

Friends of the Centre for English Local History

NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

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

The cover picture: Holgate Windmill, York © Margaret Hawkins 2015.

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	1
THE CENTRE	
CENTRE REPORT	1
TALKING TO PROF. KEVIN SCHÜRER	3
SEMINAR PROGRAMME 2014-15REPORTS	4
CENTRE PUBLICATIONS 2014-15	11
PAPERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, ETC.	13
PRIZES, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS	17
REPORT ON THE NICHOLS ARCHIVE	18
RECENTLY COMPLETED THESES	20
MA DISSERTATIONS 2014-15	22
50 YEARS OF THE MA AT THE CENTRE FOR ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY	25
‘AFTER MARGARET SPUFFORD’ CONFERENCE REPORT	25
THE FRIENDS	
PUBLICATIONS BY FRIENDS	26
CONGRATULATIONS TO FRIENDS	27
FRIENDS’ OCCASIONAL PAPERS	27
WARWICK OUTING SEPTEMBER 2014	28
‘THE LOCAL HISTORY OF THE FAMILY’ CONFERENCE 22 NOVEMBER 2014	29
THE LAUNCH OF CHEPYNG WALDEN	32
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014 AND ACCOUNTS	33
YORK WEEKEND APRIL 2015	35
HOSKINS’ DAY AND LECTURE 2015	38
FRIENDS OF FRIENDS	
THE LEICESTERSHIRE RECORD SERIES	40
LEICESTERSHIRE VCH	40
OBITUARIES	41
DIARY DATES	
FRIENDS EVENTS 2015-16	42
SEMINAR PROGRAMME 2015-16	42
USEFUL CONTACTS	inside back cover

EDITORIAL

Once again I have to start with an apology for the late appearance of the *Newsletter*. Various things conspired to thwart my plans to be more organised this year, not least the lack of Lucy in the office at Marc Fitch House, who was such a help in gathering together the material for the *Newsletter*, especially the lists of graduates and their dissertation/thesis titles and abstracts. I hope I have mentioned everyone, but my apologies if not. You will see that some titles and abstracts are missing, as it proved impossible to contact some people, once their university email address had expired. Please do send the details, with an abstract, once you know you are going to graduate. As well as the hard-copy version, this *Newsletter* is put on the Friends' website (<http://friends.englishlocalhistory.org/index.html>) and so reference to your studies can reach a wide audience.

Despite the problems of not having administrative support in the building, the Staff of the Centre have had a very busy and productive year, as chronicled in the Centre Report. A number of students, too, have received rewards and had articles published. Congratulations to them all, and to the members of the Friends who continue their researches, publishing and lecturing widely.

The Friends have had another busy year. As ever, I am very grateful to everyone who has written reports of seminars, outings and conferences and who has sent in news of their publications and activities. As well as the reports and 'news', I would welcome photographs of our events and also photographs for consideration for the cover picture. If you come across any interesting or amusing snippets about history that would make good 'fillers' for blank spaces, I should be glad of those, too. I would encourage members of the Friends to send items for inclusion to me throughout the year at smp38@le.ac.uk.

And a plea from our Membership Secretary – have you remembered to revise your standing order, are you eligible to give Gift Aid, and please would you send her your email address?
Ann Schmidt annschiidt1@hotmail.com

Sylvia Pinches

THE CENTRE REPORT

This has certainly been a lively year.

Professor Peter King retired in July 2014, and has moved to Cornwall. We will miss him greatly here, though he is returning regularly to continue supervision of some PhD students, and his new abode near Falmouth promises much by way of hospitality for Centre staff and students, proximate as it is to the Cornwall Record Office. The former Pro-Vice Chancellor Kevin Schürer is stepping down as Pro-VC in charge of Research, and moving to join the Centre as Professor in English Local History. He will have two years of research leave so his contribution to research here will be very substantial.

Members of the staff of the Centre are involved in many grant applications, some of them for very large sums. Grant applications include Andy Hopper preparing an AHRC application for £800,000 for a project on 'Maimed Soldiers and War Widows', in collaboration with David Appleby (Nottingham), Mark Stoyale (Southampton) and Lloyd Bowen (Cardiff); a grant application to the Garfield Weston Foundation for £212,000 for a permanent gallery on Medicine, Care and Military Welfare at the National Civil War Centre, Newark; and an application to the ESRC by Keith Snell for about £400,000 for a project on 'Loneliness in history: experiences from the British Isles', which covers a range of topics such as landscapes of loneliness, and past census and geographical analysis of 'solitaries' or those living alone. Richard Jones has a number of grants pending and in place for studies of historical genetics and Viking settlement, notably in Normandy in the summer of 2015, where he was extracting DNA from six hundred Norman inhabitants, to the great interest of the French Government and French medias. In particular, his pioneering efforts to revive the Shell County Guides as a major online resource, benefitting from modern technologies, now has the backing of our new President and VC, Professor Paul Boyle, and if this is successful in obtaining funding from Shell it has the potential to bring in grant income in excess of £12,000,000 to the Centre.

