

Friends of the Centre for English Local History

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER NUMBER 26 OCTOBER 2013



REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1073528

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

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

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

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

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

The cover picture shows the classical doorway to the great Hall of Old Wardour Castle, Wiltshire .
Photo; © Sylvia Pinches

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	1
THE CENTRE	
CENTRE REPORT	1
DR DAVID CHURCHILL	2
DR NICOLE GREENSPAN.....	4
DR ANDREW HOPPER.....	4
SEMINAR PROGRAMME 2012-13 REPORTS	5
CENTRE PUBLICATIONS 2012-13	11
PAPERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, ETC.	13
PRIZES, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS	17
DEVON FIELD-COURSE: APRIL 2013.....	18
RECENTLY COMPLETED THESES	19
MA DISSERTATIONS 2012-13	23
THE FRIENDS	
PUBLICATIONS BY FRIENDS	28
FRIENDS' OCCASIONAL PAPERS	30
HELPING THE FRIENDS	30
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012 AND ACCOUNTS	31
BEWDLEY OUTING	32
USES AND ABUSES OF THE LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE	35
CIRENCESTER WEEKEND.....	36
HOSKINS' DAY AND LECTURE 2013.....	38
TALKING TO FRIENDS	39
OBITUARIES.....	41
FRIENDS OF FRIENDS	
LEICESTERSHIRE VCH	42
DIARY DATES	
BRIXWORTH LECTURE	44
FRIENDS EVENTS 2013-14.....	44
SEMINAR PROGRAMME 2012-13.....	45
USEFUL CONTACTS	inside back cover

EDITORIAL

It has been another very busy and productive year for the Centre, the Friends and individual Friends as you will see from the following pages, resulting in the largest Newsletter yet. I am grateful to all the contributors, too numerous to mention, and to Ann Workman for proof reading. I am always in need of volunteers to write reports of seminars, outings and events, so please do get in touch. I would also be grateful for any suggestions as to how the Newsletter might be improved.

The Newsletter is our main point of contact with our membership, along with the Chairman's letters. With the constantly rising cost of postage and occasional need for contact with individuals, it would be extremely beneficial if the Membership Secretary were to have the email addresses of members. If you have not already done so, please would you consider emailing your contact details to Ann Schmidt (annschiidt1@hotmail.com)? The Friends are also moving into 'social media'. There is now a Facebook group for the Friends (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fcelh/>) where members can discuss issues and post notices. Please do join the group if you are on Facebook.

The Friends' committee is always seeking ways to promote the Centre and to encourage people to come and do the MA. Most of our members have done this course (and/or higher research degrees) and are well-placed to talk about the benefits of the course. We are also keen to foster closer links with local history societies in Leicestershire and the surrounding counties, with an aim of encouraging them to take out group membership and for their members to come to our events. If any of you are involved with local societies, as I am sure many of you are, could you give a short talk at one of their meetings about the work done in the Centre, or write a little piece for their journal or newsletter? Could you distribute some of the Centre's or the Friends' flyers? .

The Friends has been in existence for 24 years (seven as an informal association and 17 as a registered charity). This means that next year is our 25th Anniversary. Let's make it even busier and more successful than this one has been!

Sylvia Pinches

THE CENTRE REPORT

The core of the Centre's staff this year have been Professor Keith Snell, Dr Richard Jones, Dr Andrew Hopper, Professor Pete King, Dr Simon Sandall (Till Jan 2013 when he left for a permanent post at Winchester University), and Dr David Churchill (Jan 2013 onwards). During Keith Snell's sabbatical Peter King took over as temporary Director. We had four externally-funded Research Fellows. Two were funded by the Wellcome - Dr Richard Ward and Dr Zoe Dyndor. Dr Emmanuel Berger was EU-funded, Dr Nicole Greenspan was funded by her institution Hampden Sydney University, Virginia. We have also benefited greatly from the involvement of Professor (Em) Charles Phythian-Adams, Professor (Em) Chris Dyer, Professor Kevin Schurer, Dr Pam Fisher, Dr Bridget Lewis, and Dr Matt Tompkins as well as from helpful inputs from a great many other affiliated members and fellows.

ELH focusses primarily on producing highly original research and teaching of an interdisciplinary kind, promoting comparative understanding of English and Welsh local and regional history (and thus national history) that relates to issues of current public concern, and supplying a model of best historical practice for local and regional history, whilst ensuring that the roles of both the physical landscape and the cultural/social/economic landscapes of particular localities are studied both individually and as part of broader geographical patterns

The year has seen the continuance of a number of important areas of achievement as well some encouraging new developments. The important role played by ELH in PhD supervision is clear from the fact 35% of PhD students in the School of History have a first supervisor who is one of the four core ELH staff and 51% have at least one supervisor from ELH. We have been increasingly successful moreover in attracting grants for PhD studentships. Four major bids have resulted in the Centre receiving full funding for Andy Hopper to supervise an AHRC Collaborative PhD award with The National Archives; Pete King to supervise a Wellcome Trust PhD studentship; Richard Jones supervising an AHRC Collaborative PhD studentship with the Victoria County History; Pete King supervising an AHRC Collaborative PhD studentship on 'The

English Versailles'. However, the new guidelines setting a maximum of 12 PhD students per member of staff will have a disproportionate impact on ELH and will affect our income-earning capacity. MA recruitment has continued to be a cause for concern. Fees again rose at twice the rate of inflation, creating a serious danger that the University's fee policies will gradually price us out of the market. This said, next year's numbers appear to be slightly up in part because of the help offered by the Friends.

The staff at ELH have also continued to produce high quality publications, the two most important being Andy Hopper, *Turncoats and Renegades*, (Oxford UP) and Richard Jones *The Medieval Natural World* (Longman/Pearson). Substantive articles have also been published by ELH staff in *Social History*, *The Journal of British Studies*, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, *Rural History*, *Family and Community History* and elsewhere. Next year also promises to be productive. Keith Snell's 136,000 word script on *Decline of Community? English Senses of Loss 1750-2000* is currently with Cambridge University Press and the book on *The Power of the Criminal Corpse* being joint written by Pete King is due to be finished before the end of the year.

The centre has continued to benefit from the Wellcome-funded 'Power of the Criminal Corpse Project' via two ELH Research Fellows. Keith Snell is preparing a large grant application on 'Loneliness in history' to be submitted to the Wellcome Trust. Richard Jones is preparing an AHRC 'Connected Communities' bid for c. £650,000 on 'The Delivery and Reception of Landscape Histories: A Leicestershire Case Study' which is part of a bigger proposal to be taken to Shell for the re-launching of the Shell County Guides in a new web-based multi-media format. Andy Hopper has established a partnership with the National Civil War Centre at Newark Museum to develop a major collaborative Wellcome bid. This has resulted in the submission of a Preliminary Application to the Wellcome for £786,000 to develop a new part of the museum and to study 'Mortality, Medical Practice and Care during the British Civil Wars.'

Several successful conferences were organised and held in ELH during the last 12 months including: 30 June – 1 July 2012, 'Fairfax 400 Conference'; 17 November 2012 the Friends

Conference on 'The Uses and Abuses of the Landscape; Exploitation and Conservation in Historic Context'; 2-3 May 2013, 'International Perspectives on Execution and Post-Execution Punishment' Conference, funded by the Wellcome Foundation; 27-28 June 2013, 'Cultures of Violence' Conference. A call for papers is about to go out for a conference at ELH in April 2014 on 'The West of Britain and the East of Britain; Historical Perspectives on Regional Difference from the Middle Ages to the Twenty-First Century'. ELH staff have also been involved in various media activities. Peter King contributed to BBC 1 'Who Do You Think You Are', Channel 4's Time 'Team Programme' on Lincoln Gaol, and the BBC Radio Scotland series on 'The History of Murder in Scotland'. Andy Hopper and Richard Jones contributed to a public outreach programme for Michael Wood's 'Story of England'. Richard Jones's project, 'Digging the Peculiar', an examination of the origins and development of Southwell, Nottinghamshire continues. Andy Hopper produced two Historical Association podcasts on the Civil Wars.

The ELH MA continues to get excellent feedback from external examiners and our MAs have been particularly strong in the marks they get for their dissertations. The ELH MA course team reviewed the structure of the MA during the year and decided that we should come into line with other parts of the School of History's broader MA programme in two ways: (a) By ensuring our students can take modules across the MAs more easily (b) The ELH MA should be based on four modules instead of the current five. Students will be allowed to choose four out of the five. This also means that, in keeping with other MAs in the School, all ELH units can now be 30 credits. In part this is a response to the need to improve recruitment as the university talks about introducing a minimum of 10 fulltime-equivalent students for any MA to be viable. The centre also faces a number of other problematic external developments. The huge rise in undergraduate fees is reducing recruitment and putting increasing pressure on the History School budget. Since the Centre has no separate funds of any size this will inevitably have an impact. The University has been threatening all year to produce costings for each centre and since, despite our large PhD numbers, only about a third of the Centre's costs are covered by our postgraduate fee income from PhDs and MAs we

will inevitably need to be even more deeply involved in undergraduate teaching (which is four times more lucrative per student) if we are to be seen as financially viable in this brave new world. With this in mind ELH staff are involved in discussions with the new head of school on undergraduate course development as well as in obtaining substantial outside grants, getting funding for PhD students and developing projects such as the Shell guides or the Newark Museum. However, if this new model is adopted, the Centre will need to continue to strategically adapt and diversify in order to secure its long term survival.

Professor Peter King, Director

Dr David Churchill

Dr David Churchill was a Teaching Fellow in British History in the Centre from January to July 2013. He covered the teaching of Professors Snell and King on English local history and the history of crime and justice, spanning the period from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century. He came from the Open University, where he gained his PhD in 2012 with a thesis on ‘Crime, Policing and Control in Leeds, c.1830-1890’.

In conversation with the Editor he explained that his interest in the history of crime went back to his undergraduate days at Cambridge, where he undertook research on Southend, not far from where he grew up in Essex. His dissertation focussed on local residential sentiments regarding tourist and urban development, though his research also included a study of the policing of leisure in Southend. He is particularly interested in the ‘ordinary’ aspects of crime, outside the big events like riots which have so often drawn the attention of historians. His focus is on ordinary people and how they dealt with everyday crime, and the extent to which they relied upon state systems of policing and criminal justice. This is part of a wider interest in the ways in which people relate to and negotiate with authority. His study of Leeds took a very broad view of ‘policing’ in a nineteenth-century city, examining ‘formal’ police organisation and practice alongside ‘informal’ civilian-led responses to crime, including crime prevention, detection and conflict resolution. He had chosen Leeds as the area for his study because it was a large city with

good sources which had been little used. Asked about how the history of crime sits with local history, he said that while there have been many local case studies of crime (for example on the Black Country, Middlesbrough and Wales) the role of locality itself has been muted. Local differences have not been sufficiently thought through. In his study of Leeds he realised that different parts of the city had distinctive identities, in part manifested by different methods of policing. He wants to explore the significance of locality in responses to crime and policing by extending his study of Leeds to include comparisons with Manchester and Liverpool.

His research and recent teaching experience have given him a broad interest in the history of commercial security, police governance, the politics of police reform, and the historiography of policing and criminal justice. His work is not only confined to the grimmer side of life, however. Also arising from his earlier research on Southend, he has worked on leisure towns and the seaside holiday in the late nineteenth century. This has resulted in an article, ‘Living in a leisure town: residential reactions to the growth of popular tourism in Southend, 1870-1890’, *Urban History*, forthcoming.

He has enjoyed his time teaching at CELH, saying that it felt like ‘coming up for air’ after the solitary concentration of working on his thesis. We wish him well for the future.



Dr David Churchill

Dr Nicole Greenspan

Dr Greenspan has given the *Friends* this perspective on her time as a Visiting Fellow:

I am delighted to have joined the Centre for English Local History in April 2013 as a visiting fellow. I received my PhD from the University of Toronto in 2006 and am currently an Associate Professor at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. My research focuses on political culture, news, and communication networks in the mid-seventeenth century. My first book *Selling Cromwell's Wars: Media, Empire, and Godly Warfare, 1650-1658* (Pickering and Chatto, 2012), came out last year and I came to Leicester to begin my next major project on the Stuart courts and royalism in exile in the 1650s.

My visiting fellowship has been invaluable on both professional and personal levels and I have benefitted greatly from engaging with faculty and staff at the Centre and the School of Historical Studies more broadly. Over the course of the fellowship my research took an unexpected turn. While preparing an article on royal authority and the experience of exile I found myself increasingly drawn to the story of Charles II and Lucy Walter, the king's first known mistress and mother of his first-born son James (later Duke of Monmouth). In May 2013 I presented papers on aspects of this topic: 'Royal Authority and the Royal Image: Charles II, Lucy Walter, and the Stuart Courts in Exile' at the Institute of Historical Research in London, 'Fornication, Drunkenness and Adultery': Charles II and the Stuart Courts in Exile' at the early modern group at the University of Leicester. Comments and suggestions at these sessions, together with subsequent lively discussions with staff at the Centre for English Local History and School of Historical Studies encouraged me to move forward with a microhistorical study of Charles II, Lucy Walter, and the exiled courts. In addition to the considerable research resources at Leicester, the relative proximity to London made possible regular research trips to the British Library and Parliamentary archives to develop the project.

The value of the fellowship has extended beyond research productivity. The Centre for English Local History offers an exceptionally rich environment for a visiting scholar. Faculty and staff, emeritus professors, and other visiting

fellows have gone out of their way to be welcoming and inclusive. I have had the pleasure of sitting in on presentations, guest lectures, and even accompany Dr Andrew Hopper's class on a field trip to Norwich. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of the community on Salisbury Rd.



Dr Greenspan enjoying a trip to Paris



Dr Andrew Hopper

In April 2013 Dr Andrew Hopper was promoted to Senior Lecturer in English Local History. He has also been appointed as External Assessor on the Programme Re-approval Panel for the BA in History at the University Campus Suffolk., External Examiner of M.Phil. dissertation in Department of Modern History, University of Birmingham and External Examiner for part-time History, Maritime History and Archaeology programmes at the University of Hull. He has joined the editorial board of *History West Midlands Magazine*.

Seminar programme 2012-2013

Prof. David Rollison (University of Sydney) 'Disciplining the Commonwealth; the career of John Hooper Bishop of Gloucester, March 1551 to June 1552'

Professor Rollison mentioned that Hooper came from a prosperous family. After graduating in 1519 at Oxford with a Bachelor of Arts degree, he was attached to a Cistercian house at Cleve Abbey in Somerset. Later Sir Thomas Arundell sent him to London from Liddington, Wiltshire, where he was rector. In the uncertain times of the late 1540s Hooper went into exile and lived for a time in Zurich where he met his future wife. Due to the writings in particular of Heinrich Bullinger he underwent a conversion to the new religion and he returned to England in 1549 as a zealous reformer.

Hooper drew large crowds to his lectures, of which there was at least one a day. He preached about a new way of being a Christian, based on the internalization of moral values through a belief and trust in God. He produced a list of ten rules, most of which showed how people should live together in society. He openly criticized the morals of the people in positions of authority at all levels of society from the local manor to central government and the king.

He reported to Bullinger on the progress of the Reformation and mentioned that Popish tyranny was still prevalent in places, particularly the West Country, where his parents lived, and in East Anglia. He noted that all did not share Princess (later Queen) Elizabeth's enthusiasm for the new religion. Despite or because of his reforming zeal, Hooper was invited by Edward VI to give the Lenten Lecture at Court in 1549. However the offer of the Bishopric of Gloucester may have been seen as a way of removing a troublesome priest from the capital. At first he refused on the grounds of being required to wear robes of office, but was eventually persuaded to accept.

