdivided into blocks rather than strips) and less tightly controlled - farmers there usually had more freedom to farm their land as if they

held it in severalty. Common Field systems, on the other hand, were regularly organised and divided (into two or three great fields, then into furlongs and strips, with individual holdings spread evenly across the furlongs and fields), and were subject to tight communal regulation, requiring uniform rotation of crops, regular fallows, and communal grazing of the fallows and the stubble.

This distinction between Open Fields and Common Fields had its problems, however; they were often indistinguishable physically - the differences lay in the agricultural and tenurial regimes which governed their use - and the latter were really just a specialised sub-category of the former. In her lecture Dr Oosthuizen adopted a newer terminology recently introduced to medieval landscape history from economics by Martine de Moor and Mark Bailey - one utilising the concept of the Common Property Regime.² The new terminology acknowledges the physical similarities of the two systems by calling them *both* open fields, and distinguishes only between their agricultural regimes. Thus what were formerly termed Open Fields are now 'open fields with *narrow* Common Property Regimes', while the former Common Fields become 'open fields with *wide* Common Property Regimes'.

A Common Property Regime is a system which regulates communal use of land and resources, determining such matters as when, how and by whom they can be exploited. Such regimes can take many forms, of course, and 'narrow' and 'wide' describe two halves of a spectrum. In a narrow-CPR the open field might be subdivided into large, irregularly distributed blocks, effectively held and farmed in severalty, with the only communal exploitation being common rights of pasture over the post-harvest stubble, exercisable for only a few weeks of the year. A wide CPR, on the other

¹ S. Oosthuizen, 'The Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia and the origins and distribution of common fields', *AgHR* 55 (2007), pp. 153-80.

² M. Bailey, 'Beyond the Midland field system: the determinants of common rights over the arable in medieval England', *AgHR* 58 (2010), pp. 153-171, at p. 158.

hand, would be that operating in the classic three-field township, subdivided into furlongs and strips, with holdings of standard sizes more or less even distributed across the furlongs, rotation of crops and fallows, communal grazing across the fallow field and the stubble etc. Open fields with wide CPRs were typical of the Midland Zone or, in Roberts and Wrathmell's terminology, the Central Province; open fields with narrow CPRs were found everywhere, including Midland Zone.

Dr Oosthuizen then posed her questions: When did open fields and Common Property Regimes first appear in England? Why were they adopted? And what determined whether an open field operated under a narrow or wide Common Property Regime?

No one knows when they first appeared. Dr Oosthuizen had begun the lecture, as was appropriate, with a quote from W.G. Hoskins' introduction to the 1963 Royal Commission report on *The Common Lands of England and Wales* (p. 6);

Common rights were ... the residue of rights that were once more extensive, rights that are in all probability older than the modern conception of private property. They probably antedate the idea of private property in land, and are therefore of vast antiquity.

However the first documentary reference to open fields and CPRs is in the Laws of Ine, of 670 A.D, which refer to ceorls who 'have a common meadow or other land divided in shares', each of whom must fence his portion so that their cattle do not 'eat up their common crops or grass'. Few modern historians believe that open fields predate the Anglo-Saxon period, however, and most argue for an origin in the later Anglo-Saxon period. Dr Oosthuizen argued that in some places at least open fields may date from the Roman-British period, though perhaps with only narrow CPRs.

There are certainly many places where the Roman-British field system can be discerned and is obviously different from

the later medieval open field system which overlay it. But there are also places where continuity can be demonstrated. Infield/outfield cultivation was practised in both periods. Many medieval enclosures were curvilinear; many Iron Age fields were rectilinear. Medieval open fields are characterised by their long thin strips - but so were many Iron Age and Bronze Age fields. The difficulty lies in discerning the regimes which governed their cultivation - were these pre-medieval strips farmed in severalty, or as part of a CPR? Dr Oosthuizen suggested that the absence of physical divisions points towards the presence of a CPR. Her conclusion was that narrow-CPR open fields were a traditional form of cultivation in England, developed over a very *longue durée*.

The origin of wide-CPR open fields is a more difficult question. It is particularly difficult to explain why they developed only in some regions, principally the Midland Zone. The only certainties are that there is no evidence for them before the Norman Conquest, and that there is some correlation between their distribution and that of nucleated settlements. Dr Oosthuizen could offer no explanations, only speculation.

Two other possibly significant correlations noticed by Della Hooke are with anciently cleared arable landscapes and areas of greater Romanisation. The Midland Zone, in which wide-CPRs are most common, is not only a region of nucleated settlements, but also one with a long history of extensive arable farming. This can be seen in the low ratios of woodland apparent in Domesday Book and earlier sources. It may be that wide-CPR open fields were laid out in areas where grain production was particularly important.