Recent grant successes affecting students include an MA bursary of £8,000 offered by the Thaxted

Society for a student to undertake the MA and write their dissertation on Thaxted in Essex. Keith Snell has just completed his monograph *Spirits of Community: English Senses of Belonging and Loss, 1750-2000* and this book is forthcoming with Bloomsbury Academic. He has a further three publications recently written on personal isolation and loneliness in the past; and he recently delivered a paper to the 50th anniversary conference of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure. Among other projects, he has also been researching the identity of 'Walter', the famous though anonymous author of the huge Victorian *My Secret Life*, using local history clues in this enormous text to detect who he was. Like a detective work in progress, it can certainly be said that we are thus closing in on this notorious author, who has attracted huge international interest over the past century. Keith continues to co-edit the journal *Rural History*. A recent publication is his 'Agendas for the historical study of loneliness and lone living', *The Open Psychology Journal*, 8 (2015), a Special Issue entitled *Loneliness Past and Present, and Its Effects on our Lives*, edited by Ami Rokach. The intellectual range and academic placement of historical publications from the Centre thus continues to expand!

Andrew Hopper has been featured on BBC2's 'The Pubs that Built Britain', talking about the civil wars in Yorkshire at the Black Bull, Otley, with the Hairy Bikers. He is also advising the RSC and playwright Richard Bean on his production of a play about the civil wars in Hull as part of Hull City of Culture 2017. He has produced an article for *East Midlands History and Heritage*, a new popular history magazine launched this month with a special issue on the Civil Wars. He organised an international conference entitled 'Mortality, Care and Military Welfare during the British Civil Wars at the National Civil War Centre', Newark Museum in August. He is curating a temporary exhibition on the same theme at Newark Museum from February 2016 in collaboration with Dr Eric Gruber von Arni who has been appointed an Honorary Visiting Fellow of CELH.

Among student publications have been Stewart Beale's article on 'Northamptonshire war widows' for *East Midlands History and Heritage*, and Hannah Worthen has produced an article on

'Royalist war widows' for *Women's History Review*. Both have been appointed interns in the National Civil War Centre.

PhD recruitment continues at a high level, with particular recent successes in obtaining two M3C (Midland Three Cities) AHRC-funded studentships by Jay Emery and Kimberley Pullen for research with us. Andrew Hopper is co-supervising an M3C student at Nottingham, Bethany Marsh, and Nicola Blacklaws is already being funded at the Centre by another M3C studentship. To obtain four of these coveted studentships simultaneously is a significant achievement.

The Centre has most kindly been left a substantial donation by the late Eleanor Vollans, who sadly died recently. Eleanor was a long-standing and steadfast supporter of the Centre for English Local History, and she will be much missed by staff and students here. Her quiet but persistent generosity towards the Centre was a marked feature over the past two decades, which she characteristically did not wish to be openly announced, and this has continued very notably in her will. We remember her with great gratitude and with a strong sense of loss.

We also sadly announce that Professor Ed Miller died in May 2015. He was professor and head of Psychology at the University of Leicester, and upon retirement he bravely embarked upon the MA in English Local History, which was of course a totally new step from his earlier discipline. He will be remembered very fondly by many in our Centre, where he made a lively, enthusiastic, friendly and scholarly contribution, both on the MA course, and then in his subsequent local historical researches, in particular into lunatic asylum history in the nineteenth century. He published on this subject both for England and for Scotland, as he and his wife Sally moved for a while to the Isle of Skye, before returning to Exton, Rutland. He brought to Local History an incisive social-science intellect, great experience in mental health issues, fresh interdisciplinary approaches, and a welcome Scottish angle to research. He will be very much missed by staff and Friends of the Centre. Many of his books are to be donated to the Centre's Library.