Hooper set out on a visitation aimed at purifying the church in his own diocese by giving a short, sharp shock to those he deemed guilty of transgressions, such as frequenting alehouses, hunting, gambling, playing cards, dice, adultery

and being a Catholic. Before he visited, he sent letters, including over 100 questions, to three groups with the instruction for each to report on the other two. They were incumbents, churchwardens and the 'yeoman classes'. From 1st June 1551 he maintained an impressive schedule of at least one parish per day for a whole year, although he had to pause for two weeks due to a case of the 'sweats'. There were easily 10 to 12 cases at each place and one in three ended in punishment, usually penances. Penitents had to stand or parade in public places declaiming their sins and their determination to live the good life in future. Often the penance had to be performed in Gloucester, Tewkesbury or a nearby market town as well as in the local parish. There could be as many as 1000 penitents in a market place in one day.

When Queen Mary came to the throne in 1554 Hooper was obviously in great danger because of his fervent Protestantism, and he was burnt at the stake in Gloucester, where a monument now stands in his memory. Dr Rollison concluded that the Puritanism of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries were very much due to the consequences of Hooper's actions. He changed the local community and the parish became the most important instrument of government for at least another 150 years, even much longer.

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

The chapel of the Holy Cross Guild, Stratford-upon-Avon, is one of the most important surviving late-medieval guild chapels in Europe. It has recently been the subject of an intense programme of detailed archaeological survey and archival research by a team based at the Department of Archaeology, University of York. Their study has enabled the creation of a digital model of the chapel, which can be viewed at <http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue32/1/GuildChapelInterface3.html>. Dr Giles' paper took us through the fascinating history of the chapel, its various restorations and the steps involved in the digital modelling.

In 1269 the Stratford Guild of the Holy Cross obtained a charter to build a hospital for poor priests of the diocese of Worcester, which naturally contained a chapel. The nave was used for meetings of the members of the Guild and the chancel, of which some part remains, was used to celebrate masses for the souls of the deceased members. The Guild prospered, gaining gentry members from around the county as well as merchants and craftsmen, and in the fifteenth century the chapel was rebuilt, along with the neighbouring guildhall, school and almshouses for elderly members who had fallen on hard times. Hugh Clopton, a local man who made his fortune in London, left money in the 1496 for the nave, tower and porch to be rebuilt. The interior was lavishly decorated with wall paintings. Only fifty years later, the Guild was suppressed and the chapel eventually passed to the Corporation of Stratford in 1553, and in subsequent years many of the images were removed or defaced and the walls whitewashed in 1586, although there is evidence that some of the paintings, at least, were still visible in the 17th century. It suffered many years of neglect, leading to major restoration programmes in 1804, 1928 and 1955-62. Only faint traces of the wall-paintings are now visible.

The presence of the paintings, including a Doom over the chancel arch, had been uncovered during the 1804 re-roofing. Subsequently those in the chancel were destroyed, those in the nave whitewashed once more, and the new pitch on the nave roof decapitated the Christ of the Doom. However, the paintings had been copied by the artist and antiquary Thomas Fisher. The 1928 restoration work allowed Wilfrid Puddephat, the art master at the Grammar School, to produce a series of paintings, reconstructing the cycle of the Dance of Death. These two sets of illustrations were scanned by the digital heritage team at York, complementing the building survey undertaken by the archaeologists. The survey produced CAD geometry for the chapel and the drawings were added in modelling software to 'decorate' the walls, appropriate perspective and lighting effects being applied. The other Guild buildings have

also been subject to meticulous survey and documentary research and new interpretations of their age and history is emerging.

The paper generated much discussion about the Guild buildings, their original appearance and function, and about the techniques used in modelling them. Prof. Chris Dyer brought a personal note, when he recalled the 'enlivening lectures' given by Wilfrid Puddephat while a pupil at Stratford Grammar School.

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

The accession of George I was swiftly followed by an expansion in the size of the army. The new recruits were largely Whig, supporting both the Protestant succession and Hanoverian dynasty, which placed them at odds with much of the popular politics of the period. The tone was set in Bridgwater in 1717, when a drinking party of soldiers became rowdy, following a demand that a toast be drunk to high-churchman and Jacobite-sympathiser Henry Sacheverell. A shot was fired, a bullet hit the wall and fighting ensued. The town's mayor and magistrates sought to make an example of the soldiers, who were bound over to the next assizes, where they were found guilty and fined, bringing their actions to the attention of a wider public.

Political differences between the troops and the townspeople came to a head on 10 June 1721, the birthday of the Old Pretender and a day of Jacobite celebrations, when white roses were worn. An effigy of George I had been placed outside the dragoons' quarters, with turnips and horns, well understood symbols mocking the king for his low birth and his queen's unfaithfulness. The soldiers responded with an attack on the butchers of the town, who protested their innocence, and a parade through the streets with a warming pan containing a doll, an allusion to the

allegation that the Old Pretender had been smuggled into the royal birth chamber to replace a stillborn child. These provocations soon led to violence and many appear to have been seriously injured by soldiers, but when a report was sent to the Secretary of State, he took the army's side.

Army pay was dependent upon an annual parliamentary vote, but these cases demonstrate that the army was often isolated from, and hostile to, a large part of civilian society. Troops could be brought in by the civil authorities in an attempt to keep or restore peace, but could also create political tensions themselves.

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

This talk concerned Dr Crone's findings from an analysis of registers of prisoners arriving at Bury St. Edmunds gaol between 1830 and 1870 (she is later to work on Ipswich gaol, but she is not aware of similar data anywhere else in the country). Many personal details were recorded when a prisoner arrived at the gaol, including, vitally, the person's literacy level, and, sometimes, details of their schooling – the place where they went to school and how long they attended. For Bury St. Edmunds, there are a total of 8067 records, for 6250 offenders (the difference is accounted for by recidivists who were sent to prison on sometimes numerous occasions). The vast majority (88%) of the sample were male, and the majority were sentenced for relatively minor offences of larceny, poaching or assaults; also the majority (67%) were described as being "labourers" or some other unskilled position. In order to make the sample meaningful, the survey excluded those who were in the higher social strata, and also excluded those not born in Suffolk.

The literacy of those who were admitted was split into three categories – those who could neither read nor write, those who could read but not write, and those who could do both. Previously,

the majority of literacy statistics have been based on signatures in marriage registers, but this does not count those who were able to read but were unable to sign their name.

The statistics were quite startling. The percentage of totally illiterate prisoners actually rose between 1830 and 1870, from 41% to 45%; those who could both read and write also rose significantly, from 34% to 46%; but the change in the percentage of prisoners who could read but not write was dramatic – a fall from 23% to just 8%. But, taken altogether, the percentage of those who had any degree of literacy had actually fallen (from 57% to 54%) at a time of ubiquitous educational improvements.

This then leads on to questions about the impact of changes in the education available to the poor during this period, and Rosalind showed a number of maps demonstrating the position of known schools, of whatever type, in the county, and the literacy levels of prisoners coming from those parishes. A possible explanation for the change is that the growth of the government-supported National and British Schools (from 14 in 1833 to 66 in 1855) led to a growth in the level of those who could both read and write, but failed those who would only previously have achieved the ability to read. It was noted that more populous areas had higher literacy levels. Dr Crone is also looking at evidence for people travelling to obtain schooling. More work is to be carried out in this area though, especially since the number of identified Sunday Schools appears totally contrary to expectations.

The question session at the end of the seminar discussed the links between religious denomination and movement across parish boundaries for education, and especially the possibility of movement following Methodist Circuits. The potential use of the 1851 Religious Census was raised, as was the evidence for education in workhouses and reformatories. Rosalind stressed, however, that there was no visible link between literacy and criminal activity.

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

David Beck presents an interesting look at how our predecessors practiced local history in the past. The focus of the natural history of the county meant for the first time a multi-disciplinary approach was taken, drawing on the strengths of heraldry, historians, zoologists, cartographers and mathematicians. Beck presented a detailed overview of how such a practice existed during the Early Modern period and how it was developed by a select few individuals. The aim of these natural county histories were to celebrate the entire history of a given place, from antiquity to the present. The writers adopted an approach not uncommon to modern travel writers, describing in detail the journey itself. These aspects appear to be just as important as the heritage of the county itself. There is also emphasis on the social nature of the journey, meeting native inhabitants on the journey and sharing their experience. Beck concentrated upon the case studies of John Aubrey and Robert Plott, two of the first natural historians of the period. Their work helped encompass a very novel approach to local natural history and was proven to be somewhat profitable.

Beck went on to explain the intellectual networks which helped connect the slowly growing historical community, namely Oxford University. Being both academics, of different pursuits, this helps exemplify how such very different disciplines were brought together and synthesised. As an institution, Oxford University was well versed in connecting academics but more importantly Oxford had a printing press, a means to produce their work. This helped to promote and publicise the work carried out by these historians. For Plott this led to his second major work on Staffordshire, having been invited by the local gentry to conduct a local history of the area. Again, as well as highlighting the importance of intellectual networks the older networks of the gentry and patronage still remained important and influential. Another feature which Beck

explained of Early Modern natural histories were the different thematic approaches taken when relating the locality to the national history. One such theme would be taking William Camden's *Britannia*, a national history of Britain which stresses the distinct local geographies of different counties. The analogy which was important here would be London being the 'heart' of the nation and counties were the 'veins' which fed the capital. This then contrasts William Defoe's vision of the nation. London was still to be the centre piece but, in line with his economic philosophy, it was centres of commerce and trade networks which are of importance, not geographical distinctions within the landscape. Regardless of the different thematic dispositions there was a very real effort to write a different kind of history, one which emphasised the importance of the local over the national.

Professor Ann Hughes (University of Keele)

“‘To be paid again with the king's spoons’”: corruption and conflict in Warwick garrison, 1642-1663’.

Professor Ann Hughes of the University of Keele presents an interesting insight to everyday life of people inhabiting the garrison of Warwick during the English Civil Wars. The lecture illustrates the sensitive political nature of the period, with the core of the presentation relating to a number of defamation cases against the governor of Warwick castle, John Bridges. One of the best examples of the accusations was the stealing of the 'King's spoons' after the battle of Edgehill. At first, bewilderment set in with the initial impression that an official enquiry was undertaken to investigate the whereabouts of some spoons. It transpired that the spoons were part of a royalist baggage train lost at Edgehill. A number of other items were reportedly stolen and, apparently, in the possession of John Bridges. One of the interesting methodological considerations of this lecture was the way in which a range of primary material was synthesised to reflect a great range of the social

strata and their experiences during this cataclysmic period. Certainly, one particular methodological consideration was the use of memory being used as evidence in the investigations of Bridges supposed thievery. Hughes highlighted the very vivid detail given by a number of people residing at the garrison during the period, describing the actions of not only Bridges but also his wife in dealing with the items of the royalist baggage. Hughes helped contextualise this very serious allegation set against Bridges in this period when the world was turned upside down. The honour of a man was paramount to success, especially for the newer middling sort which became socially mobile throughout the course of the Civil Wars. Although accusations were dampened during the course of the Civil Wars and Protectorate, the cause was renewed during the Restoration, when there was a real desire to try and reclaim the wealth of the king. There is also the issue of political networks and affiliations to consider. Bridges was well connected with other parliamentarians during the period. Indeed, he led a somewhat successful military career after the initial fighting and into the commonwealth, leading skirmishes in Ireland. It is not surprising that investigations into the allegations set against Bridges seemingly disappeared. Plundering towns and goods of the losing side was common during the period, what caused offence was the allegation that John Bridges, being the senior officer, was not present during Edgehill and consequently did not have any right to the goods seized. What is also surprising are a number of testimonies against Bridges. Here, we return to the important issue of spoons! A number of testimonies give very rich detail in the goods both Bridges and his wife were seen to be handling. The testimonies were taken from people living in the garrison, so they were in continuous contact with the Bridges family. What aids the authenticity of the claims is the reasoning of how they know the knowledge to be true, invariably having some connection to manufacture of the plundered item.

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

Richard Coates is director of FaNUK (Family Names of the United Kingdom) a major AHRC funded project based at UWE. Coates explained the methodologies of the project and reported on progress, providing an illuminating number of examples relating to place-name surnames. The project aims to create a database of over 300,000 surnames currently found in the UK, including those representing recent immigration. Wherever possible each entry will not only provide ‘meanings’ but discuss the linguistic, genealogical and social origins of each name.

Previous scholarly work, most notably Reaney’s dictionary of 1958 (revised by Wilson 1991), had centred on medieval occurrences of bynames and surnames. Valuable though this corpus of work remains there is often, however, very little correlation between these names and what appear at face value to be present day versions.

The descent of a surname could generally be expected to follow the male line but many factors are now recognised as breaking this transmission. Bastardy, adoption, the taking of maternal-line surnames and aliases all have to be accommodated when family-specific name studies are made. For this reason FaNUK has welcomed the contributions of genealogists and researchers in the Guild of One-Name Studies. The ambition of the project is so extensive that the published database may be considered as ‘a temporary surrogate for genealogical work’.

The team recognise the magnitude of the task and are exploiting web-based indexes (UK censuses etc.) and Steve Archer’s most powerful digitally-mapped *Surname Atlas*. The need to avoid speculation becomes clear from a number of individually researched place-name surname studies where common sense, linguistics and onomastics alone would never have revealed the origins of the name. Only by researching names individually is it possible, for example, to differentiate the three names Didcott, Didcock

and Dedicoat to their different geographical origins. Some names appear to defy explanation but may simply have resulted from an unidentified medieval distance migration. The surname Yelling for example occurs in Somerset but the most obvious settlement name is in Huntingdonshire. There is a possible Lordship explanation for this and contributions from the floor suggested this manner of migration to be involved with other place-name surname conundrums. Long distance transfer of very minor settlement names is thought rare, however, and a hierarchy normally can be detected with more distant migrations being represented by large-settlement surnames. Most place-name surnames 'cluster' near their place of). These clusters can often be shown to persist into 'the age of the railway and motorway'.

Place-name surnames may be more constant in their form than the place from which they were taken and, conversely, names straying from their original locality can quickly mutate under pressures such as 'folk etymology' and centuries of unfettered record keeping. The subject is a minefield of disparities of form, spelling variants, idiosyncratic spelling conventions and 'false friends'. The work will clearly have a life long after the funded research period. Reports on the 46,000 most frequently occurring names will appear in March 2014.

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

Belief in witchcraft did not 'fizzle out in the early nineteenth century' and Dr Davies demonstrated this was a valuable academic topic. His more recent research has focused on the migration of beliefs to America and how they changed following cultural interactions. His methodology is to use newspaper accounts of court cases coupled with census, birth, marriage and death data to find the ages of those suspected of witchcraft and their attackers, and other economic and social factors; i.e. the use of hard evidence outside the genre of folklore.

1980s research in Somerset identified nearly 90 reports of 'witch scratching' and prosecutions of

magic practitioners and fortune tellers up to 1921. Witch scratchers were usually women in their 20s or 30s whereas witches were past childbearing age. He also found accounts of toad doctors at toad fairs and hag riding: the former were males who used live (but not for long) toads as cures; hag riding was the interpretation in Somerset, Devon and Dorset, but not elsewhere, of incidents where a person awoke with paralysis and pressure on their chest, and attributed this to being ridden by a hag. Applying the same methodology in 19th century Hertfordshire brought startlingly different results: no witch scratching, few 'cunning folk' cases, only two prosecutions of fortune tellers. Rough music, however, was 'vibrant in Hertfordshire', as in Somerset. Lack of funding put on hold testing of his hypothesis that witch cases were more prevalent in pastoral regions due to the wider range of misfortunes in dairy farming, such as milk turning, cows drying up, and butter not churning; coupled with the dairy being a female-dominated sphere.

