

Friends of the Centre for English Local History

NEWSLETTER

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The cover photograph is of Gallarus oratory, situated on the Dingle peninsula in south-west Ireland. Dating from the eighth century, it was built without mortar and uses corbel vaulting. It is dimly lit with only a small window opposite the door. The stones are laid so that the inside edge is higher than the outside edge, thus ensuring that rainwater runs off the structure.

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EDITORIAL

So we come to report on another year's activities of the Centre and the Friends in this, the sixteenth edition of the Newsletter. The room provided by the Centre for the Friends has been much appreciated and well used, especially by the editor. It provides safe storage for books for the annual book sale, Friends' Papers etc.

The Centre has had another busy and successful year, as readers will gather from the following pages. The Friends have undertaken a full programme of activities, details of which are also reported. In addition, the Friends have made record grants to support M.A. students. In this respect, I would urge all who have recently completed the course to become paying members of the Friends, and so maintain contact with the Centre and also contribute towards assisting future students.

Rosie Keep, one-time editor of the Newsletter and interviewer in the series 'Talking to Friends' has decided the time has come to retire from active service. We record our thanks to her for the time and effort she has devoted to our activities over a number of years.

One new Friends Paper (No. 6) has been issued during the year and it is the intention of the committee to publish new papers on a regular basis in coming years. A schedule of work has already been established.

Apart from organising its own programme of events and providing financial assistance, the Friends have also given practical support to the Centre in the form of providing refreshments on various occasions such as the Induction Day and the Celebration of English Local History.

THE CENTRE

No. 1 Salisbury Road.

In the last Newsletter I reported on the impending availability of No. 1 Salisbury Road, and the beneficial effect this would have on our activities. It was originally intended that it would be open at the beginning of the Autumn term, but, as one might have anticipated, the building work took longer than expected, and the building was not occupied until November. It was formally opened by Geoff Crossick, the Chief Executive of the Arts and Humanities Research Board, on 7th March 2003.

A gathering of about 50 people, including historians from other universities, heard an eloquent speech from Dr Peter Musgrave, the Head of the School of Historical Studies, in which he expressed his pride in the new School, and stated that he expected its postgraduate activities to grow. He mentioned Leicester's fame as a focus of local history research. In his gracious response, Dr Crossick wished the School and the building a prosperous future, and declared it open, though without cutting a ribbon or breaking a bottle of champagne, as these had not been provided. After the reception he was shown round No.3/5 Salisbury Road, and seemed impressed by our facilities.



Dr Crossick with Dr Musgrave and the Vice-Chancellor

The new building is intended to be the base for postgraduate work in the new School of Historical Studies, so the rooms on the second and third floors have been equipped to provide space for each research student who wishes to work there with a desk, shelves and a computer. One ELH student has taken up a desk, and the others are occupied by students mainly from Economic and Social History and Urban History. Some visiting fellows have also taken up space in the building, including Dr Hara who is visiting the Centre. Postgraduate students (M.A. students as well as those doing Ph.D.s) who visit the building occasionally, can occupy desks in the building on a temporary basis (this is known as 'hot-desking', which is an especially appropriate term in view of the problems with the heating system, see below). There is also a common room and kitchen which any student from ELH can use. It is intended that all postgraduate activities in the School, including seminars, should be held in the two Salisbury Road buildings. There is a computer suite on the second floor where computing can be taught; at other times students can use the machines. In addition, the office in Nos. 3/5 Salisbury Road will become the administrative centre for dealing with postgraduate affairs in the School, such as the processing of applications.

English Local History therefore sits at the core of the whole postgraduate activity of the School of Historical Studies, as is right and proper. The immediate benefit for the Centre is that No.3/5 is less overcrowded. The staff of EMOHA (East Midlands Oral History Archive) have moved their whole operation to No. 1. As a result of this freeing of rooms, we have been able to make room 13 available to the Friends to

store records and papers, and as office space.

From the beginning of the planning of work on No.1, we in English Local History pressed for two rooms to be turned into one large room for meetings, and this has been done. It was first used for the Friends' AGM on 21 November, when the room was complete but lacked large numbers of chairs. Since then it has gained a full complement of furniture, and a screen which lowers from the ceiling.

The large room has already been put to various uses - the School of History Christmas party on 12 December 2002, the seminar in our regular series addressed by Mick Aston on 27 February 2003, the reception for Geoff Crossick on 7 March, the Friends' conference on markets on 8 March, and the 'Celebration of English Local History in the Leicester Style' on 13 May. A rather sad occasion was the reception after the funeral of John Hurst, the archaeologist, on 30 May. He had been associated with Leicester and with the Centre, and his family asked for the event to be held in our building. We were pleased to be able to help. It is also used more routinely, when set out with tables and chairs, for seminars and meetings.

In the future we hope that both the Friends and the Centre will hold many more events in the new room, which holds sixty seated, and can accommodate larger gatherings, especially as guests can overflow on to the landing and into the adjacent kitchen and common room. There are various teething problems, notably the unpredictable heating system, which seems to be fixed at about 40 degrees centigrade. There are also problems of access and security, as the office, which controls the flow of visitors, is in No. 3/5.

The opening of No. 1 marks an important stage in the extension of our facilities, and of the whole School. In particular the large room is a great asset, which means that in the future we can hold many more small conferences and gatherings.

Chris Dyer

Honorary degree

On 23rd. January 2003, **Dr Margaret Gelling**, well known to many Friends, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by the University. After the ceremony, a reception was held in Marc Fitch House. We have pleasure in quoting the oration that was given by Dr Stephen Guram.

‘The English language is complex: it contains far more words than any other language. One result is that there are many words that mean virtually the same thing, but with nuances and fine distinctions. This can cause problems for those learning it. Can you explain the difference between “client” and “customer”? Do you “abandon” or “give up on” a project? The major reason for the wealth of words is that English is a mongrel language. It contains elements derived from the different waves of migrants and invaders that have settled this island, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans, as well as Latin-based additions from medieval learning and later accruals from the days of the Empire.

The language contains elements from many sources. So, too, do the place-names of England. The names of towns, fields and geographical features record the patterns of settlement of the several waves of migrants and invaders and contain much valuable information on the date of arrival and geographical distribution of these different peoples. For example, I happen to have an interest

in one Sir Edmund Cradock-Hartopp. In the early days of the nineteenth century he owned Knighton Hall, now the official residence of our Vice-Chancellor. He owned much else besides, mainly in Leicestershire. He owned land in Aston Flamville, Brentingby, Burton Lazars, Eye Kettleby, Knighton, Newbold Verdon, Sutton Coldfield and Wyfordby. These names are informative. The “ton” ending is Anglo-Saxon, denoting a settlement. The Flamville family owned the manor of Aston (meaning the eastern settlement) in the early medieval period. Burton Lazars was the site of a leper hospital, a lazarette. The “by” ending is Danish, also denoting a settlement, and is very common in the East Midlands. Eye Kettleby is the settlement of a Dane named Ketil. The affix Eye occurs because it lies on the River Eye, and distinguishes it from the nearby Ab Kettleby. Newbold is the new building (i.e. house) owned by the Verdon family.

The pre-eminent scholar of English place names today is the lady here presented to you – Dr Margaret Gelling, Officer of the Order of the British Empire, Master of Arts in the University of Oxford, Doctor of Philosophy of the University of London, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, Fellow of the British Academy. She is a Past President of the English Place-Name Society and also a former member of the Communist Party.

Margaret Gelling was born in Manchester and read English at St Hilda’s College, Oxford. She is on record as having found English Literature “dreadfully boring” and “a waste of time”. However, she clearly found the language, especially Old English, fascinating. After leaving Oxford, she spent seven years as a Research Assistant for the English

Place-Name Society, but since then has been a freelance researcher. In the 1960s and 1970s she and her colleagues were the Young Turks of place-name studies. Unlike the original Young Turks, their revolution prevailed. One result of their work is the idea that philology is not enough: to use place-name evidence to the full it must be combined with geographical and even geological evidence. Thus they observed that many of the Danish settlement names in the East Midlands were located on poorer land, suggesting that they were founded by later migrants rather than by the victorious Viking thugs of the Great Army. They also noted that topographical names, those describing features of the landscape, were remarkably consistent from Kent to Northumberland, suggesting a much greater homogeneity of the early English settlers than was generally believed to be the case.



Dr (now Professor) Fox and Dr Gelling at the reception in Marc Fitch House.

Margaret Gelling has published many books. Her *Signposts to the Past* (1978, now in its third edition) opened up place-name studies to historians and archaeologists. Its sub-title is significant: *Place-names and the history of England*. *The Landscape of Place Names* (2000) continues the theme of place-names in their context. She has also produced several volumes of the county-by-county survey of place-names published by the English Place-Name Society.

Margaret Gelling is an indefatigable teacher. She travels the country delivering public lectures, often in small villages. She feels very strongly about the value of teaching to adults and does much evening lecturing for the University of Birmingham, which made her an Honorary Reader in 1981. She has been a great support to, and a Friend of, this university's Department of English Local History, whose students use her work extensively. She was created OBE for her work in 1995 and in 1998 was elected a Fellow of the British Academy, the historian's equivalent to the scientist's Fellow of the Royal Society.

One final thought, the study of place-names is not only a study of Dark Age and medieval England but of the whole period of history. In Staffordshire we find Etruria and Port Sunlight lies in Cheshire. These are modern settlements: what do their names signify? And I do wonder what future students of place-names will make of the location on the A50 south of Derby where the road sign points proudly to "Toyota"!

Mr Chancellor, on the recommendation of the Senate and of the Council, I present Margaret Joy Gelling that you may confer upon her the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters.'

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the Centre. The photograph below shows Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole who have collaborated on a number of books, perhaps the most notable recent book being *The Landscape of Placenames*.



Seminar programme 2002-3

Professor Snell introduced the first speaker of the year, **Dr Thomas Sokoll** (Fern Universitat, Hagen) who spoke on 'Narrative of poverty: Essex pauper papers, 1800-1834'. Dr Sokoll explained that he was a social and economic historian rather than a local historian, but had been drawn to the Essex poor law records because of their number and continuity and his desire to find out how people really lived before the days of the modern welfare state. This led him to investigate the attitudes of the poor and how they reacted to the overseers. To illustrate his argument he took three examples of different types of letter that had been written by applicants for assistance. The first, sent from outside the parish, was a neat simple letter that explained the dire situation of the applicant, written without rancour or bitterness in a clear hand and without spelling mistakes. Most of the requests from outside the settlement parish came from London or nearby counties, with a few coming from much further away, in particular a group round Southampton. The second letter was

poorly written by the applicant, in person, in the style in which he would have spoken and one gets a much more personal impression of the man in question. The style is more demanding than that of the previous letter. The third letter was almost certainly written by a professional letter-writer in the style of a petition; Dr Sokoll felt it had been written by Charles Lucy. At this time there were books of standard petitions.

Dr Sokoll then considered the letters from a thematic perspective, namely trade. Most Essex folk of the period were agricultural labourers or general labourers, if they had gone to London. Few of the applicants mention their particular trade but refer in general terms to their willingness to work. The elderly would tend to refer to their infirmities. Dr Sokoll concluded with the observation of the very personal nature of the letters and contrasted this approach with that in Prussia, where a pauper's request for help would only have been considered against a formal application. A lively discussion followed and the session was drawn to a conclusion with Professor Snell mentioning that the role of the professional letter-writer still existed as he himself had acted in that role when growing up in West Africa.

Dr Julie Rugg (University of York and Director of the Cemetery Research Group in York), spoke on the subject 'Defining the place of death: what makes a cemetery a cemetery?' She started her talk by illustrating the differences between a cemetery and a churchyard, the former being on the border or outside a settlement, the latter being an integral part of the community. While the cemetery was all embracing for all elements and religions in a community, the churchyard was exclusive and emphasised the relative importance of certain in-

dividuals within the community. Urban cemeteries define space for the deceased and the family in a much more formal way than do churchyards; while churchyards have been altered over time, with corpses being placed on top of earlier burials, the cemetery was looked upon as providing a place of perpetual remembrance.

Dr Rugg went on to discuss other types of cemetery. War cemeteries have no special local connection and are usually located near to a battle site. They may gain significance as a tourist attraction of a special nature. Mass graves can attain a great significance and may attain pilgrimage status even though those buried there are unknown individually. The pantheon becomes a sacred site through the presence of 'celebrity dead'. The role of Karl Marx and Kensal Green cemetery illustrates another point made by Dr Rugg, in that the significance of a burial site can change over time. A body in a non-religious site, e.g. Lenin's mausoleum, may become a sacred site. The ultimate example of the pantheon concept must be Dick Turpin's headstone in York, which was placed in position a long time after his death and does not contain his body.

Professor Anthony Sutcliffe (University of Nottingham) chose to speak on 'Film and locality in England, 1926-1990'. The theme of Professor Sutcliffe's lecture was to demonstrate how film can illustrate various concepts of locality, sometimes consciously, sometimes by accident. He illustrated the points with clips from a number of films. The setting of a film, while not meant to assist the local historian, can provide unexpected insight into conditions at a particular time; this was illustrated in the film *Hue and Cry*, made in 1946, which used a London bombsite. Other wartime films showed the effect of

airborne destruction on localities, a point most poignantly made with shots of Hamburg.

Feature films can also provide insight into different aspects of locality, which was illustrated by a clip showing ploughing with three horses during the introduction of the 1937 film *Spring Time*. Locality can even be used as a concept, as in the film *Broadway*. The 1931 German film *Kuhle Wampe*, though a film of social comment, provides a sense of place for the impoverished people who experimented with this site of communal living. Professor Sutcliffe offered different concepts of locality using film as diverse as *Limehouse Blues* which illustrated the passions of football against the backdrop of Arsenal's Highbury stadium and one showing the industrial dirt and destruction and human deprivation in 1939 Pittsburgh. He then went on to describe how localities can be created by film-makers, usually on a two-thirds scale.

The connection with W.G. Hoskins was made by Professor Phythian-Adams who explained that some of Hoskins's early intellectual development was based on Lewis Mumford's work. One can conclude that Hoskins would have enjoyed this seminar on popular culture.