Wide-CPR open fields may also have been associated with regions with high proportions of unfree tenants, as measured by the distribution of substantial Romanised buildings, though the correlation is less close than with nucleated settlement or woodland. Did some Roman villas farmed by slaves

become Anglo-Saxon estates farmed by bordars?

Lastly Dr Oosthuizen proposed that the approximate correlation of wide-CPR open fields with the kingdom of Mercia suggested a causal link with that kingdom during its period of dominance, the long 8th century (c.650 - 870). Offa and other Mercian kings of that period emulated Charlemagne and other contemporary Carolingian rulers by endowing monastic houses with large estates. Could those monasteries have re-organised their new possessions in emulation of the best practice then current on the vast Frankish

royal and monastic estates, which were beginning to allocate intermingled strips to individual tenants, but retaining control over agricultural decisions, such as cropping?

The lecture ended with a lively range of questions and comments from the audience, culminating in Mick Aston's suggestion that what is needed is more archaeological evidence for early medieval field boundaries, to be obtained by digging up lots of ancient hedgerows.

Matt Tompkins

FRIENDS OF FRIENDS

Leicestershire VCH – an update

The Leicestershire VCH project has had a very full and successful year. The University continues to support us and my contract as volunteer coordinator has been extended until summer 2013 on the present basis of one day per week. This will enable the training and one-to-one support to our 35 volunteers to continue, and 2013 should see our first Leicestershire VCH parish histories completed.

During June and July 2012 we also ran a 7-week project with a small group of University of Leicester undergraduate volunteers for the first time, funded by a grant from the University. This has provided them with enhanced research and employability skills as well as specific historical training. Their research has produced written pieces for the VCH on the religious history of four parishes, which will be mounted on the VCH website. They will be presenting their findings to an audience this autumn. A grant from the Grocers' Charity is allowing us to start work on producing five online research guides, which will help us recruit and train current and future volunteer researchers, while providing guidance to members of the wider public who want to research particular aspects of their village history. A grant from the

Society of Antiquaries has enabled us to purchase a digital copy of William Burton's handwritten research notes about Leicestershire parishes, which include summaries made in 1615 of original documents which do not survive, and of others which should be at TNA, but have not been catalogued. An application for a collaborative doctoral award from AHRC has also been agreed, and a further application is in the planning stage. Most exciting of all, our first round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a total of £354,300 for a major 4-year project in the Charnwood area has been approved. Further community grants are coming in to meet the contribution requirement and we hope to receive HLF approval to our full application in December.

We also now have our own website, www.leicestershirehistory.co.uk, in addition to our pages on the VCH website www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk. The Leicestershire History site (which is still under development) will be a further 'shop window', ranking highly on Google for anyone seeking information about the county's history. In addition to the research guides mentioned above, it will also be used to showcase some of the many facts we are discovering about the county's history which will have to be compressed into a sentence or two in the VCH entry. A further aim is to place very brief 'potted histories' of all county

parishes on here as the first step towards a full VCH entry.

The project has caught the public imagination, but we are finding ourselves very stretched in some areas. We would be very grateful for offers of help with the specific tasks mentioned below, and where better to seek assistance than among Friends?

PR/publicity: Our volunteers are now producing material that could usefully be turned into short pieces that would have wide appeal. We would like to recruit a volunteer with a historical background who could build relationships with the media and turn snippets of information into attractive short articles.

Distant Records: We are looking for volunteers living near Lincoln, Northampton, Oxford or London who could visit archive offices on an occasional basis to transcribe or photograph specific documents for us.

Transcription: We need occasional help transcribing and translating medieval documents from digital images. We would also like someone who can visit the Record Office at Wigston to transcribe key sections from early modern wills and other records from specific parishes.

We are not asking for a long-term commitment (although that would be nice if you feel able to offer) – an occasional few hours of assistance would be of immense help. If any readers would like to be part of this successful project, as mentioned above or in some other way, I would be delighted to hear from you, either by email to me at pjf7@le.ac.uk or by telephone (0116 252 5722).

Pam Fisher



Leicestershire VCH volunteers on a recent visit to Newtown Linford.

Photo: Pam Fisher



INTRODUCING:

Professor Steve King and the Centre for Medical Humanities

Steve King is a Midlands lad, born in Oxford and brought up there and in Northampton. He went to the University of Kent at Canterbury to read economic and social history, really economic history with a local bias, he says. There he began the work on the poor law which has been central to so much of his later career.