Was the English culture of witchcraft transferred to America by immigrants? Dr Davies continued his research in America, finding 200 court reports up to the 1950s. He concluded that where whole communities migrated to America they took their strong and distinctive magical cultures with them; he cited a Dutch community in Minnesota which used pillow wreaths and boiled black hens as a way of identifying witches. In contrast, the English were more likely to immigrate piecemeal and as a consequence they and their beliefs diffused. He described the spread of beliefs surrounding a natural, occasionally lethal, phenomenon: gastric concretions in ruminants (or, rarely, humans) following intake of indigestible minerals such as hair. Native Americans believed witches could fire these 'witch balls' into cattle or people, causing their death, and this belief was adopted by English immigrants, despite having no basis in English (or Spanish or German) culture. The belief then spread to the African American community, where it continues to have believers.

This seminar generated many questions regarding beliefs of slave communities, gun culture (a way of dealing with witches peculiar to America), links between the supernatural and landscape features, the need by immigrants to conquer new landscapes, residential setting of witches and the literary culture brought to America in 'magic books' by different immigrant groups.

Centre publications 2012-13

Staff

Peter King

(Professor of English Local History)

Articles in journals

‘Ethnicity, Prejudice and Justice: The Treatment of the Irish at the Old Bailey 1750-1825’, *Journal of British Studies*, 52 (April 2013), pp.390-414.

‘The Killing of Constable Linnell: The Impact of Xenophobia and Elite Connections on Eighteenth-Century Justice’ (joint authored with Drew Gray) *Family and Community History* 16/1 April 2013 pp.4-31.

‘Exploring and Explaining the Geography of Homicide: Patterns of Lethal Violence in Britain and Europe 1805-1900’ accepted by and in process of editing for *European Review of History: Revue Européenne d'Histoire* 21, forthcoming.

Keith Snell

(Professor of Rural and Cultural History)

Co-edited journal

Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture, 23:2 (October, 2012), 116 pp.

Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture, 24:1 (April, 2013), 100 pp. A special issue, edited as such, entitled *Poverty and Mobility in England, 1600-1850*.

Articles in journals

‘Churchyard closures, rural cemeteries and the village community in Leicestershire and Rutland, 1800-2010’, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, 63 (2012), pp. 721-757.

‘In or out of their place: the migrant poor in English art, 1740-1900’, *Rural History*, 24 (2013), pp. 73-100.

(With R. Jones) ‘Re-politicising local history’, *The International Journal of Regional and Local Studies*, 9 (2013), pp. 1-12.

Reviews

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

Shaun Morley (ed.), *Oxfordshire Friendly Societies, 1750-1918* (2011) *Oxoniensa*, 78 (2013)

Andrew Hopper

(Senior Lecturer in English Local History)

Books

Turncoats and Renegades: Changing Sides in the English Civil Wars (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Articles in journals

‘Social mobility in the English Revolution: the case of Adam Eyre’, *Social History*, 38:1 (February 2013), pp. 26-45.

‘Turncoats and Treachery’, *History Today*, 62:9 (Sep 2012), pp. 46-51

Reviews

Mark Stoyle, *The Black Legend of Prince Rupert's Dog: Witchcraft and Propaganda during the English Civil War* (Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 2011), in *Midland History*, 37:2 (2012), pp. 247-8.

Richard Jones

(Senior Lecturer in Landscape History)

Books

The Medieval Natural World (Longman Pearson, 2013).

Articles in edited volumes

Settlement archaeology and place-names’, in J. Carroll and D.N. Parsons (eds), *Perceptions of Place: Twenty-first-Century Interpretations of English Place-Name Studies* (Nottingham Place-Name Society, in press), pp. 182-207.

Articles in journals

(With K.D.M. Snell), ‘Re-politicizing Local History’, *International Journal of Regional and Local History* 1 (2013), pp. 5-13.

David Churchill
(Teaching Fellow)

Articles in journals

‘Living in a leisure town: residential reactions to the growth of popular tourism in Southend, 1870-1890’, *Urban History*, forthcoming.

Christopher Dyer
(Emeritus Professor of Regional and Local History)

Articles in edited volumes

‘The experience of being poor in late medieval England’, in A. Scott (ed.), *Experiences of Poverty in Late Medieval and Early Modern England and France* (Farnham, 2012), 19-39.

‘Did peasants need markets and towns? The experience of late medieval England?’, in M. Davies and J. Galloway (eds.), *London and Beyond. Essays in Honour of Derek Keene* (London, 2012), 25-47.

‘Medieval peasant buildings 1250-1550: documents and historical significance’, in N. Alcock and D. Miles, *The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England*, (Oxford, 2013), 105-18

Articles in journals

‘Poverty and its relief in late medieval England’, *Past and Present*, 216 (2012), 41-78.

‘Was Bidford-on-Avon a town in the middle ages?’ *Warwickshire History*, 15 (2012), 93-110.

‘Barrie Dobson’, *Guardian* obituary, 13 May 2013

‘Mick Aston’, *Guardian* obituary, 26 June 2013

‘A pleasure ground for the Duke: the landscape of Fulbrook, Warwickshire’,

<http://blog.inquisitionspostmortem.ac.uk/2013/06>

‘The agrarian problem, 1440-1520’, in Jane Whittle (ed.), *Landlords and Tenants in Britain, 1440-1660: Tawney’s Agrarian Problem Revisited* (Woodbridge, 2013), 19-34

Book reviews

S. Bagge et al., (eds.), *Feudalism. New landscapes of debate*, in *Ag. Hist. Rev.*, 60 (2012), pp. 145-6.

G. Thomas, *The Later Anglo-Saxon Settlement of Bishopstone*, in *Med Arch*, 56 (2012), pp. 376-7.

S. Sweetinburgh (ed.), *Later Medieval Kent*, in *Med Arch*, 56 (2012), pp. 400-1.

M. Gardiner and C. Whittick (eds.), *Accounts and Records of the Manor of Mote*, in *Med Arch*, 56 (2012), p. 401.

E.J. Cowan and L. Henderson (eds.), *A History of Everyday Life in Medieval Scotland*, in *Med Arch*, 56 (2012), pp. 401-2.

P. Barnwell and B.K. Roberts (eds.), *Britons, Saxons, and Scandinavians. The Historical Geography of Glanville R.J. Jones*, in *Landscape History*, 33 (2012), pp. 113-14.

J. Le Goff, *Money and the Middle Ages*, in *Times Literary Supplement*, 1 Feb. 2013, p. 12.

M.K. McIntosh, *Poor Relief in England 1350-1600*, in *Local Population Studies*, 90 (2013), pp. 96-7.

P. Slavin, *Bread and Ale for the Brethren*, in *Economic History Review*, 66 (2013), pp. 650-1.

N. R. Amor, *Late Medieval Ipswich*, in *English Historical Review*, 128 (2013), pp. 663-5.

Translations

‘English peasant buildings in the later middle ages (1200-1500)’, *Economic and Social History Review*, 6 (2012), pp. 113-35, translated into Chinese.

Honorary Visiting Fellows

Mandy de Belin

Books

The hunting transition and the landscape, 1600-1850 (University of Hertfordshire Press, Vol. 6 of Explorations in Local and Regional History, 2013)

Graham Jones

Articles in edited volumes

‘Earth, fire, and water: Constantine and Helena in the ritual heritage of Europe and its neighbourhood’, in Miša Rakocija (ed.), *Niš and Byzantium, Eleventh Symposium, Niš, 3-5 June 2012, The Collection of Scientific Works XI* (Niš, University of Niš, 2013), pp. 385-408.

Mark Page

Articles in edited volumes

'Broughton Poggs', in *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire, XVII, Broadwell, Langford and Kelmscott*, ed. Simon Townley (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2012), pp. 146-73

'Langford', in *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire, XVII, Broadwell, Langford and Kelmscott*, ed. Simon Townley (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2012), pp. 174-208

'Little Faringdon', in *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire, XVII, Broadwell, Langford and Kelmscott*, ed. Simon Townley (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2012), pp. 209-33

'Grafton', in *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire, XVII, Broadwell, Langford and Kelmscott*, ed. Simon Townley (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2012), pp. 233-49

'Radcot', in *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire, XVII, Broadwell, Langford and Kelmscott*, ed. Simon Townley (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2012), pp. 250-69

(with S. Townley), 'Broadwell, Langford and Kelmscott: Cotswolds to Thames', in *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire, XVII, Broadwell, Langford and Kelmscott*, ed. Simon Townley (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2012), pp. 1-18

Reviews

Medieval Rural Settlement: Britain and Ireland, AD 800-1600, ed. Neil Christie and Paul Stamper (2012), in *Economic History Review*, LXVI, no. 2 (2013), pp. 648-9

Sylvia Pinches

Books

(With J. Cooper and D. Whitehead), *Eastnor* (Phillimore for the VCH, 2013).

Edited journal

Newsletter of the Friends of English Local History (2012), 42 pp.

Articles in journals

'News from Herefordshire VCH', *Local History News* 104 (Summer 2012), p. 12.

Kate Tiller

Books

Remembrance and Community: war memorials and local history (British Association for Local History, 2013).

Articles in edited volumes

'Local History in England' and 'Local History in Ireland' in C. Kammen and A.H. Wilson (eds), *Encyclopaedia of Local History* (Alta Mira Press, US, 2013).

Papers presented at seminars, conferences etc.

Staff

Peter King

'Patterns of Homicide in Nineteenth-Century Scotland' at the 'Cultural Representations of Crime and Policing: Scottish and International Perspectives Conference' 16-17 April 2013, University of Dundee

'Exploring and Explaining Patterns of violence in Britain and Europe 1805-1900' at the 'The Global Trajectory of Murder and Genocide' NWO-funded Project, Fourth conference, University of York, November 30-December 1st 2012.

'The Criminal Ethnic Other; Jewish, Irish and Black Offenders in Eighteenth and early Nineteenth-Century London' at the North American Conference of British Studies Montreal, Canada, 9-11 November 2012

'Patterns of Post-Execution Punishment in England and Wales from the 1750s to the 1830s; The Impact of the Murder Act' at the International Perspectives on Execution and Post-Execution Punishment Conference at the University of Leicester 2-3 May 2013.

Keith Snell

'In or out of their place: the migrant poor in English art, 1740-1900', Cambridge University, Trinity Hall, 22 Nov. 2012.

Keynote lecture: 'The role of local history', to Annual Conference of Warwickshire Local History Societies, The Friends Meeting House, Warwick, 10 Nov. 2012.

Keynote lecture: 'Churchyards: their Preservation and Analysis', Association of Leicestershire History Societies, Diseworth Heritage Centre, 24 Apr. 2013
'Gravestones as sources for community history', to Free Community Heritage Workshop, 20 April 2013, University of Leicester.

Keynote speaker: Conference on 'Uneasy Neighbours? Rural-Urban Relationships in the Nineteenth Century', University of Southampton, 20 Sept. 2013.

Richard Jones

'Place-names', BBC 'Great British Story'.

'The case of Northminster and other Thanet mythologies', Kent Archaeological Society, 3 Nov. 2012.

'Medieval manuring as art and science', Agricultural History Conference, 1 Dec. 2012

'Archaeology and place-names', Institute of Archaeology, 5 February 2013

Andrew Hopper

'The "English gentry turned feral"? Lieutenant-Colonel David Hyde and royalist violence', European Perspectives on Cultures of Violence Conference, University of Leicester, 27-28 June 2013.

'Social mobility in the English Revolution: the case of Adam Eyre', British History in the Seventeenth Century Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, 30 May 2013.

Social mobility in the English Revolution: the case of Adam Eyre', Early Modern Discussion Group, University of Sheffield, 8 May 2013.

Chris Dyer

Due to editorial oversight, Prof. Dyer's papers were omitted from the previous Newsletter. Consequently this list goes back to 2010.

'Historian's application of Chayanov's theory to English peasants', Alexandre Tchayanov, la paysannerie, l'économie domestique et les sciences humaines, La Maison René-Ginouves, Paris, October 2010.

'Living in the medieval peasant house', Suffolk Historic Buildings Group, Haughley Barn, Suffolk, November 2010.

'Documentary evidence for Wallingford', Wallingford burh to borough research project workshop: debating urbanism 800-1200, University of Exeter, November 2010

'Living under the rule of a bishop', Liddington Manor History Society, May 2011

'Hills and valleys: how were the Malvern Hills used in the middle ages?' Trust for the VCH of Herefordshire, Ledbury, May 2011

'Bretford and Brinklow: a field visit', Warwickshire Local History Society, May 2011

'Victoria County History of Leicestershire' Thurcaston and Cropston Local History Society May 2011

'The rise and fall of mead', Diet Group, Somerville College Oxford, May 2011.

'Was there an agrarian problem in England in the period 1440-1540?', Tawney's Agrarian Problem 100 Years On, University of Exeter, July 2011.

'The experience of being poor in the later middle ages: the pauper's perspective', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 2011.

'Bromsgrove's rural landscape'; 'Bromsgrove: a small town in the middle ages', Bromsgrove Summer School, July 2011.

'John Heritage: sheep and wool in north Gloucestershire, 1500-1520', Campden and District Historical and Archaeological Society, September 2011.

‘L’industrie rurale en Angleterre, 1200-1550’, 33^e journées internationales d’histoire de l’ Abbaye de Flaran, October 2011

‘Towns and villages in medieval Warwickshire: was Bidford-on-Avon a town in the middle ages?’ Bidford and District History Society, October 2011

‘Victoria County History for Leicestershire’, Friends of Leicester and Leicestershire Museums, Leicester, October 2011

‘The origins of the English village revisited (700-1200)’, Local History seminar, University of Nottingham, November 2011.

‘What was it like to be poor in the middle ages?’ Welsh Universities Medieval Symposium, Gregynog, February 2012.

‘Treasures of the Worcestershire Record Office’, Friends of the Worcestershire Record Office, Worcester, March 2012

‘How poor were medieval peasants? A review of evidence from Wharram Percy, 1200-1540’, Wharram: Past, Present and Future, University of York, March, 2012

‘Historical background to midland buildings’, Spring Conference of the Vernacular Architecture Group, Sutton Bonington, Notts, April 2012

‘Cotswold landscapes from prehistory to c.1600: some myths exposed’, Chester Landscape History Society, Chester, April 2012

‘W.G. Hoskins: a celebrated historian’, Wigston Civic Society, Wigston Magna, May 2012.

‘Why medieval peasants were important’, Nightingale Lecture for the Wye Agricultural Museum Trust, Kent, May 2012

‘Have historians been too sentimental about the village community, 1334-1540?’, Tenth Warwick Symposium on Parish Research, University of Warwick, May 2012

‘Two deserted medieval villages in south Warwickshire’, Our Past Uncovered, Warwick Museum, July 2012

‘Shopping in Rutland in the middle ages – luxuries and the everyday’, Rutland Local History and Record Society, Oakham, July 2012

‘Did the Industrial Revolution happen in the fifteenth century?’, The Fifteenth Century Conference, University of Winchester Sept. 2012

‘A Cotswold wool merchant in action, c. 1500’, Stow on Wold Civic Society, Oct. 2012

‘A Cotswold wool merchant in action, c. 1500’, Moreton in Marsh History Society, Oct. 2012

‘A Cotswold wool merchant in action, c. 1500’ Gotherington Local History Society, Oct 2012

‘Why medieval peasants are important?’, Northamptonshire Archaeological Society and Northampton HA branch Nov 2012

‘Using documentary and archaeological evidence’, Surrey Archaeological Society, Nov 2012

‘Living in the medieval peasant house’, Vernacular Architecture Group winter conference, University of Leicester, January 2013

‘Deserted villages visited’, Local History seminar, University of Birmingham, Jan.2013

‘John Heritage: an English wool merchant and his world’, brown bag seminar, Huntington Library, San Marino, California, Feb. 2013.