We were fortunate indeed that **Glenn Foard**, former County Archaeologist for Northamptonshire and now of the Battlefields Trust, was available at short notice to take the place of our incommoded scheduled speaker. In an exceptionally well-illustrated talk on 'Battlefields as historic landscapes and archaeological sites', Glenn, well-known to many amongst the audience, used the Battle of Naseby (1645) as his main exemplar for his thesis that it was necessary to understand the topography of battlefields in order to understand the

action. Earlier historians had ignored this element and this had led to many misconceptions, not least in relation to actual battle sites. In the case of Naseby, the OS pre-enclosure map of c. 1810 combined with the known, very systematic, deployment of the cavalry and infantry regiments on both sides, and the archaeological evidence (largely represented by the distribution of lead shot of differing calibres) had enabled the action to be placed very clearly in its landscape setting. The distribution of shot had also made it possible to establish the line of the fighting retreat made by the Royalist forces through some two miles of open-field Northamptonshire.

From this graphic and extensively researched case-history, and again using the three data sources of documents/maps, military history and archaeology, Mr Foard placed other engagements in their likely settings. First, the battle of Newburn, near Newcastle (1640) where the 20,000 victorious Scots enjoyed a commanding high-ground overview of the vulnerable English army exposed on open marshy ground on the far side of the Tyne. Then to Bosworth (1485) where modern research suggested that, although more archaeological research is needed to confirm it, the real site of the battle was some considerable distance from that originally postulated. Adwalton Moor (1643) in West Yorkshire, illuminated by a Saxton map of 1599, was another case where the conjunction of open field with ancient enclosures, and the distribution of shot, helped to pinpoint the action. The course of events at Marston Moor (1644), again centring on decisive action around ancient enclosures, was similarly revealed, as was the three-day siege at Grafton Regis in Northamptonshire (1643).

In conclusion we were told that of around three hundred battles fought

in England there were only forty-three registered sites and that most were unlocated. More therefore needed to be done to identify the 'archaeological signatures' of lost sites, by such techniques as organised metal detection, thus enabling conservation work to be carried out. An interesting question and answer session followed touching upon the lack of known grave sites for the fallen; the (in)accuracy of musket fire and the supposed superiority of the longbow; the use of GPS in field archaeology; and, finally, evidence of pre-Conquest battles (apparently that of Maldon, which took place in 993, is one of the few located with any certainty).

The last seminar of the autumn term drew a capacity audience to hear **Dr David Roffe** (University of Sheffield) deliver his revisionist view of, 'Domesday now? Uses of the Domesday Book data'. While it is doubtful if the majority of those present (including the writer) were able to follow his arguments in their entirety, all were agreed on the importance of his ideas and the implications for future use of the survey material. It is indeed possible that he brought about a change in the relative numbers of the two categories of Domesday scholars that he instanced at the beginning of his talk – a shift from 'those who use it' to, 'those who worry about it.'

In essence Dr Roffe believes that there is a distinct separation between the Inquest ordered in 1086 at Gloucester and the production of the Great Domesday at a later date, and that associated texts such as Little Domesday, *Exon Domesday* and the *Inquisitio Eliensis* not only reveal earlier stages in the process of inquiry but also help us to understand the initial purpose of the Inquest of 1086. This, he maintained, was to reinforce the obligation of knight service and to

give King William an indication of the tax potential of the country in the face of the threat of a Danish invasion. The later compilation of the Great Domesday, after William's death, was to provide his son William Rufus with an account of the *status quo ante* to facilitate the establishment of stable rule following rebellion and tenurial upset in 1088. If all this sounds deceptively simple, the detailed evidence for the thesis is complex. It depends upon Dr Roffe's detailed scrutiny of the chronology of the various documents, their varied formulas (e.g. 'there is land for so many ploughs'), the nuances of the texts as between the seven circuits of the commissioners and the differences between them. Also, and most importantly, it requires an appreciation of the distinctions between different types of geldable and geld-free land as typified by hidated demesne (he argued that one consequence of the survey was the subsequent revocation of demesne exemption), warland and inland. It follows from these distinctions that, to a greater extent than already appreciated, the Great Domesday reveals but a fragmentary, patchwork England, as the geld-free lands, their tenants and stock, were not included in the original survey because they were irrelevant to its purpose. The manor and its soke was to be seen as the key agency for tax collection, and in the keen question and answer session that followed this most stimulating of seminars, there was much debate about the realities behind these still indefinable concepts, and also that of inland and the like.

Dr Margot Finn (Warwick University), got 2003 off to a flying start with a lecture titled 'Credit before credit cards; 1780-1900'. Dr Finn noted how Adam Smith ignored the existence of credit, believing that cash dealings were supreme, while Karl

Marx recognised the importance of credit by means of his own experience with pawnbrokers. Rather like sex, credit was a subject that was not spoken about openly in nineteenth-century society. Credit was taken, almost as of right, by the upper classes who would appear to have used the system to abuse their suppliers as a means of emphasising their social superiority. In the early part of the century retail traders would seem to have used personal contact and evaluation as the main way of deciding whether credit should be given in any particular situation. Recommendation of a person's worthiness was a recognised form of credit check, though Dr Finn did not explain whether a retailer would expect to receive any compensation should the person recommended subsequently default.

Credit for working-class families was an accepted means of survival in a time of great inequality when full employment and a regular wage throughout the year were mere dreams. Within this context the arrival of the retail co-operative movement seems to have provided a mixed approach; on the one hand there were those who believed the co-operative system enabled the working class to develop self-respect, while up to half the societies themselves found it necessary to offer credit to those who found themselves on hard times.

A burgeoning consumer public required alternative means of finance, which was satisfied by the introduction of an unofficial dual system. From the 1860s the new department stores subscribed to the principle of cash only payment but effectively gave credit by accepting delayed payment. Again, the upper classes flaunted their position in society. Traders approached this new position by increasing use of the Trade Protection Societies, the first having

been established in London, while the first provincial society was not established till 1823 in Liverpool. A national society was created in 1850, from which time it became easier for traders to pass information among them-selves, especially concerning swindlers.

Times may have changed, the means of trading may have become more sophisticated, and attitudes towards debt more relaxed but we were left with certainty that the imperfection of human nature has not altered. Dr Finn's lecture was wide-ranging and elicited a lively question time afterwards. Her forthcoming book, due to be published in September, develops the argument and ideas proposed in the seminar.

Taking the theme from the previous seminar, **Dr Andrew Hann** (Universities of Coventry and Leicester) spoke on 'The production of retail space: some case studies from eighteenth-century England'. Shopping in the eighteenth century was mainly a leisure and social activity for the urban elite, a place to peruse the latest in fashions and a place to be seen. It required broad pavements, an increase in the availability of goods and a change of approach by the shopkeeper. Dr Hann used the examples of Wolverhampton, Walsall, Worcester and Chester to illustrate how the area devoted to high status shops had increased by the end of the century. The highest status shops tended to cluster round some identifiable point, whether the market, cross or church; lower status shops spread further away from the fashionable centre and hawkers were kept at the extremities. Shopping for the necessities of life was still the prerogative of the market.

With the concept of modernisation established, the urban elite started to lead the development of

towns. Town guides begin to appear, referring to the delights of street cleansing and lighting. Shoppers were encouraged to promenade through newly laid out streets and admire the architecture as they moved from one area to another. Fashionable towns like Bath and Cheltenham would vie with each other through the wording of their guides. A culture of polite shopping was encouraged and the shopping area soon became an area for socialising, a privilege not available to previous generations. Even small market towns developed an area, albeit smaller in size, for the elite to socialise. In practice this was a way for the town to display its prosperity and sophistication and establish or retain its reputation. Dr Hann noted how Lancaster lost its reputation when the assizes ceased to be held in the town. The improved pavements also benefited the urban masses. Streets and open spaces were used for different purposes by the various groups, which led to social tensions.

This was a most revealing excursion into the eighteenth century and we were especially grateful to Dr Hann who replaced the advertised speaker at short notice.

The speaker at the next seminar was **Martin Ayres** (Leicester University), who gave an insight into the research he has been undertaking for his PhD on 'Housing and Rural Society, 1834-1914'. The main thrust of his investigation concerns the effect differing types of cottage tenure had on the development of Dorset and Leicestershire rural communities in the nineteenth century. Based on manorial records, it is clear Dorset had a much larger number of large landowners who favoured copyhold tenure, usually with a tenure for three lives than Leicestershire, which has very little evidence of manorial copyhold, tenure after 1700 though some quit rent was still paid in

1830. A few manors with strong copyhold tenures did survive in Leicestershire, often, surprisingly, in framework knitting villages, such as Earl Shilton, Burbage and Barwell, which were large open villages. For the most part, however, rents were at the full rate and allowed the tenant to behave almost like a freeholder. Land was sometimes sold to tenants, which released the lord from any responsibility for maintenance.

Most of Martin's work on Dorset relates to the records of the Banks and Pitt Rivers estates. Here many copyhold tenancies lasted well into the twentieth century. It is significant that large landowners had much more influence on the development of villages in Dorset than in Leicestershire. It was common in Dorset for copyhold tenants to have more than one cottage, as evidenced in the village of Bradford Abbas, where thirty-one tenants held the tenancy of ninety-one cottages. Change in the method of tenure did come slowly after 1860.

'Valpolicella in its region' was the subject of an intriguing and amusing talk by **Dr Peter Musgrave** (University of Leicester, Dept of History). Dr Musgrave worked his way backwards chronologically, starting with the first reference to Valpolicella as a wine region which was in 1950. The wine region, mostly located outside the traditional boundaries of Valpolicella, was the creation of one man, Count Antonio Guerriera Rizzardi Rambaldi, a member of one of the local elite families who, as the largest landowner of the district, stood to gain most by development of the region's wine. The first reference to the ecclesiastical region of Valpolicella, based on three minster churches, is recorded in 1332 when Count Federico de la Scala was appointed by the Head of Verona.

Between these two dates Dr Musgrave wove intertwining and separate threads of questioning concerning the definition and practice of a region.

The creation of Valpolicella in the fourteenth century was an attempt by the tribute masters in Verona to ensure tithes were collected and handed over to the Veronese. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the secular elite seem to have obtained privileges such that a lesser amount of tribute was paid to Verona. In the seventeenth century there was an attempt to define exactly who were the original settlers of Valpolicella. By the eighteenth century there is evidence of the local nobility banding together to establish their independence from Verona. Traditionally Venice, as the leading state of the region, established what taxes the various city states under its tutelage should pay and the cities, in turn, decided how much should be collected from their regions. Along the way, Dr Musgrave introduced other issues he considered were worthy of much greater study, such as marriage patterns. He has established there was no marriage across the Adige, the main river of the region. Similarly, further work could be done on the patterns of migration of local people to Verona, their settlement in certain defined parishes of the city but their continued sense of belonging to Valpolicella. Dr Musgrave finished his talk, not with a conclusion, but by questioning what is a region, do they come and go over time and change their role?

It was just as well that we were able to use the Jack Simmons room in No. 1 Salisbury Road on February 27th as **Professor Mick Aston's** discussion of 'Early monasteries in the landscape' drew the largest ever Thursday seminar audience to the Centre. We were not disappointed, for once again Mick proved himself to be far more than the popular expositor of *Time Team* fame.

This was demonstrated in a wide-ranging account of his attempts to identify the archaeological 'signature' of early monastic sites. He began by pointing out that although much had been written about monastic influence on the landscape in terms of such things as water management, barns, granges, enclosure and the like, nearly all of this (including his own *Monasteries* first published by Batsford and soon to be reprinted with the fuller title *Monasteries in the Landscape*) related to the period between Domesday and the Reformation, with very little being about the earlier and later periods.

From researches in the library (and refectory) of Downside Abbey where Dom Philip Jebb had advised that of three things God didn't know, one was the answer to his question as to how many orders of nuns existed, Mick explained how he had attempted to establish what it meant to be a monk and what constituted a monastery, concluding that in the early period the ultimate monastic aspiration had often been to live the eremitical life. The monastery of the Ile Saint Honorat, a small island off the south coast of France, was instanced as an exemplar of the kind of arrangement predicated by this ideal, which was a central monastery surrounded by, not very far distant, chapels marking the sites of hermitages. Researches had therefore involved a look at many of the 1,400 so far recorded sites of the British Isles in order to identify traces of a similar type. Much of this work had been in the Celtic west where the Roman Augustinian influence, exemplified by the Jarrow model, had been slow to percolate. We were then led on a fascinating tour of likely sites from the remote Skelligs (surely amongst the most austere of cells); the Gallarus oratory of the Dingle peninsula, perhaps one of a number of chapels

linked to the monastery of Kilmakeldar; the islands of Lundy, Steepholm and Flatholm; St David's Cathedral, the west coast of Scotland; and – closer to home for many – Glastonbury, its Tor, and other 'bumps' in the Somerset levels.

Such was the interest in all of this that Chris Dyer suggested an interim question and answer session during which Mick clearly enjoyed debating matters arising, including comparisons with the ordered Roman style of establishment compared with British 'shambolic'; where early minsters fitted into the picture; the possible association between place-names and *loci sancti*; and the preferred eremitical settings of desert and wilderness, rocks and caves. Following these fruitful exchanges, we were treated to some further thoughts about the particular case to be made for Glastonbury Tor as an eremitical centre. The seminar concluded with more questions about the possibility of woodland providing a 'surrogate' desert landscape attractive to the monk hermit; the existence of other bigger, more structured, monastic sites dating from the early period in Ireland and Wales, as well as within the purview of the Roman tendency. In answer to this last question Mick said that the distinction was between ecclesiastical as opposed to monastic foundations and, for this reason, suggested that, because nuns could not have been responsible for pastoral care in the early period, the essential clues to the nature of the early monastic 'footprint' could lie in identifying early nunneries.