However, on graduating he went straight for the money, working for NatWest Bank in the City, before the lure of academe led him to undertake a PhD at Liverpool. His research took him to the other side of the Pennines, working on the demography of West Yorkshire and becoming ever more interested in the lives of the textile workers. A year spent at UCL on a Sculodi Scholarship was followed by three years at the University of Central Lancashire. Here he came under the influence of Geoff Timmins, an outstanding teacher whose interests in regional and especially industrial history inspired Steve. At this time he also became aware of CELH, being influenced by Charles Phythian-Adams' work on communities and kinship and sharing Keith Snell's interest in the poor law.

Steve returned to his roots in 1997, spending two years at Oxford Brookes, heading a department on Health, Medicine and Society. This saw a fusion of his interests in the poor law and in health. He became fascinated by the sick poor and the way they negotiated their way through the poor law and charitable relief. He is also interested in people in their places, in the landscape. All of this (and perhaps, too, his time in the City) make him an ideal person to be the Director of the New Centre for Medical Humanities at the University of Leicester.

The following is a report on the joint presentation given by Profs. Steve King and Keith Snell, to the Thursday seminar at CELH on 15 December 2011

Sylvia Pinches

The Centre for Medical Humanities

Professors Steve King (SK) and Keith Snell (KS) announced the opening (on January 1st 2012) of the new Centre for Medical Humanities (CMH). KS introduced SK and suggested possibilities for interdisciplinary working and new projects. SK then indicated some of his current areas of research on the poor law, local history (particularly in relation to narratives of the poor and economic history) and emphasized that his new role as Research Professor in CMH would add to, not detract from, this existing work. He has been tasked by the Vice Chancellor with reaching targets in three broad areas:

- a) to identify and find funding for Medical Humanities projects in science, social science, history and other disciplines.
- b) to explore possibilities for collaborative projects within the College of Arts at the University of Leicester.
- c) to develop large-scale interdisciplinary working with other colleges and universities.

SK has much experience in fund-raising which will be needed to find £4 million within five years for CMH and £8 million for his own projects. At the same time he has to establish core ideas for CMH in order to give it a discrete existence for PhD and post-doctoral research. The trick will be to raise large sums of cash for big projects, and to manage them without drawing students from CELH or the Centre for Urban History.

SK went on to outline some of his current projects linking science and humanities. These include investigating medicinal springs from the 17th to the 20th centuries to reconstruct popular belief about health and how cures were marketed and used. Other projects are 'Eating yourself well' (relationships with food as well as 'miracle food' remedies e.g. blueberries as a cure for prostate cancer, a project Steve is developing with the *Daily Mail* for an application to the Wellcome Trust), and

the 'healing tree' (how tree products have been used for healing from at least the 1500s to the present). SK is collaborating with the 'Goat and Monkey Theatre' on a series of theatre projects concerned with concepts of the body, decay and genetics. He is working on an edited volume of pauper narratives and popular attitudes to sickness in applications for poor law relief.

Leicester University is leading research in areas such as heart valve development, and SK wants CMH to develop historical studies to complement current medical advances. He said that Angie Negrine's doctoral research has already identified Leicester workhouse as the first place to pioneer skin-grafting. Two areas for CMH's investigations are, firstly, attitudes to the body and the psychological impacts of cosmetic surgery, decay, ageing and the search for eternal life, and secondly concepts of the blood ('bad blood', 'blood' as an area of identity and belonging) using material from documentary sources, novels and the media.

KS noted that many CELH MAs and PhDs have already covered aspects of medical history. These include 'crippledom', pauper lunacy, asylum history, the development of funerals, women's work in munitions, and the experience of workers in other hazardous occupations. Sylvia Pinches has researched the history of charities, Freda Raphael has worked on hydrotherapy treatment, and others have examined medical treatment under the old and new poor law, in religious institutions, 'cottage homes' and the domestic kitchen. ELH has been accused of being antiquarian and provincial but it can demonstrate a rich history of research on a regional and global level into issues such as mortality, plague, epidemics, life expectancy, occupational health and population studies, based on local sources.

One of KS's first tasks was to look at folklore and health, which has led to research into such topics as 'churching', herbalism, attitudes to nature and health, animal breeding and veterinary medicine, regional diet, agrarian change and nutrition. Other topics for research could be the history of disability (the medical

effects of industrialization, war-related disability such as in the 17thC-Civil War or during WWI), the medical consequences of isolation and the breakdown of communities as shown in popular narratives. KS welcomed comments from the floor on how CMH would interact with ELH, and how it could open up possibilities for re-thinking local history on a national and global scale.