‘John Heritage: an English wool merchant and his world’, Medieval Studies Program seminar, Santa Barbara, University of California, Feb. 2013.

‘Country people go to town: some lessons from Leicestershire’, Thrussington Local History Society, April 2013.

‘The mortar in the medieval peasant kitchen: insights into culinary practice’, Oxford Diet Group, Kellogg College, May, 2013.

‘New work on the English nucleated village’, Space and Settlement conference, Trinity College Dublin, May 2013.

‘The archaeology of the medieval English peasantry’, Institute of Archaeology, University

College London, June 2013.

‘Tawney and Postan: two pathways to understanding the pre-industrial economy’, Agriculture and Industry, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, July 2013.

‘Demesne and peasant farming in late medieval England: contrasts and similarities’, Anglo-American Colloquium on the medieval economy, Wells, Somerset, July 2013.

‘Wastel or treet ? Buying daily bread in late medieval England’ 82nd Anglo-American Conference of Historians on ‘Food in History’, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, July 2013

Honorary Visiting Fellows

Alan Fox

‘Kirby Bellars in the Medieval Period’, VCH Leicestershire celebration, University of Leicester, 10 September 2012.

Graham Jones

‘Wells of St Helen in the context of cult and tradition’, Holy Wells in Wales conference, University of Wales, Newport, September 15-16, 2012.

‘Shepherd of his flock, guardian of the *polis*: the geography of regional identity as expressed in the dedications of churches’, Hagiotheca conference, *Cuius patrocinio tota gaudet regio*: Saints Cults and the Dynamics of Regional Cohesion, University of Zagreb, Centre for Advanced Academic Studies, Dubrovnik, October 18-20, 2012.

‘Forests and chases: noble pleasure-grounds or common resource?’, Uses and Abuses of the Landscape conference, University of Leicester, Centre for English Local History, November 17, 2012.

‘Wigmund the Welshman? Lords, lands, and churches’, Wolds Historical Organisation, Wymeswold, November 20, 2012.

‘Proclaimed at York: Constantine’s posthumous impact on kingship and devotion on the Imperial

frontiers’, St Emperor Constantine and Christianity conference, University of Niš, Centre for Church Studies, May 31, 2013

‘Holy Cross and Holy Fire: Place, name, and metaphor in the narrative of Holy Helena’, symposium Niš and Byzantium XII: Constantine, *In hoc signo vinces* – 313, University of Niš, June 4, 2013.

‘A country called Europe? Cultural landscapes through British eyes’, public lecture, University of Würzburg, Faculty of Philosophy, June 20, 2013.

Mark Page

‘Shops and Shopkeepers in Medieval Hampshire’, Apr 2013 to Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society.

‘Lordship, Tenure and Agricultural Development in Medieval England’, June 2013 to Medieval Economic and Social History Seminar, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge.

Sylvia Pinches

‘The buildings of Church Lane, Ledbury’, Heritage Open Days lecture, Ledbury, 7 Sept. 2012.

‘A tale of two castles: Kenilworth and Warwick’, Henley and Beaudesert Local History Society, 15 November 2012.

‘Old Homes of Bosbury’, VCH Local History Day, Bosbury, 24 November 2012.

‘Compton Verney: the story of a great estate’, Friends of Leamington Art Gallery, 15 Jan. 2013.

‘Detached town gardens’, ‘Herefordshire National Gardens Scheme, Lyde Court, 13 March 2103.

“‘Hodge”: the life of the Herefordshire agricultural labourer’, Hereford Museum, 14 March 2013.

‘Almshouses: a social and architectural history’, Berkswell Local History Group, 10 April 2103

‘Market towns in perspective’, Friends of Petersfield Museum, 20 June 2013.

‘Some Herefordshire and Shropshire almshouses’, Leintwardine Local History Group, 18 Sept. 2013.

Prizes, Awards and Grants

John Nichols Prize

The John Nichols Prize was not awarded this year.

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

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

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

McKinley Prize for the best Dissertation

The McKinley Prize 2013 was awarded to one of our last MA by ISS students, Trixie Gadd, who is now doing a PhD. The title of her dissertation was: 'St George, Gloucestershire, 1750-1850: social and economic relations in a marginal parish'. A revised version of it is now under consideration for publication with *Midland History*.

Graduate Essay Competition

PhD student Elias Kaupferman won a university-wide graduate competition with his essay 'The Role of Windsor Castle and Town during the English Civil Wars 1642 -1650' (the subject of his thesis). The prize was to attend a PhD conference, 'Helping PhD Researchers Achieve their Career Aspirations', 12-14 August 2013, at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park. Here, participants heard leading public figures talk about their careers since completing their PhDs and also had to give a ten-minute presentation themselves about their research.

Battlefields Trust President's Award

Martin Marix Evans, Honorary Visiting Fellow in English Local History, received the President's Award for his work on the preservation and visitor interpretation of the battlefield of Naseby at the Battlefields Trust Conference, held at the University of Durham in April 2013. Chairman, Frank Baldwin (centre), acting on behalf of Robert Hardy, presented the award which was created on the initiative of the actor and military historian, Robert Hardy and was made for the first time this year. The guest speaker at the conference was Professor Emeritus Michael Prestwich (left).



Martin Marix Evans receiving his award

Grants

Dr Richard Jones has received an AHRC Knowledge Exchange Fellowship £5,000 'The Landscape History of Leicester Forest East Service Station' (Fellow: Nick Patrick)

Dr Andrew Hopper has received an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral studentship with the National Archives to research the experience of war widows and orphans in northern England during the mid-seventeenth century: £52,878. A full-time fully-funded PhD student will be appointed to research this topic in ELH in October 2013.



Devon Field Course April 2013



Richard Jones and students on Dartmoor

This year saw a difference in the composition of the group. Although we were a relatively small group, for the first time in a number of years there was an even split in the group between a younger and older generation. One other important change to the group dynamic was people coming from further afield than the Midlands. I myself come from Newcastle-upon-Tyne but Emily came all the way from Utah. This gave an added layer of cultural differences to the week. This change in the demographic of the group certainly contributed to what many have said to be an enjoyable educational experience, putting into practice the methodology of a landscape historian.

We left Leicester on the 6th April, after an expected delay due to a certain member of the group's impeccable time keeping skills! Fortunately, this was not to be a recurring theme for the week. Richard Jones drove the minibus and entertained us with anecdotes of when he was an undergraduate at the University of Exeter ('when a 2:1 was a 2:1!'). Apart from the odd excursion during the academic year, again administered by Richard, this was the first time, as a group, we had worked together, pooling our historical knowledge. This also led to us thinking critically and objectively towards the field trip assessment. What on earth were we all going to write about? The methodology of the landscape historian was alien to many of us. However,

throughout the week many of us started to feel more comfortable dabbling with this new technique and began thinking about what themes to write about. There were also a few mishaps on our initial journey to Devon. One could summarise them as the 'politics of back seat drivers' or 'listening to Dave and Emily argue which road to take'. Regardless of the few mishaps and misdirection we made good time and arrived in Exeter in the early evening.

Once we arrived in Exeter we took refuge in the University of Exeter's student accommodation. Having fared poorly at other establishments I was pleasantly surprised by the high quality of the accommodation. Such sentiment was shared by other members of the group, who have not stayed in university accommodation for some years. This could not be said about the food provided. Breakfast was a great time to take supplies for the long day ahead, and recover from the delights of Exeter's nightlife, but dinner was somewhat lacklustre. However, thanks to our excellent tour guide, and the knowledge passed down from previous groups, we found many great establishments which highlighted Devonian cuisine. Being from the North-East, and a connoisseur of fish and chips, it was marvellous to try local produce again. The Midlands simply do not make good fish and chips! This trip also allowed Emily time to get a grip of some unique British cultural dishes, such as Devon ice cream or cream tea.

Having heard many stories about the field trip there were some anxious apprehensions held by the group. In part this stemmed from the ambitious nature of the research project. However, by far the most notable concern was last year's group complaining about the rain! Largely, we fared quite well, with the exception of some light drizzle or heavy gales. However, this all changed when we decided to brave Dartmoor. This was the only occasion where waterproofs, sturdy footwear and pack-a-macs were a necessity. This was the only occasion when our spirits were dampened, quite literally in

some cases. Apart from this one day we fared rather well, being able to avoid the majority of the rain.

Due to the fact we were sharing the halls of residence we saw a number of different groups as the week progressed. The largest group we met were geologists from Nottingham. Every day we saw them trail into the dining room dripping wet with sullen faces, being prepped for an after dinner quiz. Meanwhile, we were somehow sheltered from the rain and cheerfully discussed tactics for the pub quiz (which was only available term time). In order to avoid the majority of rain some amendments to the itinerary were necessary. Surveying Dartmoor, and the surrounding area, was saved till later in the week. This was the only significant amendment to the traditional itinerary.

On Sunday the field trip proper began. The first day was an exploration of Southern Devon, highlights being Dartmouth, Torcross and Totnes. On this day we all learned that the purpose of this field trip was to try and sample the landscape methodology rather than to master it. We simply did not have time to examine every element, theme or period of the places we visited. Nor would it have been relevant to everyone's interests. Instead, each area of Devon could offer a number of different possibilities to our comparable county. Living so close to the river Tyne, I was instantly drawn to coastal areas and seaside industries, such as Dartmouth, Exmouth, Appledore and Topsham, whereas other members of the group incorporated their past careers for their themes. Peter, being an engineer, was interested in the transportation of materials across the land and how these materials were utilised in different locations. The first day offered numerous possibilities for our project and a number of initial ideas were firmly cemented. It also offered a sample of the weather that was to come. Although it was mostly a pleasant day we faced some extreme gales at Torcross. Despite having braved such harsh weather for most of my life in the North East these gales were certainly harsher than I expected.

Monday was a day for people interested in cults. Chittlehampton and Stoke offered insights into older cultural sites. The tales of St Haritha and St Necton allowed us an insight to medieval life, how these sites would attract visitors and slowly expand over time. It was also interesting to see how monuments were maintained or atrophied, illustrating differing opinions of places interpreting their heritage. Since this field trip has been running for a number of years, Richard was able to point out how these sites used to be maintained up until very recently.

On Tuesday we briefly ventured to Tiverton but the main focus was to explore Exeter independently. This was a great opportunity to fine tune our newly found landscape techniques and follow our own interests. Some popular sites were the cathedral, non-conformist chapels, the quay, the medieval bridge and pubs! This also allowed a different pace for the day. No longer did we have to rush to various venues and try to cram as much into a day as possible. Having quite a generous amount of time to explore Exeter allowed us to concentrate on our own themes and formulate further ideas for the project.

The East coast of Devon was our destination for Wednesday, staying particularly close to the river Exe. We visited Dawlish, Powderham, Exmouth and Topsham. This day was of particular interest to me due to my prospective themes of coastal development and regeneration. It was fascinating to see how so many different coastal towns developed in different ways, some successfully and still enjoying success but others had clearly seen better days. Exmouth and Dawlish (despite being a 'miserable place') both have a seaside based economy, which has allowed consistent redevelopment, whereas Powderham and Topsham have both lost the early modern industries which necessitated the creation of these towns. Elements of earlier maritime cultures were clearly visible within the towns, especially a marvellous wall mural depicting Topsham's past fishing industry. This was especially pertinent when placed near the stagnant harbour.

Finally the day came when we had to brave Dartmoor. There was a certain degree of apprehension of navigating the moor, particularly if it was during bad weather. So far we had escaped such treacherous rain but this was not the case on Thursday. Due to the large geography of the area short excursions were made from the minibus. This was ideal to try and avoid as much rain as possible. Unfortunately, there were a number of times when rain was unavoidable. The weather also proved to be somewhat of an oddity on Dartmoor. One moment it could be freezing cold rain followed by equally cold gales then suddenly the skies cleared and it proved to be a warm, bright day. Until the rain set in again. This also proved to be the most exhausting day for everyone in the group, regardless of age. Nevertheless, it was still great to see the remnants of mining industries, preserved untouched.

The last day of the field trip was spent exploring Western Devon. One particular highlight, which was a first for the Devon field trip, was gate-crashing a wedding at Brentor. The parish church at Brentor perches precariously on a very steep hill. It was hard enough for us to scale the hill never mind the bride, in a fetching white gown complete with green wellington boots! The event was taken in good spirits and we were welcomed into the church, due to the lateness of the bride. The last stop of the day was at Lydeford, where we explored the medieval castle and gaol then went for a cream tea. This was a new experience both for me and Emily, not just because of the novelty factor but also due to the bickering of whether the cream goes on the scone before the jam (it does!).

One of the defining elements of the field trip was after a long days trek to reflect with a cold glass of cider in the local pub. Many nights were spent in great camaraderie, trying to understand what was expected of us from the project but also to appreciate the nuances of Devon when compared to a different county. These nights were a common feature and were a great opportunity for

the group to bond. I believe we have set a new precedent for evening entertainment, of cards and dominos. Alas, there was no karaoke but there is always next year.

Nicholas Gibson.

'I didn't get that teapot I always promised myself', Jamie.

'Every day is a day of discovery', Peter.



The Brentor Bride

Recently completed theses

Drew Campbell PhD

‘The Politics of Canal Construction: The Ashby Canal, 1781-1804’

Between 1781-1804 the residents of a number of parishes in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire found themselves on the receiving end of the promotion and construction of the Ashby Canal. As with most new developments, especially those that have an impact on the landscape, the local inhabitants had to decide whether they supported or opposed it, while outsiders had to consider what gains could be made from any involvement in the project. In this instance those in favour of the waterway won the day and the building process began in 1794. However, this was by no means an end to the negotiations as the canal company had to deal with continual internal disagreements and disputes with landowners over various issues such as damage, route changes and late payments for their land.

Using sources which include contemporary newspapers, canal company records, a Parliamentary Act, and the diary of a local constable, this thesis provides a micro-study of the complex politics of canal construction. It examines the considerations affecting participation in the process, the numbers of people who were involved, the workings and internal structures of the canal company and the exchanges of opinions within the organisation and between its supporters and opponents. Its findings reveal that the Ashby Canal had a significant and variable effect not only on the residents of the parishes the canal cut through, but also on people who were considered outsiders, such as non-local investors, Members of Parliament and the engineers, contractors and labourers who relocated to gain employment.

Bertie Dockerill PhD

‘Local Government Reform, Urban Expansion and Identity: Nottingham and Derby, 1945-1968’

This study examines changes in the governance of Nottingham and Derby in the period 1945-1968 from a local and national perspective. In so doing it foreshadows the changes wrought by the Local Government Act 1972, which usually receives greater academic attention. Post-war, local authorities became the nation’s principal landlords, while utilities, such as electricity and gas, were nationalised. In fulfilling their new responsibilities, urban authorities were forced to build estates on the periphery of, or outside, their boundaries. The relocation of residents resulted in an exportation of urban identity and greater urban-ness, but was not accompanied by a corresponding redrawing of administrative boundaries.