Prof. Keith Snell and Dr Andrew Hopper

TALKING TO FRIENDS:

PROF. KEVIN SCHÜRER

Professor Schürer was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) at the University of Leicester in 2010, with a chair in the Centre for English Local History. In September 2015 he embarked on a period of study leave [Professor Iain Gillespie taking up the post of Interim Pro-vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)], which will see him settled in an office at Marc Fitch House, with more time to pursue his own academic research and to engage with the Centre in which he holds a chair. In conversation with the Editor, Professor Schürer gave insights into his earlier career, his research interests and his views on the Centre for English Local History and its future.

His path to Leicester was perhaps prefigured in his reading of the *Making of the English Landscape* by W.G. Hoskins while doing his A levels. He was drawn to the way in which geography and history were fused, an approach that, along with a strong bent for statistical analysis, has been evident throughout his own career. A quote from the BBC 'The Great British Story' website shows his long-seated enthusiasm for the past: 'I have been fascinated by history and "old stuff" generally for as long as I can remember'.

That fascination led to undergraduate study in history and geography, before going onto study for a PhD at the University of London. Midway through his PhD he joined the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, University of Cambridge to work with Peter Laslett and Richard Wall on analyses of household structure. Hoskins had a link with the Cambridge Group, having attended the meeting called by Peter Laslett to set it up and to decide on a name for it. Hoskins spoke of 'a vision beyond lone scholarship' and that is a vision that Kevin Schürer shares. The work of the Cambridge Group is traditionally based on group projects and collaborative research.

Following Cambridge, he moved to the University of Essex, where he worked in the Department of History where he established the Historical Censuses and Social Surveys Research Group, whose work linking nineteenth-century census

data with a parish-based Geographical Information System has allowed the development of projects as varied as studying patterns of employment and the distribution of surnames. In 2000 he became Director of the UK Data Archive, also at Essex, where he still found time to work with census data, in particular, through the Integrated Census Microdata (I-CeM) project, working with the genealogical company FindMyPast, which has created a standardised, integrated dataset of most of the censuses of Great Britain from 1851 to 1911. This anonymised data is made available to academic researchers through the UK Data Archive.

It may seem a long way from nineteenth-century censuses to medieval genealogy, but his work on surname distribution and family reconstitution led Dr Turi King to seek him out in 2000, so that on the Monday after bones were discovered in a car park in Leicester it is no surprise that she turned up at Kevin's office and said, 'we need comparators'. And so began his involvement in the exciting quest to establish whether these were, indeed, the remains of Richard III. His research traced the descent of both the female and male relatives of Richard III and included a study of all his male relatives sharing the same mtDNA who might have been at the Battle of Bosworth, to eliminate the chance that the bones might have been those of a distant cousin. A fuller discussion of this research can be read in the chapter 'The Cousins in the Swabs', in *The Bones of a King* (2015) or for full details see <http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2014/141202/ncomms6631/full/ncomms6631.html>.

Kevin's personal interests in historical demography and family history continue and he has three projects he wishes to pursue during his study leave. With Eilidh Garrett and Alice Reid in the Department of Geography at Cambridge he is building on previous research (published as *Changing Family Size in England and Wales*, 2001) to produce an atlas of fertility decline. He is looking at how to improve the analysis of the data from the 1851-1911 censuses to bring out the regional aspects. Linked to this, he is working with Simon Szreter in the Faculty of History at Cambridge, to reanalyse the *1911 Report on Fertility* (published in two parts, 1917 and 1923). His third collaboration is with Professor Bob Bennett, Department of Geography at Cambridge, who is beginning an ESRC-funded project to look

at entrepreneurs in the nineteenth century, part of which will investigate the nature and decline of multiple occupations.

These interests, especially in their exploration of local and regional differences, sit well with the culture of the Centre for English Local History. CELH has also been at the forefront of interdisciplinary studies over the years, and its staff have straddled many disciplines. Kevin would like to see the Centre undertake more collaborative projects with a national perspective and regional differences. One suggestion is to build on earlier work by Everitt, using trade directory information (such as that captured under Peter Clark's 'Historical Directories' project, the website for which was moved to the University of Leicester Special Collections Online in 2014) to test and develop Charles Phythian-Adam's thesis of socio-cultural regions, linking them in turn to marriage horizons. Kevin is delighted that the Centre has a group of committed 'Friends' and sees them as a source of potential collaborators in such projects.