Professor Steve McCluskey (University of West Virginia) was in the middle of a visiting year in Leicester's School of Archaeology during which he had spent much of his time investigating the 'hoary' old theory revealed by the title of his paper – 'Did medieval villagers orientate

their churches?' Or, more particularly, did they orient them to the east as determined by sunrise on the feast day of their patronal saint? Professor McCluskey is a scientist by training and this was made apparent by the statistical rigour with which he had tested this hypothesis (greatly helped by Graham's TASC database to which he paid tribute) and the accuracy that he had set out to achieve in determining the actual orientations of the church. Notwithstanding this scientific approach, Steve, now first and foremost an historian of science, also proved himself a considerable medievalist in his recourse to evidence from relevant texts. He referred to these in relation to their discussion of the astronomical principles of the calendar (including the liturgical calendar) and what they had to say about the orientation of churches towards the east, and particularly east as determined at the vernal equinox – the time both of the Creation, and Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

A number of methodological problems were addressed before the research findings were detailed. Chief amongst these were the ambiguous and alternative datings of the Spring equinox, further complicated by the change from the Julian to Gregorian calendar, which meant that the reasonable precision about the date of the church building was important; also the possibility that churches were oriented as if on their patronal day by chance, given that virtually all churches had a general easterly orientation. In order to obviate these problems the criteria for selection of the test sample (114 churches within the medieval diocese of Lincoln) included a requirement that their dedications pre-dated the Reformation and that their village was recorded in the Domesday Book. Within this grouping four sub-sets were selected of

churches dedicated to a) Mary, 25th March, Feast of the Annunciation; b) John the Baptist, 24th June, Feast of John's Nativity; c) All Saints, 1st November; d) Andrew, 30th November, a date with no astronomical significance and therefore used as a control. Graphing of the results of the orientations of these churches showed a wide variety of orientations for St Andrew, and an apparent correlation for Marian dedications was illusory as determined by statistical (chi square) testing. However, the tests did suggest that churches dedicated to All Saints were significantly aligned on the vernal equinox, and that there was a significant incidence of dedications to St John being orientated so that the western end of the church faced west at sunset on the Feast of his Conception – September 24th, i.e. the autumnal equinox.

Professor McCluskey then went on to consider the possible reasons for these findings. He pointed out that there was no trace of justification for them in the liturgical literature, but that this was to be found in that relating to the dating of Easter – i.e. the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Quoting from a variety of sources he linked the 25th March to the eighth day of Creation; the day of the Resurrection; and the Day of Judgement – the end of time and therefore 'of all the saints' – making a connection here between the dooms to be found over the east-facing chancel arches of most medieval churches. Of the western orientation of the west ends of churches dedicated to St John, it was suggested that this may have mimicked the orientation of Roman churches many of which were dedicated to St John; was perhaps symbolically related to the sacrament of baptism (often said to have taken place in the late afternoon) and the western location of fonts; was connected to the association of John

with declining light after the Feast of the Nativity (midsummer), and a saying of the saint to the effect that Christ must increase while he must decrease (i.e. days grow longer after Christmas and shorter after midsummer).

In the question and answer session that followed it was agreed that more work needed to be done (only two per cent of the data base had been examined); and a number of questions remained; why are some churches orientated as postulated and others not; was there a difference between monastic, ecclesiastic, royal and lay churches; were there different geographical distributions; what about dedications other than the four examined? Much food for thought and scope for further research by local historians.



The omission from last year's Newsletter of an account of **Tom Williamson's** paper "Woodland" and "Champion" revisited: explaining variations', given in the Centre on March 7th 2002, was particularly unfortunate, given that it contained the kernel of an important new thesis now published in his book, *Shaping Medieval Landscapes: Settlement, Society, Landscape* (2003).

Starting from the assertion that there had been a gross over-generalization of the divisions of England into 'ancient' or 'planned'; champion or several; 'nucleated' or 'dispersed', areas of settlement, Williamson pointed out that the true picture was more complex. Local variations in soil type, micro-climate and topography (to say nothing of societal influences) gave rise to something beyond the 'interdigitation' of landscape type that had hitherto been accepted. In illustration of this he

described different forms of dispersion, for example, 'common edge' in Norfolk as opposed to 'green side' in Essex. He also pointed out that there was little correlation between lordship type, population levels, and areas of nucleated settlement. Although there was a relationship between a lack of woodland in Saxon times and champion England, there was no indication that ploughing up the land had produced more food, given the population evidence. Considerable emphasis was placed on the variation in quality of the claylands, that on the one hand typified much of Midland open-field farming and on the other, different arrangements on the East Anglian boulder clays. The easily water-logged *pelo* soils, typical of much of the Midland champion country allowed, he argued, only very short windows of opportunity for ploughing, and although this phenomenon in itself was not sufficient to explain the differences in *pays*, when it was associated with the large amounts of meadow land in the Midland belt (as opposed to the lack of this commodity in East Anglia) it became a *raison d'avoir* for the concentration of labour services in nucleated settlements because of the intense activity required at haymaking.

In conclusion he noted that the general view today was that champion open-field farming, with 'everything ploughed up', was less effective than the environmentally diverse economies practised in woodland/ancient landscapes. He now believed that soils, climate and topography were the principal determinants of different landscapes, but that social and economic factors also played a part.

NOTE: It is hoped that this late remedying of the omission from the last Newsletter will encourage readers to read Williamson's book which, apart

from developing the theme detailed above, also provides a most useful account of the historiography of landscape studies.

Inaugural Lecture –K.D.M. Snell

On 15th October the Vice-Chancellor introduced **Keith Snell**, Professor of Rural and Cultural History, who gave the first Inaugural Lecture of the season in the Ken Edwards Building. Professor Snell chose for his subject 'The culture of local xenophobia', a subject that seemed entirely appropriate for one who spent most of his childhood experiencing first-hand many different cultures in their localities. Professor Snell noted that much has been written about the wider concept of xenophobia but nothing has been written on local xenophobia. E.P. Thompson wrote about working class consciousness; he, and others, have written on local identity.

Class-consciousness covers many aspects, all of which in the labour market, are aimed at the exclusion of competitors. Less skilled jobs meant local identity was more important than work. Rural poor identified themselves with their parish and many writers have identified the parish locality. The Northamptonshire poet, John Clare, who is always connected with the village of Helpston, referred to non-parishioners as 'out of the world'. Even eighteenth- and nineteenth-century maps emphasized the locality, tithe maps showed only local needs. The Anglican clergy supported boundary perambulations to assert a sense of locality. The working poor were only interested in local points because identity provided settlement.

Professor Snell went on to discuss how locality has given rise to attitudes of inter-village rivalry and

prejudice, football-chanting being the modern equivalent. Many authors, including Rupert Brooke in Grantchester, have written about local rivalries. Folklore was often derogatory of other villages, the images in many cases suggesting dimwittedness or having a sexual connotation. Local sayings usually taunted and disparaged the object; there were many taunts against London. Some groups, easily recognised as being different by dress or accent, such as itinerant preachers or the Irish, were obvious objects for prejudicial treatment.

In some cases the inter-village rivalries became physically violent and were an excuse for faction fighting, examples being at annual fairs. Church bells proclaimed success over one's rivals. Professor Snell noted that, however violent some inter-village rivalry may have been, it was mild compared with the level of violence perpetrated between rival Russian villages.

Courtship and marriage outside the village often caused jealousy and feuding, either between families or between villages, marriage outside the village being considered unsuitable or impossible. Settlement disputes added to the sense of rivalry. In effect, the parish protected its own, especially in the areas of marriage and employment.

Professor Snell considered that the level of local xenophobia reduced during the nineteenth century for a mixture of reasons. Methodism was an important contributor to this change of attitude because it encouraged extra-parochial allegiances. Wesley thought shared aspirations were the key - the world is one parish. The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act was said to reduce local xenophobia by removing the concept of locality. Captain Swing riots saw people of differing parishes unite.

A Celebration Of English Local History In The Leicester Style

Almost sixty people crammed into the new lecture room in No.1 Salisbury to hear Professor Chris Dyer introduce five of the Centre's own staff and graduates give short fifteen-minute lectures on a range of subjects that reflect the range of work done in the Centre. This was the Centre's contribution to Local History Week and acted as a prelude to Professor Dyer's inaugural lecture. The speakers spoke in a broadly chronological order of their subject.

Dr Graham Jones started the session by giving a brief introduction to the Trans-national Database and Atlas of Saints' Cults (TASC), of which he is Chairman. This international project has forty workers in some twenty countries and aims to produce a database of all European saints; to date the database has twenty thousand records on-line. The range of saints and their cultures is vast and must be studied systematically. While church dedications have changed, names have not changed since the thirteenth century. To illustrate some of the work being undertaken, he showed how names may be clustered in regional or landscape areas, such as Andrew who was the patron saint of lace makers or Margaret and Helen, whose names are associated with sheep and pasture and invariably appear in a pastoral landscape. One needs to question many aspects of cults, whether the distribution of names is random or reasoned, are they real or fictional? While there will be a national view that builds up a picture of a cult, it is necessary to look beyond national boundaries.

This was followed by **Professor Harold Fox**, who chose as his subject 'Distant detachments', the study of parishes and manors with a home base and a detached part. This was a subject he first noticed while working on his thesis on the parish of Kenton in Devon, that the parish had a separate area on Dartmoor. He started to study this aspect of landscape history on arrival at the Department of Local History and with the intellectual support of Professors Alan Everitt and Charles Phythian-Adams. It has led him in various directions, from first realising that communities needed to search for additional resources, to transhumance, drove ways and seasonal settlements and changes in the landscape

Dr Mark Page then spoke on 'Whittlewood: new light on old landscapes'. This project has now attracted further funding for the next three years and seeks to find out why settlement patterns in a small area on the Buckinghamshire/Northamptonshire border developed as they have. By studying twelve parishes in detail, using archaeological and historical methods, it is hoped to build up a picture of evolutionary development. In the Roman period, the land was fairly open, but was re-afforested after the Roman withdrawal, though we do not know why. It had become a Royal hunting area by the time of Domesday and subject to Forest Law in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, but there was a change of use by the fifteenth century. While one village, Whittlebury, was nucleated, nearby Silverstone and Leckhamstead are examples of dispersed Settlement. It is confidently expected that answers to puzzles such as these will be found by the time the project is completed in 2005.

Dr Lynn Marston has just completed her thesis on

'Reconstructing a small medieval town's trading patterns, Glastonbury in the fourteenth century'. This study helps to understand how evolution took place using various aspects of the Abbey records. She was able to use material such as manorial surveys, various material related to trading, to events and records of debt cases and recognisances. She was able to build up a picture of trading patterns with surrounding communities, whether it was the strong connection with Wells, or the Mendips which acted as a barrier to trade. Snippets of information help us to build up a picture of the town, its people and its trade.

The next speaker was **Dr Alan Fox**, who has also just completed his thesis on 'A cultural frontier in the eighteenth century'. This study originated from questioning Professor Phythian-Adams' hypothesis of the key role played by watersheds in the development of regions. He chose a section on the Leicestershire/ Lincolnshire border covering ninety-two parishes and including the ancient Sewstern Lane. By studying fourteen of these parishes in detail, using birth, marriage and burial records, he has been able to show that population is denser the further away from the cultural boundary; there are only 15% of cross-county marriages. He also looked at other commercial and cultural activities to see whether they would or would not support the idea of the boundary acting as a dividing line. Vernacular architecture is quite distinct on either side and there are significant differences in the linguistic use of words. While hiring fairs usually took place in Lincolnshire on May Day, they commonly were held at Michaelmas in Leicestershire.

The final speaker, **Professor Keith Snell**, spoke on 'Evading the work-house; out-door relief and the New Poor Law'. While the usual

image of the system was one of punishment and fear, as portrayed in the literature and newspapers of the nineteenth century, Professor Snell sought to show that overseers in many parts of the country, outside the South-East, gave high levels of out-door relief. The reasons for this were many and varied, from a cultural opposition to centralisation to a general dislike of the Poor Law Commission, but mainly because in-door relief was more expensive and did not achieve its aims. In Wales, in-door relief accounted for only five or six percent of all payments. The New Poor Law, created to eliminate all out-door relief, achieved almost the exact opposite.

This excellent series of min-lectures was followed by tea, which was provided by the Friends, in time for everyone to walk across to the main campus to listen to Professor Dyer's inaugural lecture.

Inaugural lecture - C.Dyer

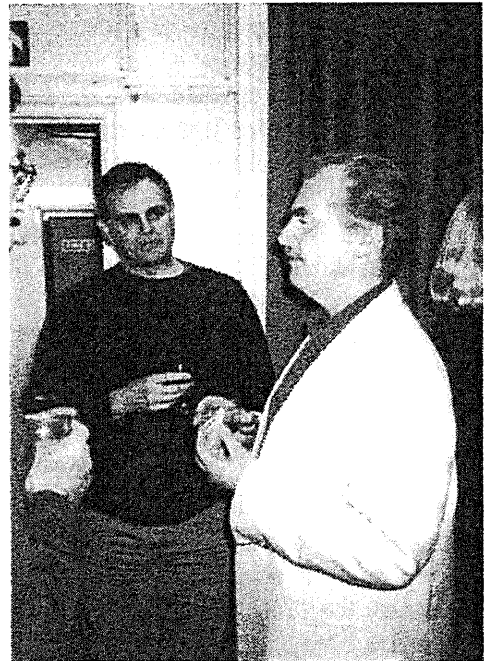
On 13th May **Christopher Dyer** gave his inaugural lecture as Professor of Regional and Local History, under the title 'Hidden from history: enquiries into past localities'. Professor Dyer began by thanking the vice-chancellor, Dr Peter Musgrave and colleagues in the Centre for Local History for welcoming him so warmly to the university and making his transfer so easy. One unique feature of the Centre is the existence of a very active 'Friends' organisation; the Friends make a great contribution to the success of the Centre by giving it a lively social dimension. As a local historian, he had jumped at the opportunity of coming to Leicester, to follow in the traditions of Hoskins, Finberg, Everitt and Charles Phythian-Adams. Leicester is well known all over the world as the place to study local history. When Marc Fitch, a

businessman with a passion for local history, made his grant to the University, he was confident in the quality of the work being done in the Department.

Professor Dyer explained he had been influenced by the work of the Leicester approach to landscape long before he knew he would come to Leicester. He then went on to explain the approach of the Centre, the integration of different branches of history, which are too often treated as separate – landscape history, social history and cultural history. The rise of interest in social history has brought local history into prominence. Local history does not always enjoy a high reputation because of the volume of rather amateurish books and pamphlets published each year. We should not be offended by this but see it as proof of people's great interest in the subject. The widespread public interest in local history amounts to much more than the satisfaction of curiosity. A sense of belonging, a pride in place, is an important element in developing a civic consciousness. He has recently pointed out in lectures in such places as Cirencester and Chipping Campden that the places cannot really be described as 'wool towns', as most of the inhabitants' livelihood did not come from dealing in wool. Local historians should not feed people with the myths they want to hear, but make them aware of the complex, uncomfortable or contentious elements in their past.