Nevertheless, when urban authorities sought boundary extensions they were fiercely contested by county authorities, local associations, and residents’ groups. Such associations and groups claimed to possess characteristics distinct from the authorities that wished to incorporate them. There was also a fear that democratic accountability would be lost in the creation of larger units of governance. The local feelings aroused by boundary extension proposals demonstrate that local government is more than merely an agent of central government. It is a living organism: changes to it affect not only services, but also the identity of that place.

The expansion proposals of the county boroughs of Nottingham and Derby differed markedly. Uniquely amongst county boroughs nationwide, Nottingham sought no expansion under the review initiated by the Local Government Act 1958. The thesis assesses the political motivations behind this and the wider reactions to reconfiguration proposals for both county boroughs. The role of conurbations is considered in terms of local governance, including the extent to which Nottingham and Derby could be classified as one. The thesis concludes that the

maintenance of existing party political strengths outweighed local sentiment, and that only those proposals for reform which benefited the former were enacted.

Keywords: Local government reform; county borough; Nottingham; Derby; urban expansion; conurbation; identity; belonging; housing; party politics.

Sarah E. Francis MPhil

“‘Worthy Citizens’”: Middle-Class Women and the Public Sphere in Leicester c. 1850-1900’

Although the political and economic history of Leicester during the nineteenth century has been well-documented, the current historiography focuses on the contribution made by Leicester’s men. Women are rarely mentioned. Yet while the male elite of the town sought to bring about civic improvements at a time of rapid industrial change, women also made a significant contribution to the improvement of late nineteenth-century Leicester. This thesis explores women’s contribution to the middle-class reforming culture in the town and places it within the broader national context of women’s activism. The study assesses the nature and extent of women’s contribution to public life through their involvement in philanthropy, local government, civic societies and the temperance and anti-Contagious Diseases Acts campaigns. It suggests that by the end of the nineteenth century, through their public work which was focused on social and moral reform, a small group of middle-class women had clearly emerged in Leicester, regarded by others as leading citizens and acutely aware of their own responsibilities and duties. The involvement of local women in the public sphere led to an increased feminist consciousness for some and calls for full citizenship during the second half of the nineteenth century. In Leicester the Victorian suffrage campaign laid the foundations upon which the Edwardian suffragettes built. As women increased their involvement in civic public life, often working alongside men within the same local organisations, by the end of century the urban middle-class public sphere should be seen as a whole within which women were working not only on a ‘gendered’ basis but also increasingly

performing tasks which had formerly fallen within the ‘male sphere’.

Kim Taylor-Moore PhD

‘Borderlands: The Buckinghamshire/Northamptonshire Border, c.650-c.1350’

This thesis represents the first detailed study of the evolution of a medieval county border in south-midland England. It explores when and how the border between Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire might have been drawn and considers the impact it had on the societies located on either side. The findings are then related to Phythian-Adams’ idea of cultural provinces and his proposal of defining their boundaries by reference to culturally imposed county borders.

Evidence from documents, archaeology, place-names and the landscape is used to suggest how both counties evolved from earlier Anglo-Saxon schemes of territorial organisation and how they developed as social, political and jurisdictional units in the period before the mid-fourteenth century. Counties were not the only possible foci for social cohesion, however, and the boundaries of other institutions - honours, religious houses and the church – are investigated to establish their relationship to those of the shires.

The influence of the county border on the society and economy of the surrounding area is studied through a wide range of primary and secondary records which help shed light on the behaviour and mentality of border people. Numerical and statistical methods are frequently employed in analysing the data and results are presented making extensive use of maps of the border area.

The accumulated evidence suggests that the eastern and western parts of the border evolved at different times and in different ways and, subsequently, had materially differing impacts on their localities. It is further concluded that, before c.1350, the findings are not wholly consistent either with the cultural provinces proposed or with their detailed delimitation by the current county boundary. The precise reasons for those conclusions differ in respect of each side of the border but, ultimately arise from the varying speeds at which peripheral areas became fully integrated into the counties.

M A Dissertations 2012-13

John Bland

‘The Impact of a Coal Mine on a small Warwickshire Agricultural Community. The Creation of a hybrid society’

This study attempts to determine what was in the village of Arley, Warwickshire before 1900 using the Hearth Tax and other documents. A comparison was made with the local mining community of Bedworth. The village had existed for centuries with about 207 souls. Nearly all were involved in agriculture and had been born in the village. The landscape seemed to have changed little since doomsday.

A new pit was sunk in 1900, beside the Birmingham/Nuneaton Railway to access the deep coal that was presumed to be there. Census returns show that families moved in from all over the country and different cultures to work the coal and by 1909 the original population had been swamped. Two villages were eventually formed with ‘a Miners Welfare, a Co-op and a Methodist Chapel ‘which an author of a book on Easington in Durham, with which the village was compared, states is the mark of a mining community.

The problems and development of the community are recorded from oral history collected over 50 years, records, documents and the experiences of the village doctors. Some of the people interviewed were present at the sinking of the pit. Interviewees describe detail of the social and health problems, the effect of wars, and provide detail of sports and organisations – both documentary and by word of mouth. The village and population went through turmoil when Arley Colliery closed in 1968 after coming up against an underground geological fault, A new pit, Arley Daw Mill, had been sunk in the parish in 1964 on the other side of the fault but this pit was very deep, substantially mechanised and required highly skilled technicians. Many moved in from closed pits elsewhere.

This dissertation is just the foundation to an on-going project. Daw Mill Colliery suddenly closed a couple of weeks after this paper was submitted due to a disastrous fire 7 miles from the pit bottom. The pit would have to be shut for at least a year so the miners were made redundant. This

was the last big deep modern mine in the country. British Coal went into liquidation on 9th July 2013. There is still some story to be written.

Denise Bonnette-Anderson

‘The Social Implications of Church Seating in Buckinghamshire’

The aim of the study is to investigate the social implications of church seating with specific reference to the county of Buckinghamshire. It tests out the assertions made by historians in relation to levels of seat appropriation, making comparisons across denominations. The impact of landownership patterns are explored and questions raised about the kind of parishes and churches that had the highest levels of appropriation. Church seating plans are examined carefully to see whether they reflect the local social hierarchy and to what degree. The seating patterns of women, servants and the poor are explored and the implications considered. Church finance, particularly pew renting, is investigated in detail with reference to the possible decline in church attendance.

The research uses church seating plans, vestry minutes, churchwarden’s accounts, Nonconformist church minutes and other associated church records. Data from census returns, including the 1851 Religious Census is used, alongside information from local directories.

The findings indicate that Buckinghamshire had some differences to other counties because of its geographical position, wealth and broad toleration towards Nonconformity. In contrast to assumptions that could be made, the Church of England did not have the highest level of appropriation in comparison to other denominations, regardless of landownership patterns. All the seating plans examined across denominations appear to reflect the status of the parishioners in the local community as perceived by the makers of the plan. In Anglican churches the status of parishioners was higher than that in Nonconformist places of worship. Pew rents were used to maintain places of worship across denominations and were also used as an element of social control, although individual Anglican churches were more exclusive than Nonconformist places of worship. The seating

arrangements for women and servants changed at varying times in different parishes but the poor were most often seated in the less appealing areas of the places of worship. Overall, the seating decisions made by parishioners in Buckinghamshire across the denominations appeared to be very locally defined, rather than regionally organised.

Sheila Caws

‘Continuity or Change? The Isle of Wight and the Agricultural Revolution 1750-1850’

The aim of this dissertation is to investigate whether or not agriculture on the Isle of Wight was affected by changes brought about by the agricultural revolution between 1750 and 1850. The Island was and is generally considered to be something of a backwater and so were the local farmers totally unaware of any change, right at the forefront or somewhere in between? The principal sources for this investigation were estate papers such as accounts and land surveys, farmers’ diaries, maps, guide books and the comments of visitors such as Arthur Young and William Marshall as well as the writings of modern historians for an overview of the revolution. A systematic search of the catalogues and card indexes of both the Isle of Wight Record Office and the Local Studies Collection produced a wealth of material, particularly from the 1790s onwards. Drawing all this material together produced some interesting results. The revolution reached the Island in two definite waves. The first, from 1750 to about 1810, was characterised by critical writings on farming techniques from commentators or surveyors employed either by the Board of Agriculture or by local landowners. Without exception, none of these writers were residents. In general they found that Island farmers were up-to-date with techniques in chalking and drainage but deficient in crop and animal husbandry, something the farmers had no desire to change. The second wave, in the nineteenth century, involved the arrival of technology in the form of threshing machines and drainage tiles plus improvements to roads and the introduction of steam ships. The ordinary Island farmers embraced these new ideas with much more fervour than they had the recommendations of the improvers. Therefore Island farmers were affected by the revolution but

the industrial one rather than its agricultural counterpart.

Trixie Gadd

‘St George, Gloucestershire, 1750-1850: social and economic relations in a marginal parish’

The parish of St George, now an eastern suburb of Bristol, was formerly part of Kingswood Forest. The early history of this area was characterised by marginality, neglect and, once the value of its underlying coal deposits was recognised, disputed ownership. This study explores the reasons for the notoriety of the area’s inhabitants, questions whether these views were a fair reflection of the community at that time, and traces the development of social and economic networks during the period of rapid economic growth over its first hundred years, focussing in particular on five key areas: the influence of the landscape on social and economic developments; patterns of land ownership; religious and cultural influences; views on and the manipulation of the criminal justice systems; and the rapid growth and consequent diversification of the population and employment opportunities. The research uses official records such as census data, petty sessions and quarter sessions information, as well as papers from the estate records of the major landowners. It also draws heavily on first-hand accounts by three contemporary residents of the parish.

The research reveals that even in 1750 the parish was far from being a mono-occupational community of miners and that other industries and agricultural occupations were rivalling and had even overtaken mining by 1850. People at all levels of parish society had strong links both with Bristol and with other communities in south Gloucestershire and Somerset. As the population grew and factories were established in the parish, the originally dispersed settlements gave way to terraced housing. Property ownership, religion, education, crime prevention and employment were all stabilising influences, counteracting the parish’s early reputation for disorderliness and balancing its rapid population growth. Although the parish was not to become part of Bristol until 1897, by 1850 the foundations of suburban development had been laid.

Helen Gristwood

‘Puerperal Insanity: a study of women admitted to the County Asylums at Brookwood in Surrey, Colney Hatch in Middlesex and Knowle in Hampshire between the years 1870 and 1900’

This study examines the treatment and outcomes of women suffering from puerperal insanity who were admitted to the County Asylums at Brookwood in Surrey, Colney Hatch in Middlesex and Knowle in Hampshire during the period 1870 - 1900. Evidence was gathered from the Casebooks and Annual Reports of the three asylums and from the contemporary writings of physicians, nurses, chemists and asylum superintendents. The first chapter looks the origins of the term ‘puerperal insanity’ and then goes on to discuss the three types of insanity - pregnancy mania, puerperal mania and lactation melancholia - and their causes. The second chapter examines asylum life within the context of the grand Victorian asylum buildings with their landscaped grounds. The emphasis was on kindness and care, good food, rest and relaxation, with recovery and not long-term care being the outcome. The third chapter discusses treatment with an emphasis on the different drug regimes and the use of hydrotherapy. Mechanical restraint was no longer used in this era of ‘moral management’ and methods of dealing with dangerous patients are discussed. The last chapter examines the outcomes for the women. Most were released cured within a year, a small percentage of women were released to relatives not cured, some women did not recover and became long term or chronic patients and approximately 10% of women died in the asylum. Although there were differences in the asylums, the finding of this study was that there was very little difference in the outcomes for the women.

Susan Moss

‘The Embroiderers’ Guild 1906 – 2012: elitist, exclusive and outmoded or professional, influential and *avant-garde*?’

Despite being one of the longest running craft organisations in this country, with a current membership of 25,000, a network of branches in the UK and an ever-growing international reputation, the Embroiderers’ Guild rarely features in published histories of embroidery or needlework.

This study aims to recover the Guild’s history from both a national and local perspective and to locate this within the context of social, cultural, economic and political change in late Victorian and Edwardian Britain. This period was not only a time of unprecedented artistic innovation but also it witnessed the establishment of numerous art-based groups and, more specifically, women’s groups, some of which were also directly linked to the Suffragette Movement. The main area of investigation was to test the hypothesis that the Guild has always been an elitist and exclusive organisation based on archaic principles and populated by ‘well-to-do’ ladies with leisure hours to fill.

Since no records survive for the Guild until 1923, the *Journal of the Embroiderers’ Guild*, which was first published in 1932, has been the focus of much of the research. Minute books are available for the Northamptonshire Branch of the Guild which comprised a local case study. Other sources of primary evidence include oral interviews with staff at Embroiderers’ Guild House in Walton-on-Thames, regional officers and local branch members. Other studies have been leaned upon in order to contextualise the study within national and artistic developments.

This study concludes that far from being an outmoded organisation, the Guild has always been a professionally run body which has contributed significantly to artistic debate. Despite a number of set-backs, the Guild has always attempted to remain at the forefront of innovation and design whilst meeting the diverse needs of its membership, although this has clearly led to a widening of the gap between the professional and the amateur embroiderer. Although it has not been possible to provide conclusive evidence as to any links the Guild might have had with the Suffragette Movement, this is an aspect that would warrant further research

Kathryn Mulcahey

‘Perceptions of peddling: A study of the reputation of Hawkers and Pedlars, 1780 to 1914’

This study questions our perceptions of hawkers and pedlars by examining the influences that have determined their reputation. It analyses the trade from 1780 to 1914 through the legal framework and changing retail world. Evidence of the itinerants’ life

style is shown alongside their ambiguous depiction in art and literature. Finally, our traditional perceptions of peddling are tested against details of a surviving set of nineteenth-century pedlar registers from Exeter.

The life of the itinerant trader reflects on a fascinating world of rural and urban communities, immigrant culture, Gypsy life, racial prejudice, technological advances, artisan skills, and a certain amount of dodgy dealing. Stereotypical definitions and the 'elusive' nature of primary sources have, for the most part, left the role of hawkers and pedlars to single chapters in wider retailing histories. The simplification of their role often appears to disregard the scope and necessity of their trade, and the variety of characters and hierarchy involved in the community. Peddling was a refuge for the poor, an opportunity for advancement, and a trade for immigrants excluded from other employment. The quantitative analysis of the Exeter Pedlars' Certificate Registers questions our understanding of the numbers involved in the trade. It provides details of the distances travelled and the goods offered. The significant groups involved in peddling are identified, and we can understand how the accumulation of ethnic and class stereotypes combined to construct and perpetuate the popular reputation of hawkers and pedlars.

Many individuals held pedlar certificates from pipe sellers to photographers, watchmakers to opticians. This study shows that to categorise the pedlar as either an isolated tramping man with a pack on his back, or an impoverished street seller, misses the diversity and richness of the itinerants' story. It will conclude that those involved in the itinerant trade did not fit the traditional stereotype, and that the influence of reputation has restricted our understanding of their role.

Muriel Paterson

'Sir Nathan Wright 1653-1721, Recorder of Leicester, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, and his "Notebook"'

Nathan Wright (1653 – 1721) was the eldest son of the rector of Thurcaston in Leicestershire. His father died when he was fifteen. He was introduced to the law by an uncle, Thomas Staveley. He became Recorder of Leicester in 1680 and later moved to London to pursue his legal career, becoming a Kings Sergeant in 1696.