Suggestions for future projects included: attitudes to vaccination and 'miracle cures' in England and the Empire; community projects on medicinal springs (SK said there was a possible budget for this); medieval peasant attitudes to medicine and animal husbandry; the influence of the pharmaceutical industry in human/animal medicine; the effect of returning officers from the Empire on 19th century British sanitation projects; religious attitudes to medicine and cure, developing the work of Graham Jones. Andy Hopper noted that there was already collaborative working between Leicester and the TNA exploring war widows' petitions in the Civil War.

SK said that Elizabeth Hurren had been appointed to replace his existing post, and will start in February. Two junior history lecturer posts in CMH would be advertised, with others dependant on funding. Bio-medical sciences were seconding two posts to CMH and social scientists may follow. Strong links would be formed with the English department, looking, for example, at 'food cures' in the English novel, and SK is already talking to Queen Mary College about work on the history of emotions.

There was general agreement that the new centre was a good idea, that historians needed to know more about science, and that discussion with scientists could develop some important areas of historical thinking. SK admitted that there is no definition of 'medical humanities' but that it brings the methodology of historical insights into medical problems and debates, and that scientific thinking can be enriched by extension into history, humanities and social sciences.

Maureen Harris

Recent Deaths

Our sincere sympathy to the families of Friends recently deceased:

This notice was inadvertently missed last year:

Audrey Day of Uppingham and Ruislip died on 2nd April 2011 aged 75 years.



**FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BRIXWORTH
UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**

30th BRIXWORTH LECTURE

‘Visualising Times and Nature in Anglo-Saxon England’

By Professor Faith Wallis of McGill University, Canada

27th October 2012 at 5.00 pm in the Church

The tea will be served in the Heritage Centre at 4.00p.m. before the lecture

Tickets £5.00, which includes a buffet tea, can be obtained by emailing:

Email: brixworthfriends1@btinternet.com

For more information about the Friends and the Church:

<http://www.friendsofbrixworthchurch.org.uk>



Friends' Diary Dates

The 2012/13 Seminar Programme can be found on page 42.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Friends will take place on **Thursday, 8th November** at **1.00 p.m.** Before the Seminar.

Saturday, 17th November Conference: ‘The Uses and Abuses of the Landscape’
9.30a.m.-5.00p.m.

Cotswold Weekend April 2013: Friday 19 April to Sunday 21 April spending two nights in comfortable rooms at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. Contact Frank Galbraith galbers@talktalk.net for more information

Hoskins Lecture 2013

To be announced.

Seminar Programme 2012-13

All seminars are on **Thursdays at 2.15pm in the Seminar Room of No 1 Salisbury Road.** Please phone **0116-252-2762** to reserve a place. You are invited to tea in the **Common Room afterwards.** *Please take careful note of starred dates.*

2012, Semester 1:

Thurs 11 October

Prof. David Rollison (University of Sydney), Reflections on local studies in the historiography of early modern England since the 1970s.

Thurs 25 October

Richard Ward (University of Leicester), William Wilberforce's Dissection of Convicts Bill (1786): anatomists and criminal justice in 18th century England.

***Thurs 8 November [Preceded by FCELH AGM at 1p.m.]**

Dr Kate Giles (University of York), Recent research on the Guild buildings of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Thurs 15 November

Prof. John Miller, (Queen Mary University London), Popular politics and army politics under George I: the Bridgwater army riots of 1717 and 1721.

Thurs 13 December

Dr David Churchill (Open University), Victims of the policed society: writing the history of victims of crime in nineteenth-century England.

2013, Semester 2:

Thurs 24 January

Dr Rosalind Crone (Open University), Mapping the education of the poor in nineteenth-century Suffolk.

Thurs 7 February

David Beck (University of Warwick), Local natural history in Stuart England.

Thurs 21 February

Prof. Ann Hughes (University of Keele), 'To be paid again with the king's spoons': corruption and conflict in Warwick garrison, 1642- 1663.

Thurs 7 March

Prof. Richard Coates (University of the West of England), Place-names in surnames: some issues about their relationship.

Thurs 14 March

Dr Owen Davies (University of Hertfordshire), Researching witchcraft in nineteenth and early twentieth century America: regional and national issues.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Reservations for seminars:

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Contributions to Newsletter:

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For preference, please email smp38@le.ac.uk

Membership enquiries

To: Freda Raphael, e-mail: freda@historicalsearch.co.uk

Purchase of Friends' Papers:

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