Professor Dyer then moved to the second part of his lecture in which he gave an exposition of an imaginative and interdisciplinary approach to local history, describing many aspects of the past as hidden or at least obscure. Examples included the decision-making process involved in the creation of a nucleated village around the year 1000; exposing the

myth of the comprehensive power of the lords; hidden local government; and the secret world of early farmers. Complimentary references were made to the work of Keith Snell and Harold Fox and criticisms were made of Charles Clarke, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, who had just made disparaging remarks about universities which devoted themselves to the pursuit of knowledge.



Matt Tompkins and Graham Jones in conversation at the Centre's Christmas party.



Professor Harold Fox will give his inaugural lecture on 1st June 2004 at 5.30 pm.



Centre publications

C.Dyer.

Making a Living in the Middle Ages. The People of Britain, 850-1520 (2002), 403 pp.

'Small places with large consequences: the importance of small towns in England, 1000-1540', in *Historical Research*, 75 (2002), pp. 1-24.

'The urbanizing of Staffordshire: the first phases', in *Staffordshire Studies*, 14 (2002), pp. 1-31.

'Seasonal patterns of trade in the later middle ages: buying and selling at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, 1400-1520', in *Nottingham Medieval Studies*, 46 (2002), pp. 162-84. (with Jane Laughton).

'Villages and non-villages in the medieval Cotswolds' in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, 120 (2002), pp.11-35.

'Discussion : medieval', in D. Enright and M. Watts, *A Romano-British and Medieval Settlement Site at Stoke Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire* (Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Report, No.1, 2002), pp. 70-4.

'Whittlewood: revealing a medieval landscape', in *Current Archaeology*, 182(Nov.2002), pp.59-63.

Reviews of:

D .Hadley, *Death in Medieval England*, in *English Historical Review*, 117 (2002), pp. 681-2.

B. Roberts and S. Wrathmell, *Atlas of Rural Settlement*, in *Landscape. History*, 23 (2001), pp.117-18.

P. Geary, *Myth of Nations*, and M. McCormick, *Origins of the European Economy*, in *History Today*, 52(8), pp. 54-5.

H. S. A. Fox

'Coastal settlement' (editor), *Medieval Settlement Research Group Annual Report* 16 (2002 for 2001), pp 5-14.

Reviews of

Palliser, ed., *The Cambridge Urban History of Britain*, vol. 1, in *History*, 87 (2002), pp 411-12.

Campbell, *Cambridge Seigneurial Agriculture*, in *Journal of Economic History*, pp. 214-216.

G.R.Jones

Review of D. M. Palliser (ed.), *The Cambridge Urban History*, Volume 1, 600-1540' in *Urban History Newsletter* 6, 1 (Autumn 2002), p. 15.

Mark Page

The Medieval Bishops of Winchester: Estate, Archive and Administration, in *Hampshire Papers*, 24, (2002); pp. 28.

'Life in Silverstone in the fifteenth century', in *Hindsight: Northamptonshire Local History Magazine*, 3, (September 2002), pp. 14-18.

'Life in Akeley in the fourteenth century', *Akeley - Past News*, 2, (Summer 2002), pp. 2-3.

'Select bibliography of works on medieval rural settlement 2001', in *Medieval Settlement Research Group Annual Report*, 16, (2002 for 2001), pp. 63-5.

(with Richard Jones) 'Medieval settlements and landscapes in the Whittlewood area: interim report 2001-2', *Medieval Settlement Research Group Annual Report*, 16, (2002 for 2001), pp. 15-25.

D.Postles

Ed., *Naming, Society and Regional Identity* (Oxford, 2002). 271 + xxiii pp. Contributions by Gabriel Lasker, Malcolm Smith, Roger Thompson, Dan Scott Smith, Cecily Clark, Gillian

Fellows-Jensen, Jeremy Boulton, Evelyn Lord, Kevin Schürer, and Jack Langton.

Ed., *Names, Time and Place*. Essays In Memoriam to Richard McKinley (2003),

'Penance and the market place: a Reformation dialogue with the medieval church (c.1250-c.1600)', in *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 54 (2003), pp. 1-28.

'Pittances and pittancers' in R. H. Britnell et al, eds, *Thirteenth Century England IX* (2003), pp. 175-86.

'Bynames of location with the suffix – by revisited', in *Nomina* 25 (2002), pp. 5-11.

K.D.M.Snell

'English rural societies and geographical marital endogamy, 1700-1837', *Economic History Review*, LV, 2 (2002), pp. 261-297.

Rural History, vol. 13, issue 1 and 2. (2002).

Reviews of

Thomas Sokoll (ed.), *Essex Pauper Letters, 1731-1837* (2001), in *Economic History Review* (2002).

Ann Gander, Adrian Bell: *Voice of the Countryside* (2001), in *Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture*, 13: (2002), pp. 111-2.

John Archer, *Social Unrest and Popular Protest in England, 1780-1840* (2000), in *Labour/Le Travail*, (2002), pp. 351-2.

M.G. Thompson

Review of D.V. Stern, edited and with an introduction by C. Thornton, *A Hertfordshire Demesne of Westminster Abbey: Profits, Productivity and Weather* (1999), in *Local Population Studies*, 68, (Spring 2002), pp. 98-100.

ELH Papers

Staff

C.Dyer

'The politics of the fifteenth-century village', Fifteenth Century conference, New Hall, Cambridge, (Sept. 2002).

'The fall and rise of the medieval goat', 'Joan Thirsk at 80', Rural History Centre, University of Reading, (Sept. 2002).

'Villages in Buckinghamshire', Buckinghamshire Local History Societies, Aylesbury, (Oct. 2002).

'Medieval small towns and the late medieval crisis', Postan-Duby, destin d'un paradigme. Colloque de Montreal, Universite du Quebec, Montreal, Canada, (Oct. 2002).

'Changes in consumption in the later middle ages', Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York, (Oct. 2002).

'The Whittlewood Project: medieval landscapes and settlement', Locality and Region Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, (Oct. 2002).

'Shopping in the middle ages', Leicestershire Archaeological Society, (Oct. 2002).

'The archaeology of medieval small towns', Archaeology Dept. seminar, Queen's University Belfast, (Nov. 2002).

'Politics of the late medieval village', Denys Hay Seminar in medieval history, University of Edinburgh, (Dec. 2002).

'Medieval landscapes and settlements in the Whittlewood area : some preliminary conclusions', Society of Antiquaries of London, (Feb. 2003) (with Richard Jones and Mark Page)

'Villeins, bondsmen, neifs, serfs: terminology and social subjection in medieval England', Nouveaux servages de l'Europe mediane et septentrionale, XIIIe-XVIe siecles, Mission Historique Francaise en

Allemagne, Gottingen, Germany, (Feb. 2003).

'Politics of the fifteenth century English village', Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Nottingham, (March 2003).

'Changes in consumption in the later middle ages'. Joint meeting of the medieval history and economic and social history seminars, University of Leeds, (March 2003).

'Fifty years before the plough: developments in medieval agrarian history', Annual Conference of the Agricultural History Society, Winchester, (April 2003).

'Hidden from history : enquiries into past localities', inaugural lecture at the University of Leicester, (May 2003).

'Goats in the middle ages : perspectives on environment and poverty', Oxford seminar on economic and social history, All Souls' College, Oxford, (May 2003).

'*L'historiographie anglaise*', La formation des communes d'habitants au moyen age, perspectives historiographiques, Xanten, Germany, (June 2003).

'A poet in a landscape: Piers Plowman and west Worcestershire', Third International Conference on Piers Plowman, University of Birmingham, (July 2003).

H.S.A.Fox

'*La battigia: scene di caccia e di riunione*', Oswald von Wolkenstein Gesellschaft, Trieste, Sept. 2002.

'Transhumance to Dartmoor, after and before the Norman Conquest', Devon Archaeological Society and Cornwall Archaeological Society, Tavistock, (Oct. 2002).

'The evolution of the fishing village', Institute of Historical Research, Locality and Region, London, (March 2003).

'Droeways to summer settlements on Dartmoor', Medieval Settlement Research Group, Exeter, (May 2003).

'Distant detachments', Centre for English Local History open day, Leicester, (May 2003).

'The south Devon coast: medieval fisheries, fisherfolk and fishing settlements', Devonshire Association, Exeter, (July 2003).

G.R.Jones

'Saints and settlement in medieval Framland', Melton Mowbray and District Historical Society, Melton Mowbray

'Teaching the Saints: Their Lives and roles in medieval spirituality', Society for the Study of Medieval Christianity and Culture, round-table discussion, International Medieval Congress, Leeds

'The electronic future for our written past', Rijksuniversiteit, Groningen, round-table discussion, International Medieval Congress, Leeds

'The devotional landscape of Girona and its hinterland: TASC in Catalunya - and Europe', annual colloquium of the Trans-national Database and Atlas of Saints' Cults, Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte, Göttingen

'TASC, The Georgian dimension', International Conference on Historical Sources, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Georgia, Commission for Historical Sources, Tbilisi

'Bartholomew and Thunor: Intimations of rival religions, rival polities', annual conference of The Sutton Hoo Society, Woodbridge

'Home and away: Hallaton's hare-pie scramble and bottle-kicking', annual Midland History conference, University of Leicester

'Toscana Sacra: Proposal for a Pilot Project', University of Leicester, Centre for Tuscan Studies, First Annual Tuscan Studies Day

"Play-stows" and "Play-steads": sport as ritual in the medieval landscape', annual conference of the Social History Society, Leicester
 'The market-place: form and location', University of Leicester, A Celebration of English Local History
 'Instances of St Zita in England', Twentieth Harlaxton Symposium, Freedom of Movement in the Middle Ages: People, Ideas, Goods
 'Fighting fire: professionals, patrons and patients of the Order of St Antony of Vienne', The Religious and the Laity: Europe c.1000-1350, international conference, University of Leicester

M.Page

'William Wykeham and the management of the Winchester estate, 1366-1404', Wessex Medieval Centre conference, Winchester, (September 2002).
 'Whittlewood: a forest society in late medieval England', School of Historical Studies, Leicester, (October 2002).
 'Medieval landscapes and settlements in Whittlewood: some preliminary conclusions', Society of Antiquaries, London, (February 2003).
 'The medieval bishops of Winchester', Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Society, (March 2003).
 'Whittlewood forest: woodland clearance and settlement in the middle ages', Economic History Society conference, Durham, (April 2003).

D.Postles

North American Conference on British Studies, Baltimore, (November 2002): commentator on a session on gender in the late middle ages.
 Social History Society, annual conference, University of Leicester, 3-5 January 2003: local organiser
 International Medieval Congress, Western Michigan University, 8-11

May 2003: speaker in panel on 'current pedagogy in medieval studies'.

'Movers and prayers: penance, penitence, pilgrimage, and "involuntary" movement', Harlaxton Symposium, 'Freedom of movement in the middle ages: people, ideas, goods', (28-31 July 2003).

'The religious and the laity: Europe, c.1000-c.1300', an international conference, University of Leicester, (31 July-3 August 2003) (joint organiser)

'Translating the self: the alias, alas!', Leicester-Pisa Colloquium, University of Leicester, September 2003:

Learning materials

CD-ROM, 'An Introduction to Palaeography' (Leicester, 2003): currently used in about 100 archives and record offices and archives training courses, and in numerous HEI, including Fordham University, Moravian College, Department of English in the University of Oxford, Tulane University, Duke University, University of Keele *et al.*

K.D.M.Snell

'The culture of local xenophobia', inaugural lecture at the University of Leicester, (October 2002).

Students

Martin Ayres

'Copyholders, lifeholders and squatters on the waste: rural housing and the erosion of old cottage tenures in 19th century Dorset', given to the British Agricultural History Society Jubilee Spring Conference on 8 April 2003 at King Alfred's College, Winchester.



Congratulations to Harold Fox. His book *The evolution of the fishing village: landscape and society along the south Devon coast, 1086-1550*,

won the Devon Book of the Year prize (awarded by Devon County Council).



Christopher Dyer's book, *Making a Living in the Middle Ages: the people of Britain, 850-1520*, has been published by Penguin in soft back, price £12.99.



Dave Postles was joint organiser of a major international conference titled 'The Religious and the Laity; Europe c. 1000-1300', held at the university 31st July to 3rd August. The keynote speech was given by Richard Landes of Boston University. Speakers at the conference included Graham Jones, David Postles and Sylvia Pinches. It is, perhaps, a reflection of the unique nature of the Friends, that Sylvia was invited to make a welcome speech on behalf of the Friends of the Centre of English Local History.



'Talking *ballocs*: nicknames and English medieval sociolinguistics', is the title of a monograph by Dave Postles. Using information gathered from the lay subsidies of the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries, court rolls, assorted charters, cartularies and sundry other sources, this book provides a serious though humorous insight into the use of bynames and nicknames in medieval times. Names used refer to many personal aspects, from the dress-descriptive Wilkin *Witinhod* who wore a white hood to the description of Richard *Onefote*'s physical disability. The book is arranged under a series of

headings so that bynames can be grouped together

The book is available from:

Dave Postles

Centre for English Local History

University of Leicester

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Price £6 + p&p.

John Nichols Prize

The John Nichols Prize is awarded annually. The value of the prize is £100. Very 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 20,000 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 Department. 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. More detail is available at: www.le.ac.uk/elh/pot/nich.html

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

Seminar Programme 2003-04

All seminars are on Thursdays at 2.15pm in the Seminar Room of Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road. Please phone our secretary, Audrey Larrivé, 0116-252-2762, to reserve a place. You are invited to tea in the Common Room afterwards.