He became Lord Keeper of the Great Seal in 1700 under William III but was dismissed from that role in 1705 when the Whigs sought control in the reign of Anne. Nathan Wright inherited land from his father and maintained meticulous records of the title deeds of his properties in a "Notebook". Here three aspects of Nathan Wright are examined. First, his land holdings; information in the "Notebook" does not corroborate claims by other historians that he was an extravagant land purchaser. Second, his time as Recorder of Leicester and his role in the negotiations leading up to the 1685 Charter when Theophilus Hastings, earl of Huntingdon was attempting to control the town and Corporation. Nathan Wright was well respected in Leicester as Recorder but this was not the case when he became Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. Here his role as Lord Keeper is examined with emphasis on his contemporaries' opinions of him.

Delia Richards

'The Culture of Nonconformity in Castle Donington 1650 – 1950'

Nonconformity was studied in the north-west Leicestershire market town of Castle Donington, with reference to education and poor relief, discipline and the role of women, integration and leadership.

It was possible to study three of the dissenting groups, Quaker, Baptist and Methodist, examining their differences, their strengths and weaknesses and how they reflected the wider picture.

Primary sources used were chapel minute books, school log books, and poor accounts for each denomination, in addition, wills, early journals, memoirs and a Town Book.

Quakers were well documented through the late seventeenth century with evidence of significant persecution during the early years, though well integrated into the community, participating in public office.

Nonconformist Sunday schools were successful, holding a strong position in the provision of parish education, while working alongside a parochial school overseen by the Church. Each church's approach to discipline and poor relief reflected their perceived relationship to the parish

and the Church. Quakers and Baptists were selective and separate while Methodists were inclusive and more receptive of parish relief.

All in their turn played a part in the development of Nonconformity both within the county and in the wider context. However, Nonconformist development in this parish was generally in line with existing studies.

The prime anomaly was an unusually high number of young men ordained into the Methodist church and the attraction which the chapel at Castle Donington appeared to hold for many of the major orators and pulpit kings of the nineteenth century as visiting preachers.

Ann Stones

‘Estate Mentalities: Changing sense of place on a Leicester Council Estate 1947-2012’

This study explores the changing sense of place on New Parks, a post war council estate to the west of Leicester. The research makes use of local authority sources, media sources, oral history archives and interviews, conducted by the author, with current and former residents. It explores the relationship between people and place and the significance of that place in individual and community identity. Three main questions are asked. Was there a distinct and unique sense of place on New Parks? Has that sense of place changed over time? And if so, what are the reasons for those changes?

The study has identified a distinct a sense of place amongst early tenants. New Parks is revealed to be a ‘respectable’ place characterised by communal solidarity in the face of an initial lack of local amenities. There is some suggestion that communal solidarity diminished as those amenities were acquired. Today the early homogeneity of the New Parks community seems to have been replaced by considerable variation and a growing sense of polarisation amongst residents. These changes seem to be related to the tensions caused by industrial and economic decline. It also seems that the introduction of the right to buy scheme may have accentuated differences between tenants who bought their former council properties and those who were not in a position to do so.

Sources do, however, reveal some continuity with the past, particularly in perceptions of estate boundaries and in concepts of neighbourliness. Many interviewees in the study highlight the impact that New Parks has had on their lives and reveal the depth of their emotional and psychological ties to the estate. Such ties are, it might be suggested, the very essence of sense of place.

Carol Walton

‘Coal and Wood in Late Medieval Coleorton and Some Surrounding Manors’

The significance of coal at a national level is indisputable. The change from a wood-based to a mineral -based economy effected profound and lasting change. This dissertation sets out to explore the origins of coalmining in the Leicestershire parish of Coleorton. While there is abundant evidence for the development of the industry and its impact on the local economy in the early modern and modern periods this is lacking for the fifteenth century. There is no archive such as that which exists for the Willoughbys in Nottingham who were pursuing a similar path. What limited evidence there is suggests that this was a pivotal period in the development of Coleorton. The change of name to Coleorton in the middle of the century implies a greater prominence for coal. Excavations in the area in 1992 revealed coal-workings indicating a high level of expertise and practical knowledge. There are very few documentary sources for the parish at this time and such fragmentary evidence as there is does not directly refer to coal. In an attempt to establish a sound base from which inferences may be drawn this dissertation looks both forwards and back, considering the local economy before and after the fifteenth century. The evidence for the later period is examined and strands of development identified which can aid the interpretation of earlier events. The discussion is widened to include the role of wood in the earlier economy and evidence for surrounding manors is considered. The question of why coal should be developed in an area which appears to have been amply provided with wood is addressed and consideration given to the possibility that this was an attempt to maximise the profitability of an estate by meeting an emerging demand for fuel in other parts of the county

THE FRIENDS

Publications by Friends

Marion Aldis and Pam Inder

Nine Norfolk Women, (Poppyland Publishing, Cromer, 2013)

The Biography of Mary E. Mann, (Larks Press, Dereham, 2013)

Paula Aucott

Aucott, Paula and Southall, Humphrey 'Using "A Vision of Britain through Time" to investigate an Oxfordshire village', *Oxfordshire Family Historian*, 26 (3) (2012), pp. 165-172.

Murray, E., Southall, Humphrey, Aucott, Paula, Tilling, K., Kuh, D., Hardy, R. and Ben-Shlomo, Y. 'Challenges in examining area effects across the life course on physical capability in mid-life: findings from the 1946 British Birth Cohort.', *Health & Place*, 18 (2) (2012), pp. 366-374.

Baily, Brian, Riley, M., Aucott, Paula and Southall, Humphrey, 'Extracting digital data from the First Land Utilisation Survey of Great Britain – methods, issues and potential.', *Applied Geography*, 31 (3) (2011) pp. 959-968.

Geoff Brandwood

Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs (CAMRA, 2013)

Hubertus Drobner

Books

Neu identifizierte Textzeugen zu den Predigten Augustins (= Patrologia 28), (Frankfurt 2013), 378 pp.

Quo vadis, Bologna? The Challenges to Catholic Higher Education in Germany, (Hamburg 2013), 178 pp.

Articles

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

Erik Peterson und die Patrologie des 20. Jahrhunderts: Pietismus, Hellenisierung und Melito von Sardes, in: Erik Peterson. *Die theologische Präsenz eines Outsiders*. Herausgegeben von Giancarlo CARONELLO, Berlin 2012, 87-102.

Italian translation of same:

'Erik Peterson e la patrologia del XX secolo: pietismo, ellenizzazione e Melitone di Sardi', in: *Erik Peterson: la presenza teologica di un outsider*, a cura di Giancarlo CARONELLO (Itineraria / Pontificia Academia Theologica 7), Vatican City 2012, 102-115.

'Augustine the Preacher: Classical Orator and Pastor of Souls' [Chinese]: *Library of Religious Studies*, Guangzhou 2012, 74-89.

Marion Hardy

'The Newfoundland trade and Devonian migration c. 1600-1850', *Local Population Studies* Number 89 (Autumn 2012), pp. 31-53.

Kenneth Hillier

Gracedieu Priory, Leicestershire 1414-1418. The Draft Account Book of the Treasurers (Gracedieu Priory Trust, Coalville, 2013)

Edgar Miller

'English pauper lunatics in the era of the old poor law' *History of Psychiatry*, 23 (2012), pp. 318-328.

Jane Laughton

'1697 date stone on Clough House, Rainow', *The Raven*, 23 (July 2013)

'The market and fairs of late medieval Macclesfield', *Cheshire History*, 53 (2013-14), pp. 45-72

Review Article

Graeme White, *The English Medieval Landscape, 1000-1540*, (Bloomsbury Academic, 2012)
Cheshire History, 53 (2013-14), pp. 199-201

Tony Laughton

A Guide to 'Cricket: A Weekly Record of the Game': An Historical and Bibliographical Analysis (Christopher Saunders Publishing Ltd, March, 2013)

Chris Moxon

Ashby-de-la-Zouch – 17th-century life in a small market town (Christopher Moxon, 2013)

Ann Saunders,

St Paul's Cathedral: 1400 Years at the Heart of London (London, Scala Publishers, 2012)

Richard Stone

Books

Offa: the Quality of Mercia (Uttoxeter: RSE, 2012)

Articles in Journals

'Exploring History in Anglesey', *Local History Magazine*, 139, May/June 2012 (NB edition published August!)

'Anyone for push-ball?', *Local History Magazine*, 141, Sep/Oct 2012

Reviews

B. Bibby, *The Staffordshire Cakes and Ale Trail*, *Local History Magazine*, 142, Jan/Feb 2013, pp. 30-31

D. Tankard, *Houses of the Weald and Downland: People and Houses of South-east England c. 1300-1900*, 20 Mar.2013 at

www.history.org.uk/resources/general_resource_6_272_73.html

M. McIntosh, *Poor Relief and Community in Hadleigh, Suffolk 1547-1600*, 16 Apr. 2013 at

www.history.org.uk/resources/general_resource_6_347_73.html

Penny Upton

Due to editorial oversight these items were omitted from last year's *Newsletter*:

'Rioting and popular ridicule in Ladbroke in the early seventeenth century',
Warwickshire History, xv, No. 1, Summer 2011, pp. 3-18

'The Ladbroke Riots: a postscript',
Warwickshire History, xv, No. 2, Winter 2011/12, pp. 80-82

'The Demesne and its Labour Force in the Early Middle Ages', in R. Sylvester and S. Turner eds, *Life in Medieval Landscapes: people and places in medieval England* (Windgather Press, 2011), pp. 239-250

'Some newly identified documents from the military survey of Warwickshire, 1522', *Historical Research*, vol. 85, no. 229, August 2012, pp. 526-34.

Mary Wiltshire and Susan Woore

Medieval Parks of Derbyshire, (Landmark Publishing 2009).

'A Catalogue of Local Maps of Derbyshire c.1528-1800' Compiled by Harold Nichols, Revised by Mary Wiltshire, assisted by Susan Woore, (Derbyshire Record Society Volume XXXVIII 2012)

'Hays', possible early enclosures in Derbyshire, *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* Volume 131 2011 pp195-225

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

Dr Sylvia Pinches

CELH, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester, LE1 7QR.
Email: smp38@le.ac.uk

Friends Occasional Papers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recent publication

No. 11, M. Tedd, *Naming in Anstey 1850-1950: a Mirror of Social Structure*, £6 inc. p&p.

Bibliographies

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

Published as a free download from the Friends section of CELH website:
<http://www.le.ac.uk/elh/> or as a CD for £2.00.
Paper copies on request.

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

Explorations in Local History Series

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

Helping the Friends

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

Things that you can do to help:

Make sure that your membership is up-to-date.

If you pay by standing order, is it for the current amount? (£12 for one, £15 for two people at the same address).

Do you pay tax? Have you completed a Gift Aid form?

When did you last come to an event? Please think of coming.

Could you help at Hoskins' Day or conferences?

Do you live in an interesting area? (I'm sure you do!) – could you help organise a day visit to your town or district?

Could you help organise one of our Study Weekends?

Do you regularly come to the Thursday seminars? Would you write a short (500 words) report of one of them for the Newsletter?

Would you write a report (c.1,000 words) about one of the other events you attend?

Please send any items of news (publications, awards, obituaries) for consideration for the Newsletter.

You do not have to be on the committee to do any of the above. However, a committee always needs new blood. Please do consider joining us.

Annual General 8 November 2012

A quorate meeting accepted the minutes of the previous AGM (17 November 2011). There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report Frank Galbraith reported on a good year. Support for the Centre amounted to £3000 in bursaries. In February we held the Spotlight Conference at which staff and students of the Centre provided the lectures. At the Hoskins Lecture in May Dr Susan Oosthuizen spoke on the origin of the Medieval Open Field System. In September we visited Bewdley, which included a tour of the town and a trip on the Severn Valley Railway. Thanks were given to Heather Flack for organizing the day. He thanked all the members and the Committee. The Chairman thanked Freda Raphael and Alan Fox who were leaving the Committee after completing their five years in office as Membership Secretary and Secretary respectively.

Treasurer's Report Ann Schmidt provided those present with a written report, a statement of the accounts for the year (1st October 2011 to 30th September 2012) and the independent examiner's report, all of which are on file. She pointed out that the deficit of £605.45 was mainly due to the fact that the Malvern and Bewdley expenses were included, but the income from Malvern was in 2010-11 account and Bewdley income will be in the 2012-13 account.

Due to a fall in income from our CAF investments the Committee decided to reinvest £10,000 in a NatWest one year fixed income bond, which will realize £300 interest at three percent. The £10,000 was made up of £2,500 from each of the IM CAF UK Equity Fund and IM CAF Fixed Interest Fund and the other £5,000 was from the CAF Gold current account.

Receipts for the year came to £4,706.58, including subscriptions, which totalled £2,123. Other receipts included £252 from donations, £16.50 from other fund raising, £83 from our publications,

£309.41 from dividends/interest, £501.88 from refund of Gift Aid tax, £60 at the door at the Hoskins Lecture, £884 from the Spotlight Conference fees and £476.79 from second hand book sales. This last item included £285 from Hoskins Day and £126 from sales in Lucy's office and we are very grateful for her help. Our publications are no longer being sold at the University Bookshop.

Total payments came to £5,312.03 and included £3000 for Student Support, £141.09 for the Hoskins Lecture, £330.74 for the Newsletter, £58 for subscription to the British Association of Local History, £0.50 CAF bank charges, £15 for a returned cheque, £719.11 for printing and publications, £80.37 for stationery and postage, £98.51 loss on sale investments and £868.712 on events and trips. We have already decided to make payments in 2012-13 of £2900 in varying amounts to four students. Closing Funds at 27th September 2012 were £22,019.84 compared with £22,625.29 a year earlier. The Harold Fox Memorial Fund is now closed.

Proposed alteration of the Constitution.

The proposal on the agenda was to change the words 'Group membership £12' to 'Group Membership £25' in item 5.1 of the Constitution. However the meeting did not have the necessary quorum of twenty members to effect a change. It was decided to have a short Extraordinary General Meeting at the end of a Seminar early in 2013 to deal with this. It was proposed that at that meeting all money totals for subscriptions should be removed from the Constitution in view of the need to make frequent changes to them. In that case the subscription amounts would be decided in Committee meetings.

It was agreed that the offices of Programme Secretary and Treasurer should not be combined as proposed, although it was acceptable for one person to fill both posts.

Election of Officers and Committee

The following were elected to serve for the following year:

Chairman	Frank Galbraith
Secretary	Peter Noel Tornbohm
Treasurer	Ann Schmidt
Programme Secretary	Phlip A. Batman
Membership Secretary	Ann Schmidt
Newsletter Editor	Sylvia Pinches
Information Technology Coordinator	Andrew Wager
Committee Member	Amada de Belin
Committee Member	Sarah Gilpin

Robert Mee had already agreed to continue as a Student Representative.

Note: the other Student Representative (Nick Gibson) and Staff Representative (Andy Hopper) were appointed after the meeting.

Appointment of the Independent Examiner: Dr Pam Fisher was appointed.