2003

- Thursday 2 October** **Prof. Sir Tony (E. A.) Wrigley** (University of Cambridge):
'The changing occupational structure of England 1750-1850'
- Thursday 16 October** **Dr Michael Costen** (Centre for the Historic Environment, University of Bristol):
'Toward a chronology for the place-names of south-west England'
- Thursday 30 October** **Dr Emma Griffin** (University of Cambridge):
'Popular sports and pastimes, 18th/19th centuries'.
- Thursday 13 November** **Prof. Mike Braddick** (University of Sheffield)
'Writing the social history of England in the 1640s'.
- Thursday 27 November** **Dr Spencer Dimmock** (University of Swansea):
'A re-assessment of towns in late medieval southern Wales'.
- Thursday 11 December** **Dr Mark Freeman** (University of Glasgow):
'Social investigation and rural England 1870-1914'

2004

- Thursday 29 January** **Dr Henry French** (University of Exeter):
'Urban open fields and enclosure 1550-1800'
- Thursday 12 February** **Dr Beat Kümin** (University of Warwick):
'Drink and debauchery? An economic profile of the early modern public house'
- Thursday 26 February** **Dr Carenza Lewis**
'Time Team's 'Big Dig' and other approaches to the history of settlement'
- Thursday 11 March** **Dr Paul Glennie** (School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol):
'Historical geography of clock times'
- Thursday 25 March** **Dr Paul Bryant-Quinn** (University of Wales, Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies):
'Locality and belief: lessons from 15th-century religious writing'.

Recently Completed Theses

Alan Fox

'The Leicestershire- Lincolnshire border in the eighteenth century: a cultural frontier?'

The starting point of the thesis is the proposition by Professor Charles Phythian-Adams that the pre-1974 counties, or groups of them, constituted cultural provinces, the boundaries of which frequently coincided with watersheds between major drainage basins. The boundary between Leicestershire and Lincolnshire to the south of Grantham follows the watershed between the Trent and Witham drainage basins, suggesting that the area around it would be eminently suitable for testing this hypothesis.

The literature review of Chapter 2 comprises hierarchy of belonging, dynastic families, kinship, migration and marriage horizons. Chapter 3 covers the geographical and historical background of the wider context area of ninety-two parishes, with a major section on enclosure, wealth, land ownership, land use, occupational structure and market areas.

Chapter 4 is an analysis of the marriage horizons of fifty parishes of a target area astride the county boundary. In Chapter 5 the thesis concentrates on fourteen parishes of a focus area and seeks indications of connections between parishes by records of bondsmen in marriage licence applications, and Chapter 6 provides further insight through the study of probate records. Chapter 7 is based on a family reconstitution for the focus area parishes and the findings are used to distinguish migration patterns of individuals, families and occupational groups. The family reconstitution data are used in Chapter 8 for a study of

surname patterns and inter-parochial links associated with dynastic families.

In Chapter 9 the area of study opens out to include a view of the cultures of the two counties, including folk tradition, building styles, dialect and hiring fairs. As well as the production of evidence for the absence or presence of a cultural frontier, a major theme throughout is to test various statistical and cartographic techniques by which such a frontier might be identified.

Robert Lee

'Encountering and managing the poor: rural society and the Anglican clergy in Norfolk, 1815 - 1914'

This thesis is an exploration of the relationship between Anglican clergymen and the inhabitants of Norfolk's rural parishes in the nineteenth century. It considers the potential impact clergymen could have upon a number of areas of secular life: on education as school managers, on law and order as magistrates, and on aspects of local economic, social and behavioural management as poor law guardians and charity trustees. Clergymen also negotiated a complex series of social relationships with agricultural labourers, with religious Nonconformists, with trade unionists, with tenant farmers, and with local landowners (who were often their patrons or kinsmen).

The thesis examines many facets of social, religious and political dissent in the countryside, and discusses the extent to which individual clergymen - by their attitudes and actions - might exacerbate or soothe tensions within their 'spheres of influence'. The notion of clergymen as 'colonial governors' is posited. The term offers an explanation for their managerial role in local society, and elucidates the way in which the parish clergy operated as

administrators rather than instigators of change.

Nineteenth-century rural society also witnessed the decline of a once-vibrant popular culture, based on an affinity with nature and lived to the rhythm of calendrical custom. It is argued that popular culture was actively suppressed by parish elites and that the Church played a pivotal role in the process of suppression. The pageantry of parish entertainments, the re-casting of the law so that it acted against custom, the rise of the clergyman as antiquarian historian and amateur archaeologist, the symbolism and architecture of the restored church and the newly-built rectory are all cited as being of iconic significance in this respect.

By blending qualitative and quantitative methods, the thesis aims to build an holistic picture of the way in which two cultures encountered each other in the nineteenth-century countryside, and explains how one culture came to dominate, incorporate and manage the other.

Lynn Marston

'The town and manor of Glastonbury, c. 1086 - 1400'.

Small towns are crucial to understanding the medieval urban experience because probably more than half the urban population lived in towns containing less than 2000 people. This study of the small monastic town of Glastonbury in Somerset was conceived as a contribution to general understanding of the nature and role of such communities. It chiefly employs documentary evidence from Glastonbury Abbey's medieval estate archives but also takes account of archaeological and topographical information.

The thesis contains four main sections dealing with various aspects of the town's development. Chapter 2

reconstructs the medieval town plan by reading the course of its development through town plan analysis. It also raises questions concerning the town's origins and early social and economic development. Chapter 3 builds upon that analysis by investigating Glastonbury's population and economy between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries and assessing the point at which the settlement became urban. Chapter 4 explores the relationship between the town and its immediate agricultural hinterland on the manor, especially important in a place where free and customary tenancies mingled. Chapter 5 provides a case study of a small town's economy in the fourteenth century exploring, among much else, Glastonbury's trading links, its place in the local urban hierarchy, the town's occupational structure and its major trades.

From its origin as a pre-Conquest proto-urban settlement around a minster church, the town experienced a number of developmental phases over many centuries. By c. 1300 it had grown into a larger and wealthier place than has previously been imagined with a complex social and occupational structure. The findings raise a number of detailed themes for future study including the role of functional zones in early settlement planning, farm production in the environs of small towns, and the pattern of trading relationships with other urban communities.

Penelope Upton

'Change and decay: the Warwickshire manors of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield from the late thirteenth to the late sixteenth centuries'.

This thesis consists of an in-depth study of the medieval Warwickshire manors of the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield: Chadshunt and Nether Itchington, which succumbed to

depopulation, and Gaydon, Upper Itchington and Tachbrook, which continue to thrive. Chapter 2 sets the scene with an examination of the early history of the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield and the topographical setting and field system of each manor. In Chapters 3 and 4 evidence of weaknesses and incipient problems or otherwise in both the rural economy and social structure in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries is investigated in order to find early signs of the later problems which beset Chadshunt and Nether Itchington. In Chapter 5 agrarian by-laws are discussed and the transition from a two- to a three-field system at Gaydon, peasant cultivation of crops and ownership of livestock analysed. In Chapter 6 the final century of episcopal lordship is explored, before moving on to Thomas Fisher's tenure as lord from 1547. Fisher has long been viewed as the depopulator of Nether Itchington and demolisher of its parish church. The blame is moved from his shoulders and laid on a decline in ale-brewing, a lack of heirs at Nether Itchington from the 1550s, a seigneurial policy whereby tenants were encouraged by very favourable terms to take up holdings in Upper Itchington, and the turbulence caused by the Reformation. Fisher was also not responsible for the decline of Chadshunt, the seeds of whose decline were probably sown by the Newsam family and their enclosing activities. In Chapter 7 non-agrarian by-laws, land transfers, the landless, population turnover and contacts made beyond the manor are discussed.

MA Dissertations 2002-3.

Sally Davies

'Co-operation, anti-fascism and pacifism in an alternative youth movement: the Woodcraft Folk in Sheffield 1929-1950'.

The dissertation is based on a series of interviews with some of the oldest surviving members of the *Shefstanthing*, which was the Sheffield section of the Woodcraft Folk, a youth organisation linked with the Co-operative movement that had broken away from the militarism and nationalism of the Scouts after the First World War. Camping, hiking and an outdoor co-operative life were key elements of Woodcraft.

The dissertation considers three main areas. The first chapter looks at the influences behind Woodcraft Folk, examines its early writings and activities and considers how individuals came to join the Folk in Sheffield. The emphasis is on the ideological roots of the Woodcraft Folk and how its youth group was affected by political and educational theory. The second chapter considers how underlying ideology influenced what the Folk did in their day-to-day activities. The Folk's unique mix of escapism and reformism is interesting but potentially contradictory. The key questions here are whether the activities of the Folk were perceived as political by the members and what role did their unique ceremony, language and ritual play in forging a group identity. The final chapter considers the international links in the 1930s, the anti-fascist work of Woodcraft, the experience of one *Kindertransport* refugee who joined Woodcraft in Sheffield and, above all, explores the decision of Folk members to refuse National Service.

The dissertation concludes that the movement was a creature of its time. The emphasis was on developing

individual personality and on implementing an alternative society. The rituals did not seem out of place with families for whom membership of trade unions, co-operative guilds and rambling groups were all part of everyday life.

Peter Dixon

'The new Domesdays: continuity and change in three Cambridgeshire parishes.'

The continuity of, and changes in, the pattern of the landscape of three rural parishes in Cambridgeshire, has been studied from the Parliamentary Enclosures c.1800 to 1970. The advent of the release of the 'fifty year' rule of the National Farm Survey 1941-3 has provided a source of relevant data for comparison with the valuation of all hereditaments following the 'Lloyd George' Budget of 1909-10, and these, together with The Return of Owners of Land 1874, form a set of three 'New Domesdays'. The three parishes, Knapwell, Kirtling and Waterbeach were located, respectively, on the western clays, the 'zone of tension' on the fen-edge and the eastern chalk-boulder clay highlands. The base line was set at enclosure when the pattern of the large holdings of the lords of the manor, the rectory, and wealthy incomers was established. In all three parishes the large farms established in the early nineteenth century maintained their size with minor boundary adjustments. In Waterbeach, the draining of the fen induced a 'rush to the fen' and twenty new farm buildings were erected, many of which suffered from the 'tilts' and have been demolished. Some of the smaller fragmented farms remained, others were consolidated; part of the process of enlargement or division leading towards a critical size, appropriate to the terrain and the period. The enlargement of farms and increases in field size has continued

and farms of 1000-2000 acres indicate a new critical size for economic survival. The data sets are extensive and detailed and data reduction and sampling presents statistical problems. A scheme of analysis using classification and ordination is proposed to identify classes of farms and enable abstract maps of the pattern to be analysed.

Margaret Elsworth

'The proof of a town'.

Of the three medieval new towns in Leicestershire, only one was planted. This was Market Harborough, on the southern border of the county. The area allotted for the town was sixty acres, carved out of the fields of the ancient settlement of Great Bowden. By the Early Modern period the population of the two settlements was almost equal, at about seven hundred. The aim of this work is to prove why one was a town and the other a village. The criteria used for a town are those suggested by Clark and Slack in *English towns in transition, 1500-1700*.

Probate documents, parish registers and the work of several local historians, have been the main sources of data. Three PhD theses about other Leicestershire towns have provided information about other typical small towns of the period. All these have been used to contrast and compare the origins and subsequent development of each community, elements of trade, of property ownership and holding and interactivity between the town and its parent village.

Ample proof of a town has resulted from the work. There were striking differences between the two communities, position on lines of communication, the morphology of the respective settlements, use of plot area and domestic space were all different. Apart from the expected involvement

in agriculture in the village and the inn trade in the town, there were marked contrasts between the respective crafts and trades. The village appears to have been involved in, and gained from, the markets and fairs of the town.

Pam Fisher.

'An object of ambition? The office and role of the coroner in two Midland counties, 1751-1888'.

In recent years, historians have taken an increasing interest in many of the social and cultural aspects of death, but little attention has been paid to the coroner, whose role is to investigate violent or sudden death, despite this being the oldest judicial office in the land and one which has touched the lives of many, as relatives of the deceased or as witnesses or jurors at an inquest. This study looks at the office and role of the coroner in Leicestershire and Warwickshire between the Coroners Act, 1751, which brought county coroners under the influence of the magistrates, and the Local Government Act of 1888, which ended the 700-hundred year old tradition in the counties of election to office by the freeholders. Drawing on coroners' bills, inquisitions and notebooks, newspaper reports, parliamentary papers, letters and literary sources, it examines the role of the county and borough coroners and how it adapted to survive the criticism and challenges posed by the social, economic and political changes of the period. Supplementing this information with election notices, reports and biographical material, it continues by assessing the extent to which the office was 'an object of ambition', as described to the House of Commons by Edwin James M.P. in 1860. It concludes that, notwithstanding political change in the boroughs, the different attitudes of the magistrates in these two counties and the disparity in

the demands of individual roles, the office was an object of ambition throughout the period, although the motivations for seeking office may have changed.

Sarah Mee.

'Localisation and/or approbation? Examination of the legend of Robin Hood within Nottinghamshire'.

This dissertation aims to explore the localisation of the legend of Robin Hood within Nottinghamshire. The name of Robin Hood has, over time, become synonymous with the county. The modern landscape of the region of Sherwood Forest, the traditional headquarters of the outlaw, can be navigated by reference to the legend, with the county and its inhabitants seemingly anxious to promote its connection to Robin Hood. What form does this link to the legend take, and how did it develop? What are its origins and why Nottinghamshire, when Yorkshire also has similar links to the legend? The dissertation is based on a combination of sources ranging from the traditional ballads and plays featuring the adventures of Robin Hood and his band of outlaws, through various maps of the county and literature relating to the legend, to modern analysis of the legend. It aims to investigate, not only the localisation of the legend within the county, but also to examine why Robin Hood has become such a local hero despite his criminal activities, and how this compares to other local figures.

Anne Pegg.

'Kettering, Rothwell and Oundle, 1680-1840'.

The general aim of this study was to examine the development of these neighbouring market towns in northern Northamptonshire during the early modern period. The approach

was, first, to consider to what extent they demonstrated the qualities that define urbanism, as proposed by Clark and Slack, to follow Hoskins' suggestion of a 'microscopic' study to discern the effects of external events on such communities and the influence that they might exert on national affairs. The topics covered were markets and occupations, religion and society, transport and the organisation of urban space. The sources used were varied. A picture was built up of the leading families with the occupations and status of succeeding generations from the indexed probate documents. The Rothwell Horse Fair toll and account books demonstrate the immense importance of Rothwell's fair while trade directories record that Rothwell's weekly market could not compete with Kettering. A rich contemporary account of life in eighteenth-century Oundle lies in the pages of John Clifton's day books. The early nonconformist congregations and the emergence of a strong group of entrepreneurial families were significant in moving these communities forward. Many buildings of the period remain, some in obscurity. Kettering has a good collection of town plans but few have survived for Oundle or Rothwell. To become familiar with the ground plan, a lot of walking is necessary.

Because Northamptonshire remained an essentially rural society until the late nineteenth century, its population did not increase greatly. Wars and other circumstances brought both fortune and disaster. Kettering and Rothwell suffered greatly from the collapse of the weaving industry, whereas Oundle remained buoyant, thanks to John Smith's ales. The resulting picture shows the reactions and influences of these communities, which can indeed justify their description as 'towns'.

Margaret Whalley.

'The buildings of dissent: the architecture of chapels in rural Northamptonshire'.

The buildings of dissent in the villages of the western portion of Northamptonshire are explored in this study. The intention is to examine the standing buildings of dissent in this area to answer two questions: whether they are, in truth, the 'last village vernacular', and how they convey the ideas, values, principles and practicalities of these new religions. A brief consideration of dissent in the county is made, together with a look at its regional distribution. Dissent is associated with freeholding, decayed market towns and dispersed settlement. This midland county would not appear, at first glance, to be a fertile ground for dissent, but other factors, such as communication routes, noble landholding and the impact of personal influence are assessed in this respect. There are no large factory cities, but Northamptonshire has many larger manufacturing villages where dissent was extremely attractive to shoemakers in particular.

The study does not attempt to discuss the historical styles of architecture, but rather to understand the impact of architecture in general, and the influences on styles of building. There is no doubt that the simple act of building itself empowered these freethinking congregations. The presence of a solid building enhanced their standing in the community, made them more attractive and accessible and provided them with a sense of permanence. A model of vernacular architecture is postulated as a means of determining the primary question. But it is important to discuss whether religious architecture can ever be considered vernacular. A central finding is that the architecture of

dissent went through distinct changes, and that the nature of the architecture changed, particularly after the advent of Methodism. Nonconformity eventually adopted the national fashions of Victorian Gothic and Italianate, as it progressed through its stages. The Church itself was undergoing many changes and vicissitudes during this period of deep social, political and economic change. It was responding to the challenges of industrialisation and an unprecedented increase in urbanisation by building churches in the new towns. The countryside changed too, but set a different set of challenges. The chapels of dissent show evidence of the early persecution in their style and siting. Dissenters rejected the established Church, its ritual and usages and also its architecture. At first dissent was not concerned with building but with conversion. The new religions spread out from strong, but not always large, regional nodes of settlement. The dissenters built structures that show their debt to the classical austerity of the Age of Reason, but their simplicity demonstrates their builders' lack of expertise and funds as much as their desire for austerity. The buildings do not encompass sacred space and can be used for many purposes. The layout is that of the auditory church, first designed by Sir Christopher Wren, where the open-plan design allows for a more equal association between the minister, members of the congregation and their God.

Honorary Visiting Fellow

Jane Laughton began her academic career at the right age (18) but in the wrong subject (French), a mistake eventually rectified two decades later when she took a second BA degree, this time in Ancient History and

Archaeology. An attempt to discover the history of her house while recovering from illness introduced her to the wealth of sources available to the student of English history. Periclean Athens could not compete!

Accordingly, she applied to take the MA course at the (then) Department of English Local History and was accepted. In 1986-7 this course really was full-time: classes on four mornings a week, a field class most Wednesday afternoons and a seminar every other Thursday afternoon; written projects in the autumn and spring terms and a week's field work in Devon during the Easter vacation. In June came two three-hour examination papers and finally a dissertation of 20,000 words had to be completed by the end of September. Not least among the stresses were the four nights spent away from home each week and the negotiation of the paternoster to reach the top floor of the Attenborough Building. Tuesday evenings at the pub with fellow students brought some relief but it was the zany humour of Paul Ell which enabled her to cope. And the teaching was inspirational.

Next came a year working for Cheshire Museums and Education Service but the lure of full-time research proved irresistible - as many Friends will know from their own experience - and JL soon embarked on a PhD at Cambridge, continuing work on late medieval Chester, the subject of her dissertation at Leicester. In 1994 she believed that her doctorate had brought down the final curtain on her academic involvement but then a letter arrived giving details of the East Midlands Urban History Project. Her naïve interpretation was that someone considered her to be suitable for the research fellowship on offer. Years later Chris Dyer told her that he had in fact sent the details to everyone on the

mailing list of the Pre-Modern Towns Group.

To her amazement, Jane had the great good fortune to be appointed to the post. The programme of research, under the masterly guidance of Chris Dyer, proved to be a steep learning curve and she became a far better historian in the process. She is now working on Cheshire sources once again: researching medieval Macclesfield; participating in the Historic Landscape Characterisation for Cheshire; providing research assistance to scholars in Toronto working on the Records of Early English Drama (REED) for the county; and writing a book on medieval Chester. Her links with the Centre for English Local History remain strong. She has been a Friend since the organisation was formed in 1989 and is delighted to have been made an Honorary Visiting Fellow in 2001. There may well be easier ways of growing old but none could be more stimulating.

Churchyard projects

We wish to build up a collection of all the churchyard projects that have been done over the years for the MA here. Unfortunately, we have not asked people to let us have copies, not fully realising what a valuable resource they were all going to be in due course. Many of these churchyards are subject to change, and many of the projects are really quite valuable records. They are also an excellent analytical resource for people studying this subject, and indeed for current students.

We would like therefore to try to get copies of as many of these as we can, to be deposited for reference in the Centre. They will be catalogued in the usual way, as part of our library. If you did one, and if you can let us have it, or a copy of it (even if in black and white), we would be extremely grateful.

Your churchyard project can be submitted as loose numbered pages and I will bind it at no extra cost.

Please send it direct to me, and I shall start building up a catalogue of the ones we have. Please let any other ex-MA student know that we are doing this, in case they did one too.

Thank you very much indeed

Keith Snell.

Staff distinctions

Dr Harold Fox has been awarded a personal Chair as Professor of Social and Landscape History.

Honorary Visiting Fellows.

The centre is pleased to provide facilities for visiting fellows from abroad, who have heard about the Centre and its staff, and wish to spend time with us, using our facilities and taking part in the academic and social life of the Centre. Two such fellows have been with us this year:

Dr Jose Antonio Jara, who is o the staff of the Centre for Scientific Research in Madrid. He has written a book about the city of Cuenca in Castile in the fifteenth century. He came to the Centre to work on elites in late medieval towns, with a view to making comparisons between the elites in Castile and those in England. Dr Naoyuki Hara is an associate professor of Kagawa University in Japan. He has published work on agrarian history, including landlords and tenants and agricultural production in Japan and Thailand in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He is now researching the rural landscape of Japan since 1868, and has come to the Centre to learn about the methodology of landscape history.

EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS

Diary Dates

Saturday 1st November

All-day visit to Melton Mowbray and Kirby Bellars. A comparison of town and village in the Wreake valley. Meet at St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray 10.30.

Saturday 6th March 2004.

'Town or village: Kineton in context'. Study day in conjunction with Kineton (Warwicks) History Group.

Saturday 24th May 2004 – preliminary notice of the fifteenth Hoskins Lecture when the speaker will be Professor Charles Phythian-Adams.

Autumn outing

Following last year's formula, this half-day tour of the historic core of Leicester on 16th November, took in the Roman Jewry Wall, the High Cross and the Guildhall as well as a brief visit to the Jewry Wall museum. This was followed by lunch at the Globe Inn where members took part in two pub quizzes (English Local History style), one involving the matching of places to the descriptions of historic visitors, the other requiring participants to identify counties by a number of regional poets.

2nd Marc Fitch House Colloquium

Following the very successful day in November 2000, a second day of papers and discussion was held on 8th March 2003. This time the venue was the new seminar room in No. 5 Salisbury Road which enabled almost sixty Friends and other interested

people to enjoy a day under the heading "The market-place and the place of the market". Following coffee, Sylvia Pinches started the programme by welcoming everyone and explaining the format of the day. She then introduced the first speaker, Dr Graham Jones who spoke on "The market place: form and location". Graham considered the early markets, such as the Worcester Charter of Ealdorman Aethelred and his wife Aethelflaed which dates from the late ninth century. Old towns, such as Norwich, tended to have a multiplicity of markets, a church with a circular churchyard being the only sign remaining today of a market, but a central market seems to have become the norm by the twelfth century. He next considered a range of other market sites, not all in towns, such as that at Breedon-on-the-Hill, where the market was held on the hill rather than in the township. Graham concluded by questioning how far back we should look to find the origin of markets. Is a 'long port' a roadside market? There is evidence of a *lang port* at Pagham in Sussex dating from a charter of 680. Are markets a successor to places for payment of tribute or render, as suggested by Charles Phythian-Adams? In fact, could markets be as old as iron age forts?

Professor Christopher Dyer moved forward to the thirteenth century with a paper entitled 'Markets: the consumer view'. He made the point that medieval consumers included all levels of society, and while it is easy to know that they bought goods it is more difficult to know exactly how they were purchased. So while there were 700 chartered markets in towns by 1300 and over 1,000 in villages, many others are unrecorded. The proximity of one or more market to consumers was illustrated by the map of Derbyshire

showing that many communities were situated within the recognised catchment area of more than one market, and so had a measure of choice of where and when to attend market.

The aristocracy did not attend markets, preferring to buy their requirements by private treaty. The lesser gentry would almost certainly have attended along with the rest of the population. Rentals of the fifteenth century indicate that most stall-holders were butchers, shoemakers, drapers or fishmongers. There is evidence that larger traders sold to smaller traders, thus establishing a pattern of distribution. Women were important participants in markets but their activities were rather hidden from view. Markets were also an opportunity for merchants to buy, as witnessed by William Greville, a wealthy woolmonger of Chipping Camden, who used the markets as a means of acquiring wool which he then sold in London.

Dr Jane Laughton, an Honorary Research Fellow in the Centre, then provided an insight into her research on the Cistercian nunnery at Catesby in the south-western corner of Northamptonshire, the second wealthiest of the thirty-two Cistercian monasteries in the country. Even in the fifteenth century, which is the period on which she has concentrated, no more than seven or eight nuns resided there. From the surviving records, Dr Laughton has constructed a picture of the marketing activities of the nuns and their male helpers which provides some insight into the way one particular set of consumers worked. Charwelton was their main trading settlement, from where basic requirements were obtained. Further away lay Daventry which was larger and provided a wider range of goods, such as nails and thread. It would seem that goods were purchased from Daventry throughout

the week, not only on market day. They bought meat at Southam but looked to Northampton for specialist items, such as quality saddles and paper.

The morning session ended with Dr David Postles who reminded us that the market place had other uses in medieval times apart from the sale of goods. It was also used for spectacle, punishment and humiliation. Using a variety of examples from various parts of the country, from the whipping of petty felons in Wiltshire to making a couple accused of incest stand by the market cross in Ely, dressed in white, he demonstrated that control could be exercised by a mixture of spiritual and secular activities in a public place.

After an excellent lunch provided by Carole Carpenter, who Friends will wish well in her forthcoming marriage and move to Yorkshire, the draw was made for the raffle, the prizes being books kindly donated by members of staff. The draw was made by Professor Alan Everitt who then started the afternoon session with a personal perspective on market places and how they have evolved over the centuries. From his own experience he has found that the visual experience is of the utmost importance, for market towns tell us something about the people and, even today, the people tell us something about the market. His work in this area started when he was asked by Joan Thirsk to write Chapter 4 of *'the Agrarian History of England and Wales'*. Fundamental changes in farming methods in the sixteenth century provided an opportunity to study many aspects of life in those times. New markets were established to meet changing needs, often in places that had never previously had a market. He acknowledged the importance of inns to the development of towns,

citing the instance of Northampton, which had seventy inns by 1760 and said that the largest provincial inns could stable up to 700 horses. This created strains on the social cohesion of society. By the sixteenth century stalls were left up from one market day to the next, paving the way for the infilling that is a feature of so many towns today.

Disputes over market rights and control of the market are recorded, many were caused by encroachment on to the market area, which gradually reduced the area available for cattle and other items that required a large open space.

Professor Everitt used the experience of his arrival in Leicester in 1960 to illustrate the importance of the market place. Talking to people in the market, his first impression was of a town that was inward looking and disinterested in anything outside, but gradually he recognised the importance of the market to the psychology of the town. Everyone used the market; it was classless and all citizens felt they had personal ownership of the space which, no-doubt, explained its vibrancy.

The next speaker, Dr Andrew Hann, discussed the development of the market in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The market area became a social space as urbanisation developed. Shops became more abundant round the periphery and as the range of goods available increased, so the market spilled out on to the widest streets, causing traffic problems. The market hall was introduced in the nineteenth century and brought a more orderly structure into market procedures.

The final session was a light-hearted yet practical look at the role of the horse and the horse market. To start, Anne Pegg explained the role of the voucher books relating to the

Rothwell (Northants) horse fairs in the seventeenth century. Voucher books were an integral part of the sale and verified the description of the horse and the right of the seller to sell, thus safeguarding the buyer's position should there be any dispute in the future. Buyers came mainly from London, but also from as far as Devon and Durham. Mandy Debelin's paper on past and present descriptions of horse markings was read, in her absence, by Max Bailey. While some words have fallen out of use, the great majority of words in use in the eighteenth century are still in use today.

The day ended with a plenary session chaired by Sylvia, during which a number of interesting questions were raised. Sylvia concluded by thanking all the speakers for their contributions that had made this a most memorable occasion, and in particular Maggie Whalley and David Postles who had undertaken all of the organisation.

Fourteenth Hoskins Lecture

Professor Ronald Hutton took as the title of his lecture 'Paganism, folklore and historians: a witches' brew'. He prefaced his lecture by stating that his own contact with Hoskins was tenuous, and all the more so as, in recent years most of his work has centred round aspects of the ritual year rather than walking the fields, as espoused by Hoskins. His interest in folklore and paganism had developed gradually. The main theme of the lecture was a discussion on the development of attitudes towards folklore culture towards the end of the nineteenth century and the questioning of such attitudes that started in the 1970s.

In the century from 1870 scholars painted a picture of the countryside as timeless and based on

rural customs and ritual. Many of these rituals were considered to have pagan origins. Sir Edward Tylor was the first to expound such ideas which were taken up by others in succeeding years, in particular by the leaders of the Folklore Society that had been founded in 1878. This romantic ideal of folklore was a product of the Romantic Movement that had such a strong impact on intellectuals, and the general public, in Victorian and Edwardian England. One of the conclusions for seeking to base folklore customs on pagan origins was a denial of the importance of the role of Christianity.