ACCOUNTS for year ending 30 Sept. 2012

FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE FOR ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY
(Registered Charity no.1073528)

Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 27th September 2012			Receipts and Paymnens details for the year to 27th September 2012	
	General Fund	2011	Notes	
Receipts				Publications-receipts
Subscriptions	£2,126.00	£2,076.00		£38.00 Hoskin's Day
Donations	£240.00	£751.00		£37.00 (11+7+19)
Book Sales	£476.79	£496.00		£8.00 UoL bookshop
Fundraising - other	£16.50	£50.00		<u>£83.00</u>
Publications	£83.00	£103.20		Booksales-receipts
Other visits - Bewdley	£690.00	£470.81		£100.00 Lucy
Dividends/Interest	£309.41	£384.27		£26.00 Spotlight conference
Refund of Gift Aid tax	£501.88	£493.36		£235.79 Hoskin's Day
Hoskin's Day 2012	£60.00			£115.00 Hoskin's Day-landscape
Spotlight conference fees	£876.00			<u>£476.79</u>
Total Receipts	<u>£5,379.58</u>	<u>£4,824.64</u>		
Payments				Events & trips-expenses
Student Support	£3,000.00	£2,900.00		£100.00 2013 trip deposit
Hoskins Lecture	£141.09	£83.08		£136.31 Spotlight expenses
Newsletter	£330.74	£297.72		£272.50 Malvern trip
Subscription to Brit. Assoc of Local History	£58.00	£58.00		<u>£359.90</u> Bewdley expenses
CAF bank charges	£0.50			<u>£868.71</u>
Returned cheque	£15.00			
Printing & Publications	£719.11	£717.00	End H. Fox	Stationery & postage-expenses
Stationery & postage	£80.37			£17.99 Labels
Events & trips	£868.71	£127.35		£7.48 Stamps
Total Payments	<u>£5,213.52</u>	<u>£4,183.15</u>		£49.40 MA congrats cards
				£5.50 Anstey - postage
				<u>£80.37</u>
Surplus of income over expenditure for the year	£166.06	£641.49		
				Printing & publications-expenses
Opening Funds at 1st October 2011	£21,778.30	£21,998.47		630.02 Naming Anstey
Increase in value of Investments	* £941.98	-£861.66	2011 Decr.	3.18 Photocopying @ MFH
Closing Funds at 27th September 2012	<u>£22,886.34</u>	<u>£21,778.30</u>		£85.91 Spotlight flyers
				<u>£719.11</u>
Comprising				
Bank Balances				
CAF Bank - Gold Account	£510.77	£5,201.86		
Natwest Bank	£3,723.12	£3,865.97		
NatWest Investment Account	£10,000.00			
	<u>£14,233.89</u>	<u>£9,067.83</u>		
Investment Assets (belonging to General Fund)		Market Value		Reconciliation statement
	30.9.12	30.9.11		
IM CAF UK Equity Fund B Income	4419.94	£6,216.74		£3,723.12 Balance-NatWest statement
IM CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income	4232.51	£6,493.73		£3,723.12 Balance-accounts register
	<u>£8,652.45</u>	<u>£12,710.47</u>		<u>£0.00</u> Difference
Total Funds	<u>£22,886.34</u>	<u>£21,778.30</u>		

September 2012 Outing

Cakes and Rail ... the Friends do Bewdley

The weather gods were smiling on the Friend's trip to Bewdley, and so the sun shone on us as we began to arrive at the Victorian church in Wribbenhall on the morning of September 15th. This was fortunate, because this trip was to be characterized by walking and looking, rather than sitting and listening.



Although the trip was advertised as being to Bewdley, the first part of the day concentrated on its less famous neighbour, Wribbenhall, on the opposite side of the River Severn. Heather Flack, our host, introduced us to the work of the Bewdley Historical Research Group, an active society with its focus very much on research, and on sharing their discoveries with a wider public. A brief history of Wribbenhall informed us that it had earlier origins than Bewdley, being an outlier of Kidderminster. Different topology and different geology also distinguished the settlement on the east bank from that on the west, with Wribbenhall really having the advantage of better soil and comparative flatness. Despite these advantages, it was eventually eclipsed by Bewdley. The talk finished with a spot of book promotion, accompanied by some very tasty cake (publishers could learn a lot from this technique; I bought all three books).

Our focus for the morning's perambulation was the buildings of Wribbenhall. The town has treasures from a variety of

periods. There were many interesting seventeenth-century timber-framed houses as well as later brick-built, more industrial buildings, now also converted into homes. Our tour took in the ropeworks (now a cottage) which testified to the town's importance as an inland port on the highest navigable reaches of the Severn. This lay in the shadow of the stone railway viaduct, bisecting the town. We also saw a maltings, now converted into residences, and a handsome timber framed building decorated with carvings, and housing one of the country's few dog wheels surviving in a private house. The research group had made use of dendrochronology to date some of Wribbenhall's buildings and this had revealed an early- fourteenth-century hall house nestling beneath the clothing of three much later residences. The Friends were extremely lucky to have access to one of these cottages, which was the original cross wing of the house, and see the timbers that had been dated to 1302-24. These now divided the top-most bedroom in the home, presenting a considerable hazard to any middle-of-the-night excursions, but would originally have been high in the ceiling of the buttery and pantry. The bedroom also concealed, within a fitted cupboard, the remnants of a medieval window. The best efforts of the historical society have so far failed to reveal the early ownership of what must have been a high status building.

Our walk took us on to the riverside, where we learned that the town was now on its third bridge. The second had been built by the much-maligned Richard III (very topically, as the University had just that week revealed the unearthing of what they hoped were his remains from under a Leicester car park). We crossed this bridge's successor *en route* to lunch at the Bewdley museum, where a circuitous route through council chamber, craft fair, shambles and herb garden finally delivered us to a spread of sandwiches, salad, crisps and cake (you'll notice that cake is the recurring theme of this account). Heather was much relieved to have got the whole party intact to this point.



After lunch we moved on to Bewdley station, and what was, for me, the highspot of the day: an afternoon with the Severn Valley Railway. After a short wait, the ex-LMS Ivatt locomotive number 43106 steamed in to take us on our excursion. The Friends had a reserved carriage, which enabled us to both sit together and benefit from Sylvia's description of the geological features that we were passing. As the name of the railway suggests, the track follows the course of the river, passing at times through cuttings (exposing the underlying rocks), and at times on embankments, giving glorious views across the river valley. The line was mostly single track, and was operated by the passing of tokens (a locomotive would only proceed onto a section of track if it was in possession of the token – thus avoiding nasty head-on collisions). A highlight for steam enthusiasts (that would be me) was waiting in a station for a token exchange and seeing the newly-restored Southern Region, 'Battle of Britain' class locomotive, 'Sir Keith Park' steam through.

Rather than running on to the end station at Bridgnorth, we left the train at Highley Station, where we were to visit the Engine House. Contrary to its name, this isn't a dark and dank survivor of the industrial age, but a modern purpose-built museum facility. We were met there by our guide, who gave us a background to the original Seven Valley Railway, as well as an account of the creation and development of its modern successor, run largely by volunteers. The Engine House itself was a

very recent addition, being built on the site of a siding that originally serviced an inclined plane, bringing coal from Highley colliery down to the level of the railway. The principal exhibits of the museum were 'out of ticket' locomotives. The heart of a steam engine is its boiler. This operates under very high pressures, and for safety's sake has to be regularly inspected. Inevitably a boiler will eventually fail, and the locomotive withdrawn from service (hence 'out of ticket'). These engines are kept warm and dry – and safe from deterioration – while awaiting funds for restoration. After a happy hour or so up close with the exhibits, it was time to catch the train back down the line (43106 doing the honours again).

From the station we walked back to the church once more for some tea and, yes, cake, before dispersing. I certainly enjoyed my day as it contained large quantities of two of my favourite things: steam trains and cake! We owe a big thank you to Heather Flack for organizing such an interesting outing for the Friends.



Mandy de Belin at the controls!

Uses and Abuses of the Landscape

17 November 2012

Attendees were regaled with a wide variety of papers covering many centuries and very varied aspects of landscape history.

Dr Richard Jones began with a thought-provoking paper on 'Landscape history and the unmaking of the English landscape'. Interestingly, many of the papers focussed on landscapes of leisure, from Dr Graham Jones' 'Forests and chases: nobles' playgrounds or common resource?' and Dr Mandy de Belin's 'Landscapes of pursuit and preservation: hunting in Northamptonshire' to Andrew Wager on 'Victorian railways and the transformation of the East Coast seaside landscape'. A very interesting and unusual paper was given by Sarah-Joy Maddeaux on "'A paradisaical oasis": Bristol Zoo Gardens as a heavenly landscape of leisure'. Sarah Holland looked at 'Spheres of influence and the nineteenth century landscape', exploring ways in which six landscapes in south Yorkshire evolved and differed in the mid-nineteenth century. She emphasizes the importance of landownership and landowners on their varied development, while also exploring natural factors such as topography and topology, the economy and leisure. Dr Drew Cambell's paper also explored the political and economic influences of landowners in his exploration of 'The impact of changes to the landscape before they take place: promoting the Ashby Canal 1781-1794'. Only Paul Shipman explored what many people would see as an abuse of the landscape, the extraction of stone, in his very detailed analysis of 'The granite quarries of South Leicestershire'.



Lunch break at Conference



Dr Goodacre and Dr Fox

Cirencester weekend, April 2013

With the appearance at last of spring weather, we gathered at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester (RAC - translated to a University, as we stayed there) for our Cotswolds Study Weekend on Friday afternoon. The College was comfortable and attractive, built in the Gothic Revival style courtesy of Lord Bathurst, the local landowner, and it boasted excellent food.

After our tea, we were given an overview of the history and geography of the Cotswolds by our Party Leader, Frank Galbraith, illustrated by a selection of interesting photographs. After dinner on Friday we were treated to an in-depth study of the region's Norman churches by Dr Steven Blake of Cheltenham Local History Society. He has counted 90 Romanesque-style churches built in Gloucestershire during the Norman building boom. He had collected a great number of examples of the imagery used in the stone carvings, which drew upon Byzantine and Roman traditions as well as the Norse tradition of animal images, such as serpents, dragons and the Tree of Life. Most of the churches had towers which were originally defensive structures. A number of monastic houses were set up and grew rich in the organisation of the region's wool trade.

On Saturday after breakfast we set out by coach, going first to the centre of Cirencester for tours of the fine parish church of St John the Baptist and the town itself. Cirencester is built on the remains of the Roman city of Corinium and is at the junction of a number of Roman roads. In medieval times, as well as the enormous church of St John, there was the Augustinian Abbey of St Mary which for over 400 hundred years lay next door to the church and dominated the town. The Augustinian Canons had so much power that they built their imposing secretariat and business house, later designated the town hall, in front of the south porch of the church so that it effectively blocked

the access of Cirencester's parishioners to their own church. There was constant ill-feeling between the townsmen and the canons. Despite this the church is magnificent and was enlarged and embellished over a long period of time. We were divided into 3 conducted tours of the church and town hall, the content of each tour depending on the interests of the guide. I dodged between them and did a bit of my own exploration as well. Afterwards we had a guided walk round the town. The street plan follows the Georgian remodelling of the medieval market place, with many handsome shop fronts and private houses of the period, leading to the gates of Lord Bathurst's country park. The family has been a major influence on the town since Cirencester house was built in about 1695-1704.

After lunch we set out again in our bus through some alarmingly narrow Cotswold country lanes to the site of Chedworth Roman Villa, now owned by the National Trust, who provide handsome facilities for visitors and guided tours of the site. The villa was started about 120 AD and the final lavish rebuilding began in 400 AD. There was a sacred spring at the head of the valley, and the west range of the villa has been restored to display the mosaics of the dining room (triclinium) and the bathhouse complex. The remains were first revealed in 1864.

Chedworth lies just off the Roman Fosse Way and a few miles further north is the small town of Northleach with a market square and a substantial 15th -century 'wool church'. The market was established in 1227 and the church of SS Peter and Paul was rebuilt in the 1450s at the expense of the woolman John Fortey. There are some very fine brass memorial slabs laid in the floor of the church dedicated to a number of very rich wool merchants. The church also has several side-chapels and a double squint in the chancel arch for the benefit of the priests serving at 2 side altars on the south side.

After returning for dinner at the RAC we kept to a woolly theme and were given an interesting lecture by Professor Jennifer

Tann entitled 'Wool and Water: the Cotswold Woollen Industry'. From the late 12th century wool production was followed by the erection of fulling mills to produce certain types of finished cloth from short-staple wool. This cloth was a highly prized export to Europe. The spinning and weaving was always done by hand and fulling in the first instance was done by walking the cloth in water, then later using water-driven hammer mills. Fast-flowing water was required for the purpose, and fulling mills were built in the tributary valleys of the River Severn, by both religious houses and secular 'Gentleman' clothiers on into the 18th century. Mills were often rebuilt on the same sites through the centuries. In the 19th century there was a dilemma about further industrialising the process. The machinery used in the North of England was not suitable for use with short-staple wool and some clothiers gave up but, particularly in the Stroud valley, new multi-storey mills were built to modern fire-proof standards, and also a dye works dedicated to producing the scarlet cloth used by the British Army. Steam engines, fired by coal brought in by canal, were even installed. However, the industry gradually declined and all that is now produced is the knapped cloth used for billiard tables and tennis balls.

On Sunday after breakfast we went again by coach in the direction of Stroud, and could appreciate the steep terrain. First we visited 'Hetty Peglar's Tump'. This affectionate nickname is bestowed on a Neolithic passage grave, c3000 BC. The visit was described as a trek across fields requiring walking boots; no-one mentioned that you also needed iron knees to crawl through the hobbit-sized doorway over sharp gravel, laid to prevent it becoming muddy. Nearly everyone went inside. Afterwards we were rewarded by coffee in the dining room of Woodchester Mansion, owned by Stroud District Council and run by a Charitable Trust. This house is most certainly a folly, though not intended to be. It was built to replace a Georgian hunting lodge by a very rich Liverpool merchant, William Leigh. It is built in the Victorian

'Gothick' style, begun in the 1850's, with a lot of elaborate stone carving and, despite years of work and three architects, it was never finished. It was not meant to have any modern conveniences and no-one ever wanted to live in it, situated as it was in a damp, dark, narrow valley. Leigh ran out of money and could not persuade anyone to buy it so it has remained a shell. The Woodchester Mansion Trust laid on a conducted tour for us to explain the design of the structure.

We returned to the RAC for Sunday lunch and offered our thanks to everyone who had contributed to the enjoyment of the weekend. Afterwards a number of us drove to visit the church of St Mary's in Fairford. The present church has a quantity of beautiful early 16th -century glass in the windows, installed by the King's glassmaker, which escaped the iconoclasts, and also a wonderful set of misericords in the choir stalls. It is cherished today by its parishioners and we were given an explanation of all the imagery in the windows by one of them, David Lawrence.

Despite our full programme we were only able to sample the treasures and the historical depths of this fascinating region; it certainly deserves many more visits.

Beryl Tracey



Misericord at Fairford

©Frank Galbraith

Hoskins' Day 2013

The beautiful weather did not keep the crowds away and nearly 70 people attended the 24th annual Hoskins Day Lecture on 6 July which was given by Professor Richard Gaunt, a political historian from the University of Nottingham.

Professor Gaunt's lecture was entitled 'The Patrician Landscape 1750-1850', as exemplified by the development of the area of Nottinghamshire known as 'The Dukeries'. It was Horace Walpole who coined the phrase for the four great East Midlands ducal estates. The houses were the Duke of Kingston's Thoresby House; Norfolk's Worksop Manor; Portland's Welbeck Abbey and Newcastle's Clumber House. The estates were created by the purchase of former monastic lands and enclosing wastelands of Sherwood Forest disposed of by the Crown. They amounted to one half the area of Nottinghamshire and created almost contiguous 'realms' of the four dukes and other aristocrats.