Another of the leading figures in the folklore revival was Sir James Frazer, whose book *The Golden Bough*, first published in 1890, had a profound effect on the thinking of several generations. It expounded an idealised picture of rural England and rural English customs, all of which was taking place at a time of unprecedented change in the country, when more and more people were living in cities and working in factories and, for the first time in history, only a minority lived in villages. The approach of the folklore romantics was to condemn cities as ugly and the repository of all evil while the countryside was the provider of everything beautiful and good. Perhaps this explains why *The Golden Bough* was so popular.

Professor Hutton returned to the religious aspects and how intellectual thought did not really encompass support for established religion. This enabled ideas to develop where it was argued that Christian rituals had been superimposed on earlier pagan beliefs. He cited some examples; the idea that the story of Lady Godiva was a pagan fertility rite that was later given a Christian interpretation; that pancake-tossing had been a magical rite to make the crops grow; that Shrove Tuesday football

matches began as ritual struggles between the forces of dark and light. Jesse Weston, the respected scholar of the Arthurian legend, argued at the turn of the century that the main story originated from a pagan religion concerned with fertility. This approach to the belief in folklore origins survived well into the middle of the twentieth century.

Professor Hutton concluded by pointing out that it was not until the 1970s that the romantic view of calendar ritual was challenged by modern academics.

The lecture was followed by tea in Marc Fitch House and the book sale, which, once again organised by Mike Thompson, raised over £300 for the Friends.

David Holmes

Study Day At Much Wenlock

On Saturday, 26th October a group of twenty-five Friends and partners met in the Priory Hall for an intensive study programme about the history of this small, picturesque Shropshire town, situated at the eastern end of Wenlock Edge, with an additional input about nearby Bridgnorth. The Priory Hall was built as a National School in 1848, closing in 1952. Since 1981 the building has served as a meeting place for local organisations. After an introduction by Dr Sylvia Pinches, Dr Trevor Hill, a local historian, spoke of St Milburga and the Saxon Church. A religious house was first founded here around AD 680, on what are now the Priory ruins, by the Saxon king, Merwath, who built two monasteries, one for men and the other for women. His daughter, Milburga, was its second abbess and she became famous for the miracles she was said to have performed. She was recognised as a saint after her death and the town became a place of pilgrimage later. .

After coffee, Dr Hill and his wife, Margaret, also a local historian, took us on a conducted tour of the town-centre. Highlights included a view of a working farm on Queen Street and a walk to two wells in different parts, one dedicated to St Owen (reckoned to be the most northerly dedication in England), the other to St Milburga. Wells are still dressed in Much Wenlock. The tour concluded at The Priory, a Cluniac foundation of 1080. After dissolution most of the buildings fell into decline but the infirmary and the prior's lodge were converted into a private residence and have remained so ever since. After lunch the afternoon session commenced with a talk by Ken Jones, a local ex-railwayman, about the development of the Wellington to Craven Arms line (GWR) from 1859 and during the 1860s, which passed through Much Wenlock. The whole line - just over twenty-nine miles in length - closed in 1964, the western end to Craven Arms having closed to passengers in 1951. The line was of considerable significance in helping to develop the limestone quarries on the Edge, close to Much Wenlock, which still operate. Ken had worked on the line and provided amusing and informative anecdotes during his talk. There followed a talk by Professor Malcolm Wanklyn about Bridgnorth, twelve miles to the south east in the Severn Valley and appreciably larger than Much Wenlock. The High Town is set on a sandstone bluff dipping dramatically down to the river, Low Town being just above river level on the eastern bank. The town-centre and the market place are in High Town and much of this area was burned down during the Civil War as a result of an explosion in a gunpowder store at St Leonard's Church. Professor Wanklyn commented on the reconstruction of High Town and looked at the properties in the High Street, well over

fifty of which are occupied by the market place and the timber framed town hall under which the old road passes, are built in a large number of different styles.

Few would associate Much Wenlock with the Olympic Games but Helen Cromarty, a local resident and historian, outlined the connection well. William Penny Brookes (1809 - 1895) was the local doctor for nearly sixty years. He had a lifelong interest in physical education and started the Wenlock Olympian Games in 1850: the Games, in modified form (tilting at the ring was stopped for safety reasons during the 1930s) still exist. There is no doubt that Brookes was partly instrumental in getting the Olympics restarted at Athens in the 1890s. We concluded somewhat later than planned after a very full and absorbing day and one which I hope will be repeated with another small town as the focus. This was local history at its best.

John Lewis

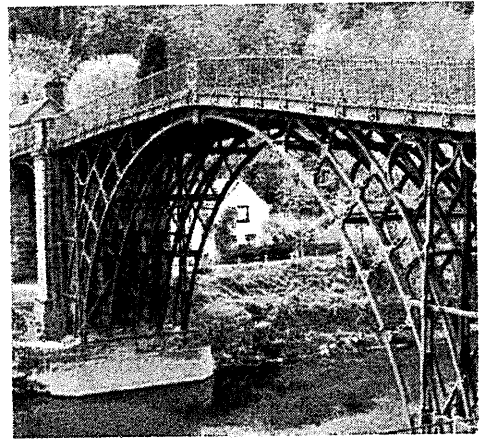
Shropshire weekend

On Friday 25th April twenty-nine participants assembled at the Holiday Inn, Telford for this two and half day residential course under the title 'Contrasting landscapes of Shropshire'. After dinner, and following the introduction of the course by Dr Sylvia Pinches, David Pannett, a lecturer in Historical Geography, spoke on 'The Shropshire landscape in focus'. He noted the great variety of landscapes in the county. Localities to the north-west and the south-west of Shrewsbury, in the long abandoned mineral working district, were considered and he showed how the field pattern and settlement related to physical geography and enclosure. On Saturday, true to the Leicester tradition, much time was spent in the field. After breakfast we boarded a coach for the

Ironbridge Institute, part of the Coalbrookdale ironworks complex - part of the site is still in use for stove manufacture. The building was a most appropriate venue for a lecture by a local historian, Ken Jones, entitled 'The industrial landscape of Shropshire'. Ken gave a very comprehensive overview of the Telford area, with slides. The development in the cradle of the Industrial Revolution of coal mining and the manufacture of iron and associated products as well as pottery and china over the last 250 plus years was well chronicled. The significance of that vital transport artery, the Severn, was emphasised as well as the difficulties of movement within this relatively small area of east Shropshire and the ways developed to overcome these - plateways, railways, canals and the inclined plane. The development of Methodism in the district and the associated chapels was another theme.

We then undertook a coach tour led by Ken, through Ironbridge, the Severn Gorge, Coalport, Madeley and other former mining and industrial settlements, all of which are now incorporated into what became Telford New Town. Much of the old landscape has now been bulldozed away, but as we passed through older settlements and new post-1960s developments, some former spoilt tips are still discernible, much landscaped and crowned with trees. Lunch was taken at the Meadow Inn, Ironbridge, just across the Severn from the coal-fired power station. The afternoon session commenced at the Ironbridge Institute where the Institute Programme Director, David de Haan, spoke on the 'Landscape of the Ironbridge'. He raised the possibility that the bridge was a public relations exercise by Abraham Darby III - then only in his mid-twenties - seeking to follow his famous father and grandfather whilst,

at the same time showing of what the business was capable.



The iron bridge

The Iron Bridge is a World Heritage site and a conservation project. There is pressure on the bridge from the valley sides and whilst the matter has been dealt with for the present, the lateral geological pressures will continue. All bridges have a finite life and this bridge is now 220 years old - it probably has another 100 years. The bridge was originally built on a timber framework, local limestone was used for the abutments and the bridge parts were probably cast at the nearby Bedlam Furnace. Enbussing again we went several miles north up the Severn Valley to the Roman city of Wroxeter. There, Dr Roger White of Birmingham University Archaeology Department and leader of the Wroxeter Hinterland Project, conducted us across part of the former city and spoke of the site and location of this important Roman settlement, which at 180 acres in extent - 40 of which comprised the fort - was the fourth largest city in Roman Britain. It occupied a strategic position and was a great centre for processing livestock with trades like tanning developing on the east side of the city. Leaving Wroxeter, we crossed onto the west bank of the Severn and toured the villages of Cressage, Harley and

Hughley led by Margaret Hill, local resident and local historian. The theme of this tour was, 'Is this a discrete rural landscape?' On the way Margaret spoke of the Cressage Area Research Project, a demographic and historical study of ten local rural parishes being undertaken by herself and her husband, Dr Trevor Hill and another local resident.



A group of participants at the Shropshire weekend.

Back at the hotel after dinner Dr Barry Trinder, local historian and author of several books with particular reference to Shropshire, gave a lecture on, 'The landscape of Shropshire Lodging Houses.' Lodging houses were found in towns of all sizes in the county during the nineteenth century and certainly were a consistent feature of market towns. They were self-catering establishments with open dormitories, where alcohol was consumed and where there was no registration of inmates. They catered for pedestrian travellers, often migrant Irish workers, and various groups with just enough resources to keep them out of the workhouse. Hawkers and peddlars used them, as did the military sometimes when a regiment was on the march and barrack space was insufficient. Marine stores - shops that

took in scavenged material - were often close by as were sweet boilers and crockery dealers, providing goods for the hawkers. The lodging houses were essentially a nineteenth century phenomenon and most had disappeared by the 1891 census although some survived into the 1930s.

Sunday morning started with a lecture by Dr Sylvia Watts, local historian and leader of the St. Andrew's Archive Group, Shifnal, on, 'The Shropshire landscape of small towns'. Consideration was given as to what constituted a town in the past. Evidence of burgage plots are of some significance, as is the presence of a market charter, but the latter, alone, is not sufficient.

On the classification of towns under the headings of primary, organic and planned, probably only Whitchurch in north Shropshire falls under the first heading (a Roman settlement); Shrewsbury falls under the second heading and was successful in killing off surrounding competition. Bishop's Castle, Ludlow, Newport and Bridgnorth are good examples of planned towns from the late eleventh and twelfth centuries. Other Shropshire towns do not fit easily into any of these classifications and may be part organic and part planned. We then travelled to Shifnal for a town walk led by Dr Watts and Dr Hill, the latter being a former Shifnal resident. Issued with a town map from 1841, we split into two groups after we had been taken to a high place - the railway station pedestrian bridge - for a panoramic view of the town and a brief explanation of its growth. After lunch in the hotel, the final lecture was given by Dr Trevor Hill on, 'Linking the Shropshire landscapes'. He emphasised the significant differences between the northern part of Shropshire - generally undulating, with sandstone outcrops in parts, merging with the Cheshire Plain

- and the southern part made up of much higher ground and geologically more complex, with the two Cleve Hills, the Long Mynd, the Wrekin and the Clun Forest as notable features. He spoke also of the smaller landscapes within the northern and southern parts.

The weekend was absorbing and exhausting and, for those from outside Shropshire, was a comprehensive introduction to the county. For those with large appetites the food on offer throughout was of excellent quality and in generous portions - it certainly helped sustain us in our arduous trips in the field! Finally, Pam Fisher must be thanked for making the arrangements for the weekend and thanks also to Dr Hill for arranging the speakers.

John Lewis

Summer outing to the Whittlewood project

Whittlewood forest is to be found in South Northamptonshire, extending into the Northern tip of Buckinghamshire. As a North Bucks resident, the Friends' excursion to Whittlewood suited me very well. I even got a lie-in before the scheduled ten o'clock rendezvous at the 'Bull and Butcher' in Akeley!

The Whittlewood Project, now based at Leicester, arose out of the Medieval Settlement Research Group's investigation of settlement patterns. They homed in on a portion of Whittlewood Forest to study, as it contained contrasting settlement types and had a good amount of surviving documentation. The project is headed by Professor Christopher Dyer, and has two full time researchers: Dr. Richard Jones, an archaeologist, and Dr. Mark Pate, an historian (which emphasises the project's multi-disciplinary nature). The Friends' trip was to comprise a trip around various villages being

studied for the project, conducted by Richard Jones and Chris Dyer.

After a fortifying cup of coffee at the 'Bull and Butcher', we boarded the coach and set off for Whittlebury, our first destination. The Friends' trip coincided with the annual six weeks of digging that forms part of the project, so the meadow next to the church was full of fit young archaeologists standing in shovel test pits of various depths. We gathered in the churchyard to hear an overview of the project, and an introduction to Whittlebury itself. The project has always had local involvement, and the dig at Whittlebury church was a case in point. The church needed a cesspit, and what better way to acquire one than have the aforementioned group dig a big hole in the churchyard. The project had spotted that Whittlebury church is perched on an Iron Age hill fort (the existence of which was previously unknown). The site had become significant in early medieval administration. Chris was hopeful that they might unearth evidence of an Anglo-Saxon hall in the cesspit (Richard was more sceptical). They had certainly unearthed some later high-status pottery from the meadow in front of the church.

Next stop was the much-shrunken village of Lillingstone Lovell. Getting there involved a virtuoso reversing performance down the half mile of single-lane track that was the only access, which earned the coach driver a well-deserved round of applause. We assembled in the churchyard and studied a map that showed the pattern of finds that field-walking around the village site had revealed, from Roman through to medieval times.

There was a certain amount of interest in a rather impressive looking mound in the field behind the church, a Norman motte perhaps? No, Richard

explained, this was a twenty-five year old horse driving trials obstacle. So much for our landscape interpretation skills. Time for a look inside the eleventh century church, then back on the coach bound for Akeley and lunch.

The 'Bull and Butcher' is everything an English country pub should be, and has formed the unofficial HQ for the Whittlewood project. It was there that Richard Jones was christened 'Baldrick', and Chris Dyer 'Baldrick's boss' (which makes him 'Blackadder' in my reckoning). Anyway, they furnished us with a most acceptable lunch, then it was back on the coach to visit Leckhamstead.

While Whittlebury is nucleated and Lillingstone Lovell is practically non-existent, Leckhamstead is an 'endy' village. We parked in Church End and heard of some of the problems of interpreting the village site. Church End floods very readily, with the street being perhaps the original course of the brook which now runs behind the church. There is some evidence of an earlier church being located on the opposite hillside. Why the removal, they obviously didn't have flood-neurotic insurance companies then. Time to admire the tympanum and columns set into the church porch that were thought to be survivors from the earlier building, then it was time to head for Wicken, our final destination of the day.