Professor Gaunt surveyed the development of each of the ducal territories in turn, including developments at Rufford, (home to the Saviles, Earls of Scarbrough). After establishing the changes in landscape and the provision of a central residence for the family, he went on to detail the picturesque theories which motivated many of the owners. Pursuit of the picturesque reflected a desire to shape and have an impact upon the estate in a long-term way but also illustrated the dominant fashion for creating interesting, scenic landscapes, as opposed to continental-style formal gardens and long, uninterrupted vistas. None of this was achieved without cost - either financially (many of the owners had deep pockets and used the best advisers and practitioners of the day, including Humphrey Repton) or in terms of estate workers.

In the final part of the lecture, Dr Gaunt considered the tensions between 'letting

[people] in' and 'keeping them out' of estates. On the one hand, individual owners worried about the potential for political and social revolution from their tenants (the 4th Duke of Newcastle was a notable example) but, on the other hand, were keen to bring tenants together in carefully choreographed displays of celebration at important moments in the life of the family. Elsewhere, owners such as the 4th Duke of Portland invested heavily in what has been described as the 'first sewage farm' in England, not only as a useful means of employment for workers hit hard by the agricultural down-turn, but in order to increase the yield on his Clipstone Park estate by means of better fertilisation.

Dr Gaunt's lecture generated an interesting post-lecture discussion about the motivations and interests of aristocrats as estate owners during this period. In his conclusion he noted how some of the landscapes surveyed in his lecture now offer sites of recreation and tourism for a wide range of visitors; however, in many instances the houses have been swept away, leaving only the landscape behind. Thus, whilst visitors today enjoy a seemingly timeless landscape, as Dr Gaunt demonstrated, it has, in fact, been subjected to a significant degree of internal change and conflict over time.

Afterwards at Salisbury Road, there was the traditional tempting spread of comestibles for which many thanks to all the organisers. There was also the usual eccentric display of books and pamphlets, ranging from publications of CELH and David Starkey to such gems as several volumes on the history of Poole in Dorset and for 50p a wonderful booklet by a local history society *Law and Disorder in Wrotham [Kent] over the Centuries*, with chapters ranging from 'Pre-Christian Justice' to a 1947 'Murder on the A20' solved by the real 'Fabian of the Yard'.

Richard Gaunt and Malcolm Muir

TALKING TO FRIENDS: HEATHER FLACK

The 'Talking to Friends' section has usually been an interview with an established academic. This time the Editor thought that it would be good to talk to an 'ordinary' Friend. Not that any of you are really ordinary! Many have come to local history and even to academic study in later life. Many are active members of their local history societies, publish material or give talks and do their best to encourage others to take an interest in their local past. This interview with Heather Flack shows how just one member of the Friends became involved and the range of ways in which she shares her enthusiasm and knowledge.



What triggered your interest in local history?

I bought a cottage at a place called Ribbesford and found the hamlet had been "seized by the Danes" before the Norman Conquest. And so I discovered Anglo-Saxon charters.

Where is Ribbesford?

It is part of Bewdley in Worcestershire. Perhaps I should explain that Bewdley is not just the town on the west bank of the Severn, but also the tiny settlement a mile south called Ribbesford and a more substantial settlement on the east bank called Wribbenhall. These two are mentioned in the Domesday Book whereas Bewdley is not; it is a 13th century name.

So, did you also get inspired by the history of Bewdley?

No. A lot of research had been done on that, as there is a very active history group. When I later sold my cottage and bought a house in Wribbenhall, I started getting interested in that place, as no one seemed to bother with it.

How did you start?

My brother lived there too and I thought, "I'll work out who lived in his house" (because it was a really old one). That was easier said than done! I ended up working out where everyone lived in Wribbenhall and in 2003 I published my findings in *Wribbenhall just before the railway came*, which was a study of the place in the 1840s.

Who published that?

The Bewdley Historical Research Group, of which I had become a member and which had, in fact, also produced a book on Wribbenhall, so I can't take the credit for spurring them into accepting the east bank, but I am still regarded as the 'Wribbenhall historian'.

When did you come to Leicester?

That was in 2007, after I retired from my full time employment.

But why do a degree when you were already deep in local history?

I wanted some credibility. At least one person didn't regard me as a "proper historian" and anyway, I wanted to pursue my passion. Now I was retired I had the time to do some serious study and see my local area in the wider context.

Did the degree meet your expectations?

More than! I loved doing it, even though it was hard to start studying again at sixty. I was very impressed with the teaching and with the whole set-up. Because I was already into my local history in a big way, I could use that in some of the projects. I tackled the 'Ismere charter' which probably established Kidderminster in the 8th century and I put forward some fresh ideas. Then as part of the medieval module, I did a study of Bewdley – yes, shock horror, the other side of the river! I pushed its history further back than the accepted date, presented my findings to a packed meeting of the Bewdley Civic Society and published a book *Bewdley – The early years*.

So you want people to know what you've found?

That's vital. I can't see the point of amassing information and then not sharing it. I want other people to get as passionate about local history as I am, especially young people.

How have you done that?

In 2007 we had a Heritage Lottery Fund project looking at the buildings in Wribbenhall and using dendrochronology to date several of them. We already knew we had a 14th century house and I told the primary school children about it, showed

them round part of it and then encouraged our local museum to work with them in making models. I remember one child saying, "Miss, this is wicked!" Last year, the Civic Society funded a project with the secondary school and we looked at Bewdley's lost industries), the River Severn and the Severn Valley Railway. This year's project is on Bewdley in the time of the Wars of the Roses; the English group is doing the equivalent of the Paston Letters. I've also been into the primary school speaking to the eight year olds and showing them lots of pictures of old Bewdley and some of the secrets we have unearthed.

How else do you share your passion?

I do a fair number of talks to local groups. I have also produced some historical fiction based on the Wyre Forest area (that's the district with Kidderminster at the centre); these are stories etc. which help to bring local events to life and they are peppered with "real" bits of history. I find there are some people who won't pick up a normal history book, but who will read historical fiction. I've had some very positive responses, so feel it is a perfectly valid way to put history across.

Thank you for sharing your enthusiasm with us – and for organising the Friends' visit in September.



The Antiquary

Of sober face, with learned dust besprent
On parchment scraps y-fed...
To future ages may thy dullness last,
As thou preservest dullness from the past

Alexander Pope, *The Dunciad*, (London, 1924, iii, II, 185-90)

Obituaries

Our sincere sympathy to the families of Friends recently deceased:

Mick Aston

1 July 1946 – 24 June 2013

Although not formally a member of the Friends, Mick Aston was a good friend of the Centre for English Local History and the Friends, contributing to the seminar series and sharing his knowledge with colleagues. He gave a splendid lecture for the Friends at the 50th Anniversary of the Centre Jubilee Day in 1998.

Derek Shorthouse

19 June 1932 – 27 November 2012

Derek was a stalwart member of the Friends and served as Secretary from 1996 to 2001. Many Friends will remember the admirable outings which he organised, combining his love of local history (of Gloucestershire in particular) and his love of good food. The following words have been put together by his daughter Antonia.

Derek Shorthouse was educated at Wolverhampton Grammar School and then won a scholarship to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge to study Classics. He worked as an accountant and then after a four year stint as Treasurer of Oriol College, Oxford, he returned to industry. During his adult life he lived in Walsall, Lincoln, Stafford, Oxford and then in 1973 moved to Gloucestershire. His family was very important to him and he loved occasions when the whole family gathered together, as it was most recently for his 80th birthday in June 2012. He had four children and eight grandchildren who were a source of great pride and pleasure to him. Education was a priority and he always encouraged his children to learn, with the maxim “Good, better, best; never let it rest, until the good be better, and the better best.”

In retirement he continued to build upon many of his interests. He was very active in local politics, becoming Constituency

Chairman for West Gloucestershire Conservatives and serving for many years as a Councillor. He was a member of a wide range of societies and contributed papers on subjects as diverse as Orchids, his collection of antique Vanity Fair cartoons, and AE Housman.

He had a particular interest in local history and Victorian politics, studying at Leicester University and making visits to Gladstone’s Library at Hawarden where he was elected a Fellow. He was very active in establishing several local history and archive groups, in which he was a well-known personality.

It is difficult to sum up a person but his son, Dominic, summarised at least some aspects of his personality in his address at the funeral:

Since I can remember, he was willing to step up and take a role in things which interested him - he has led or been on committees for all sorts of organisations in lots of different areas. Often he was controversial, difficult, or simply stubborn but he tried to make things happen. He had great intellectual curiosity. He was a stalwart traditionalist. He was opinionated, and highly intelligent, and loved to engage in a good debate. He could be precise to the point of pedantry but taught us all the value of accuracy.

Religion in various forms was a dominant theme in his life. He completed the day before his death a paper chronicling, as he put it, ‘The way in which God has dealt with me over more than 80 years’. It is a personal story of his journey from the exclusive Brethren through Anglicanism to a desire to embrace Catholicism which was expected to culminate in his being accepted into the Catholic Church on 8 December 2012. He did not live quite long enough to fulfil this last ambition. He will be greatly missed.

FRIENDS OF FRIENDS

Leicestershire VCH – an update

It has been another productive year for the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust team and we have some very exciting news to share. In December we were informed that our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund had been successful and that we had secured a substantial award of £363,700 to carry out our first major research project.

But before saying more about that, we are pleased to report that work in the rest of the county continues well. Under the leadership of Volunteer Coordinator Dr Pam Fisher, good progress has been made on parish histories for Castle Donington, Cold Newton, Glenfield, Ibstock, Kirby Bellars, Leire, Lowesby, Lutterworth, Melton Mowbray, Queniborough, Sileby, Thornton and Wigston. A separate small probate team is busy transcribing inventories to help those working on parish histories. To help our volunteers, and others working on parish histories, we have also produced a set of online research guides on researching farms and farming, parish churches, schools and understanding maps before the Ordnance Survey. These are available under the Research Guides tab at <http://www.leicestershirehistory.co.uk/>. A new project with distant volunteers will provide potted histories of Leicestershire's nonconformist chapels and plot them online, and this will feed into VCH parish histories in due course. For the time being we are concentrating on the 19th and early 20th centuries, but more information will be added as work progresses. To see how far we have got, visit our website under Beliefs>Nonconformity>Nonconformity in Leicestershire.

Over June and July 2013 Pam Fisher also ran a very successful Student County

Historian project with undergraduate volunteers from the University of Leicester. They were each assigned a village and studied the history of its schools between 1700 and 2013. They each wrote a piece about their village for publication on the VCH Explore website and collaborated to produce a new web resource on the history of education in Leicestershire before 1860 (based on national surveys that are often overlooked), which will be expanded by other volunteers in the months ahead. The students will be presenting their work to the public on 19 September. The new webpages can be found on our site under Communities>Schools.

The *Charnwood Roots* project, which will cover parishes in and around Charnwood Forest and Loughborough and is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, will begin in August. Over the next four years, 400 local volunteers will have an opportunity to participate in the research. Four themes will be explored: Working Lives, Building Communities, Crime and Conflict and Landscapes of Leisure. Volunteers will be investigating these themes from the earliest recorded evidence to the present day and with documentary research, historic building and landscape surveys, field walking, archaeological digs and oral history projects to choose from, there should be an activity to suit most tastes and interests.

The project is a complex and ambitious one and we will need a large team of enthusiastic historians to complete the work. A number of local groups and historical societies in the area have already offered to help but we are also keen to involve any Friends of ELH who would like to assist us with this exciting project. Full training will be given so you do not have to have experience to take part. Having said that, we will have roles for

specialists and those with particular skills: could you assist with the transcription of medieval court rolls and deeds? Or do you have experience of analysing maps and plans? Have you developed expertise in particular types of source, such as the census, trade directories, probate inventories or enclosure awards? If so, we would like to hear from you. Activities range in time commitment from a single day to 12 months or more, so you can tailor your involvement to the time you have available. There are even some research tasks that can be done online, which may appeal to those living outside Leicestershire.

As the project progresses, we will disseminate our findings widely and in a way that reaches all ages and sections of the community. The results of the research will be used to create podcasts, school resources, a digital pop-up museum and heritage leisure trails, as well as being made available as written histories on the website.

At the conclusion of the project, we will have the research data for 35 of north Leicestershire's towns and villages which will then be rearranged on a parish basis and prepared for publication in at least two new volumes of the Leicestershire VCH series.

If you would like to hear more about Charnwood Roots or get involved with any of the research activities, please contact Dr Julie Attard at charnwoodroots@le.ac.uk or (0116) 252 5946.



Pam Fisher



View over Charnwood.
©VCH Leicestershire

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

31st BRIXWORTH LECTURE

‘Brixworth and Byzantium

By Professor Leslie Brubaker (University of Birmingham)

Prof. Brubaker's lecture provides an opportunity to reflect on how an Anglo-Saxon church like Brixworth would have been decorated c. 800, and what its priests and worshippers would have thought about far-away Byzantine attitudes to depictions of Christ and his Saints.

Saturday 2nd November 2013 at 5.00 pm in the Church

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

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

Contact: Jo Story js73@le.ac.uk

For more information about the Friends and the Church:

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

Friends' Diary Dates 2013-14

The 2013/14 Seminar Programme can be found inside the back cover of this Newsletter.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Friends will take place on **Thursday, 21st November** at **1.00 p.m.** before the Seminar.

Saturday, ? February 2014 t.b.c. ‘Spotlight on the Centre’ 9.30a.m.-5.00p.m.

Hoskins Lecture 2014

To be announced Saturday 7 June 2014 at 2p.m. Prof. Chris Dyer. Subject to be confirmed.



Seminar Programme 2013-14

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

2013

- Thurs 10 October **Katrina Navickas** (University of Hertfordshire),
"I'm Manchester; no I'm Manchester": Contesting place in popular politics in the industrial north of England, 1789-1848'.
- Thurs 24 October **Erin Bell**, (University of Lincoln),
"Kindly entertained by Dear friends in Newcastle": the benefits and limitations of regional approaches to Anglo-Norwegian religious history.
- *Thurs 21 November **Mark Smith** (University of Oxford), [Preceded by Friends' AGM at 1.00 p.m.]
The four journeys of Joseph Stanley, a Manchester man.
- Thurs 5 December **Ross Macfarlane** (Wellcome Trust, London),
The Wellcome Library: research sources for English Local History and Medical Humanities.

2014

- Thurs 16 January **Dame Fiona Reynolds** (Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge; formerly Director of the National Trust; Director of the Women's Unit in the Cabinet Office; Director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England).
Title of her talk to be announced.
- Thurs 30 January **Joseph Harley** (University of Leicester)
Material Life in the workhouse before the New Poor Law: A Dorset case study.
- Thurs 13 February **Nicola Whyte** (University of Exeter),
Death and memory in the early modern landscape.
- Thurs 27 February **Maureen Jurkowski** (The National Archives),
Books and Reading in Coventry's Lollard Community, 1381-1522.
- Thurs 13 March **Bill Sheils** (University of York),
Religious diversity in the local community, 1500-1700.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Reservations for seminars:

Lucy Byrne, Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester, LE1 7QR;
Tel: 0116-252 2762, Fax: 0116-252 5769.
Email lb77@le.ac.uk

Contributions to Newsletter:

Please address to The Editor, Marc Fitch House or leave messages or contributions in Friends' pigeonhole at Marc Fitch House.
For preference, please email smp38@le.ac.uk

Membership enquiries

To: Ann Schmidt, e-mail: anschmidt1@hotmail.com

Purchase of Friends' Papers:

Address requests to: Publications Sales, Friends of English Local History,
5, Salisbury Road, Leicester, LE1 7QR.

The Newsletter is printed by Audio Visual Services, University of Leicester.