Wicken was in single ownership until the middle of the twentieth century. It was eventually sold off for the value of the stone in the now quaint cottages, which somehow managed to survive this indignity. The previous week the project had been digging test pits in the field in front of the manor house. The field had also been 'geophysed' and, even more impressively, examined with ground-penetrating radar. This technique is normally prohibitively expensive, but there is a

Wicken resident who happens to be in charge of embassy security for HM Government, for which job, apparently, ground-penetrating radar is indispensable. It just happened to be available for a little archaeological 'moonlighting' that week. This is a good example of the general enthusiasm the Whittlewood 'locals' have for the project.

It was now back to the 'Bull and Butcher' for tea (and cakes!!!) before returning to Leicester (or, for me, the ten minute drive home). We had heard during the day of the various bodies that had tried to 'lay claim' to the project – for example the 'MSRG Whittlewood Project', the 'English Heritage Whittlewood Project' and, who knows, 'HM Govt Whittlewood Project'. My personal nomination would be 'the Bull and Butcher Whittlewood Project', as the pub provided a welcoming focus for a very enjoyable day.

Mandy Debelin

Note: The October 2002 issue of *Making History* carried a two-page article on the Whittlewood project.

Donation

The Friends have made a donation of twenty-five pounds to Devon History Society that will go towards the cost of a memorial plaque to be placed on the house in St. David's Hill, Exeter where W.G. Hoskins was born.

Friends' publications

Cynthia Brown,

Leicester voices, (2002), 128pp.

David Holmes

Ed. *Friends of the Centre of English Local History Newsletter* (2002), 35 pp.

Bursaries

The Friends will provide student support grants to the amount of £2,400 this year.

Friends' Papers

The following Papers are still in print and available for purchase from Mike Thompson

No.3. Amanda Flather *'The Politics of Place: a study of Church Seating in Essex, 1580-1640'*. £6.00 + p&p.

No.4. Marion Aldis and Pam Inder, *'John Sneyd's Census of Ipstones'*. £6.00 + p&p.

No.5. Barrie Trinder, *'The Market Town Lodging House'*. £7.50 + p&p.

No.6. Mandy Debelin, *'Mapping Skills Tutorial'*. Price includes disk. £6.00 + p&p.



Friends enjoy a pub quiz at the autumn outing.

Research material wanted

The editor would like to include in the next Newsletter a paper concerning some aspect of historical research that has been undertaken by a graduate Friend. There is no limit to subjects that will be considered, which may be of the 'classic' English Local History pattern or some broader element of research in a completely different field that has interested the individual since graduating. The work should be of no more than 2,500 words.

If you have a project you would like to submit, please contact David

Holmes by any of the means shown on the following page.

TASC UPDATE

A significant extension of TASC's coverage of England and Wales was made possible by The Aurelius Charitable Trust, which made a grant of £11,365 to allow Dr Graham Jones to examine religious dedications south of the Thames in the catchment areas of the rivers Loddon, Kennet and Ock. This area of Berkshire plus parts of Hampshire and Wiltshire includes the Vale of the White Horse, the Lambourn Downs, and the heavily wooded country between Newbury, Basingstoke and Windsor.

The resulting dataset and mapping reveals more instances of correlation between cults and pays: All Saints is concentrated on the arable between the foot of the Downs and the Thames (where names ending in 'tun' proliferate), while Mary is more frequent further south, both on the wooded lower slopes of the Downs and where broad inroads in the surviving wooded countryside are characterised by names in -field. Michael is relatively rare but appears at three royal hundredal capita with 'primary' names, Lambourn, Blewbury, and Bray. The importance of pastoralism on the downs is emphasised by place-names within Lambourn's likely early parochia: Shefford (sheep-ford), Sheep Drove, Maidencot (evidence of transhumance?), and Lambourn itself. Peter and Paul again occur at royal estate centres such as Wantage and Marlborough.

Internationally, TASC's work was supported by three further grants. The British Academy agreed to support a joint programme of research in which Dr Jones will work alongside Dr Medea Abashidze, Secretary of the Commission for Historical Sources of

the Georgian Academy of Sciences. This will include exchange visits, with Dr Jones spending a month in the field in the Kakheti region preparing a pilot dataset of dedications. Dr Jones paid a second visit to the Institute of Balkan Studies in Belgrade (SANU) to assist in the TASC coverage of Serbia, after the Scouloudi Foundation made a grant of £500 towards publication of an English translation of a recent collection of essays, *'Saints of the Balkans'*, jointly edited by Dr Jones and Dr Mirjana Detelic, Senior Researcher at SANU. In January Dr Jones took up the award of a second *aufenthaltsforschung mit stipendium* at the Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte at Göttingen to work on dedications and place-names.

North of the Border, TASC's Scottish partners at the Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh made application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for a resource enhancement grant to enable them to add dedications to the existing database of Scottish place-names. Further details are available at www.le.ac.uk/grji/ and follow instructions.

OBITUARY

Geoff Wolfe

In the second half of 1996, I was engaged by and in the dissertation that Geoff Wolfe was researching on law enforcement and local society in Warwickshire in the early seventeenth century. We had animated discussions about his material and about the burgeoning literature in this area. It was one of the most rewarding times of my work here (in the then Department). When Geoff then delivered his application for post-graduate research by individually supervised study (i.e. aspiring for a

PhD) with his proposal to research into late medieval religion and society in Warwickshire, I was reluctant to agree to be his adviser, not for any want of ability on his part, but because of my own frailty in the area of research at that time. Fortunately, in a meeting with Geoff and myself, Charles persuaded me – against my inclination, but with his better judgement – to 'take Geoff on'. In the event, the arrangement proved to be equally as enthralling as working with him on his dissertation. Had it not been for his tragic death – one of those which, happening to a still relatively young man in his intellectual prime, affects us so deeply – I am convinced that he would now have received the degree which would have been a true reward for him, his wife and his daughter and which they keenly anticipated.

Geoff enrolled on the M.A. course part-time in 1994, having just completed a degree in Historical Studies at the University of Warwick. He belonged to that cohort of people, which produced seven distinctions on the M.A. course. His heavy responsibility as financial manager of the Warwick Business Park (having been formerly a financial controller at that University) did not prevent a sparkling success on the M.A. course. After its completion, he registered for a PhD in 1997 on 'Church and society in Warwickshire, 1350-1540'. I still have a massive folder of his continuous writing. One of the joys of advising Geoff was that he would deliver written material – text, tables and figures – a fortnight before every meeting. We would then meet at 5 or 5.15 and talk through to about 7.30, sometimes later. I don't know about him, but I went away feeling fully satisfied that I had done an evening's productive work rather than flopping down catatonically. It was hard, but he made it rewarding.

From time to time, we also met each other at conferences, symposia and seminars, which he attended with enthusiasm. In particular, one that remains in my memory is a sunny Saturday at the University of Nottingham, at the annual symposium organised by Julia Barrow, Alison McHardy and Michael Jones.

There was, moreover, often a little competition between us to see who would be first to read and digest the latest article or book. Looking back through my file just now, I re-read an e-mail from him in which he responded to my encouragement to read Kit French's new book: 'you've just beaten me to it as I intended to reply tonight to your last e-mail re-Kit French's book'. Through e-mail, a constant exchange of views cemented our academic relationship.

In the early phase of his research career, he experienced a severe warning, which required surgery. It was still an unexpected and horrific shock when I learnt of his death, through a telephone call from his daughter. He had seemed to have made a full and controlled recovery. Alas, that was not so. He died at the height of his intellectual powers, aged only 55. He greatly enriched my academic life in the Department and Centre and whenever I write anything about religion in the late middle ages, I know that I owe a great deal to him.

Dave Postles

WHITTLEWOOD PROJECT UPDATE.

This research project is an archaeological and historical investigation of the landscape and settlement patterns of an area of medieval forest on the Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire border. The project is funded by the AHRB,

directed by Chris Dyer, and researched by Richard Jones and Mark Page, for whom 2002-3 has been a busy year.

July 2002

Last year's summer fieldwork programme included the digging of test-pits in gardens in Akeley, Leckhampstead and Whittlebury, and the surveying of earthworks in Leckhampstead and Lillingstone Lovell. Staff and students from the Centre were among many volunteers who helped out. Analysis of the finds has furthered our understanding of the origins, growth and decline of the nucleated villages and dispersed settlements in our area. A report on the earthworks will appear in this year's *MSRG Annual Report*. During the fieldwork, Neil Faulkner visited several of the sites and wrote an article about the project for *Current Archaeology*, which was published in November.

August

After a long search for a suitable site, borings were taken from a peat bog in Syresham. The paleoenvironmental evidence from these samples will (hopefully) tell us about the extent of arable and woodland in the Whittlewood area in the thousand years before the Norman Conquest. We are still awaiting the final results.

September

At a meeting of the project board (Chris, Richard, Mark, Stephen Rippon and Mark Gardiner), the structure of the monograph was discussed. This will be written in the final months of the project in 2005. Much debate ensued until, finally, nine chapter headings were agreed and their contents outlined. The search is now on for a publisher.

October

An earthwork survey was undertaken at Heybarne (near Lillingstone Lovell), revealing two enclosures and an associated fishpond remote from other settlements. Documentary evidence suggests that the site began as a clearance in the woods, from where the landowner conducted illegal hunting parties into the royal forest. Heybarne provides a good example of the 'synergy' (a project buzz word) achieved by the archaeological and historical research.

November

Having completed the two-year pilot project in the summer (an article based on this research will appear in the next issue of *Medieval Archaeology*), the project design for 2002-5 was drawn up. Targets for the archaeological and documentary research were set and a coherent programme of work in the field and the archives was outlined.

December

A meeting was held with staff of English Heritage who offered to assist the project by examining the vernacular architecture of the Whittlewood area. During a subsequent visit about 50 interesting properties were identified including two cruck-framed houses in Akeley. Detailed work on the standing buildings will be undertaken in 2003-4.

January 2003

Much of this month was devoted to writing papers on the medieval agriculture of Whittlewood, from the perspective both of the material remains and the documentary evidence. The 'midland system' of open field farming was practised in our area (unusual in woodland settlements) following a pattern typical of other parts of lowland England. Analysis of pottery sherds deposited during

manuring may provide a way of dating the origins of the fields, although interpretations of the evidence differ.

February

The annual review of the project by members of the MSRSG was held in Whittlebury village hall. A lively and useful discussion followed talks on the summer fieldwork programme. In the afternoon the group visited Whittlebury church where nearby test-pitting has revealed occupation between the fifth and eleventh centuries. For many there, it was their final meeting with John Hurst.

March

On the eve of war with Iraq, Mark flew to Los Angeles to take up a month-long research fellowship at the Huntington Library, which holds documents relating to Stowe. Unfortunately, an oversight in connection with his visa led to his immediate arrest and deportation. The Huntington research is now being conducted using a microfilm.

April

Richard became a father. Ione Jones was born on the 24th, exactly 11 months after Emilia Page - 'the daughters of Whittlewood'!

May

The University of Nottingham appointed Eleanor Forward, a student of linguistics at the University of Sheffield, to undertake research for a PhD into the place-names of Whittlewood. Eleanor and her supervisors were welcomed to the Centre and are to visit the excavations in the summer. Her research will help to put the place-names of the project area into a much wider context.

June

Preparations were made for this year's six-week summer fieldwork programme. Staff, students and volunteers from Leicester, Sheffield, Southampton, Sussex and Whittlewood have been recruited to dig test-pits, survey earthworks and excavate trenches in the villages of Lillingstone Lovell, Silverstone, Whittlebury and Wicken. Grants have been forthcoming to cover costs from the MSRG, the Society of Antiquaries, and the Aurelius Trust, to whom we are grateful. Reports on this work will appear during 2003-4.

Mark Page

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Reservations for seminars

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Contributions of books for the book sale

To Mike Thompson at Marc Fitch House.

Purchase of Friends Papers:

Mike Thompson at Marc Fitch House or e-mail: mgt4@le.ac.uk, Tel: 0116-252 3756.

Newsletter production:

David Holmes (editor), Mike Thompson (editorial adviser), Joan Smith and Ken Smith (proofs), Michael Holmes (technical advice), Alan Tennant (distribution), University Reprographics (printing).



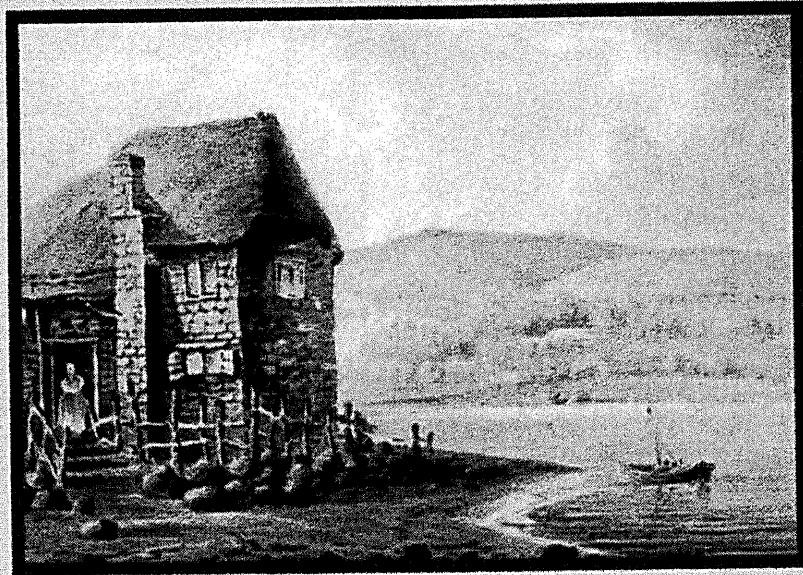
Roman city of Wroxeter
(photo courtesy of Freda Raphael)



Fotheringhay Church, Northamptonshire.
Photograph comes from the Attenborough collection.

LEICESTER EXPLORATIONS IN LOCAL HISTORY 1

**THE EVOLUTION OF THE
FISHING VILLAGE:
LANDSCAPE AND SOCIETY ALONG THE
SOUTH DEVON COAST, 1086–1550**



Harold Fox