Professor Kevin Schürer

Seminar programme 2014-15

16 October 2014

Eric E. Gruber von Arni (Hon. Visiting Fellow, CELH), *Was there any? – Military hospital care, nursing and welfare during the Civil Wars of the 17th Century*

The title of Eric Gruber von Arni's paper reflected the question he was commonly asked when discussing his research. It was widely assumed that no one provided anything but the most cursory of care for wounded and maimed soldiers before Florence Nightingale. The paper set out to prove how wrong this assumption was.

The paper concentrated on the period of the English Civil Wars, and particularly on the parliamentary side. The provision of care had a slow start. There might be a surgeon and a surgeon's mate to deal with men wounded in battle, and sometimes local women would help, but efforts were uncoordinated. England had seen peace within her own shores for a long time, so there was very little knowledge of dealing with large numbers of casualties and no one at this stage expected the conflict to last very long.

In October, 1642 parliament passed an act acknowledging their responsibility for casualties and their dependents. A few weeks later the 'committee for sick and maimed soldiers' was created. Parliament controlled London and so too controlled St Thomas's and St Bartholemew's hospitals, but these could only contribute a small part of the effort required. So the Savoy hospital in the Strand was dedicated to the care of the injured. The Savoy remained the principal permanent care hospital until the Restoration. Having easy access to the river, it could receive casualties evacuated to London. The Savoy had four wards and a capacity of 200 patients, eventually being staffed by twelve nurses. It also catered for outpatients, paying a subsistence allowance for those attending for treatment. In 1645 a second military hospital opened in the west of London. Identified as 'the hospital at Parsons Green' it could hold over 70 patients. In 1648 Ely House, which had previously held Royalist prisoners of war, was converted to a hospital, filling rapidly over a period of two to three weeks.

What kind of care could the patients of these hospitals expect? Dr Gruber von Arni painted a surprisingly rosy picture, suggesting that nurses looked after their charges with skill and dedication. Their roles were subject to regulation, which laid down a code of conduct and listed the responsibilities of, and restrictions on, nursing staff. Negligent nurses were punished. Hospital wards were open, but had bed drapings and portable screens to offer some privacy. Surviving laundry lists showed that the staff had basic concepts of cleanliness and hygiene; patients could expect one or two changes of underwear and clean sheets every week. Woollen clothing was baked to get rid of infestations. Patients also had warming pans and rugs and were comparatively well fed (even if their diet lacked the vitamins modern medicine now recognises as crucial to the healing of wounds). The civil wars saw a high incidence of battlefield amputations, but the hospitals supplied all manner of prosthetics – from crutches to wooden legs, even wooden hands. A hospital carpenter was dedicated to the construction and servicing of such devices. Another surprising feature was the provision of spa water treatment. From 1645 the treasurers paid for soldiers to travel to Bath, with an amnesty to cross royalist lines.

The military hospitals all began to feel the pinch following the death of Cromwell. After 1658 there was pressure to discharge patients quickly that has uncomfortable parallels with the situation in modern hospitals. Finally, both the Savoy and the Ely hospitals were closed.

Mandy de Belin

30 October 2014

Ian Waites (University of Lincoln), *Middlefield: Some Historical Interpretations of a 1960s Lincolnshire Council Estate*

Dr Ian Waites told us about his research on the Middlefield Lane Estate, a 1960s council estate in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Middlefield is of particular interest to Dr Waites because it was where he lived for much of his childhood. The purpose of his research is to counter the sense of entropy that characterises much of the commentary on post war council estates, and to focus on the individual and communal sense of well-being which he associates with his childhood. He has adopted an interdisciplinary

approach to his work, one that looks at ‘form, function and feeling’. ‘Form’ looks at material culture, ‘function’ looks at how that worked as community, and ‘feeling’ considers interpretative analysis, attachments and memory.

Dr Waites told us that new government subsidies introduced in 1961 facilitated the construction of the estate, at least partly in order to house those whose former homes had been in areas of slum clearance. Three hundred and eighty dwellings, 143 garages, shops and a community centre were built on the estate for a total cost of £829,007. Middlefield was a predominately low rise, spacious estate of two- and three- bed housing that was adjacent to open countryside and had a semi-rural feel. The estate was ‘thoughtfully designed’ and a ‘good place to live’. The qualities of the new estate were emphasized by the local press, which highlighted one particular family, the Cooks, their move to Middlefield, and the inadequacies of their former accommodation. For the local press, the local council, and for the residents themselves, Middlefield represented ‘a new way of life’.

A particular feature of Middlefield was its layout which was based on the principles of the Radburn estate in New Jersey and involved completely separate circulation systems for cars and pedestrians in order to minimise the intrusion of motor vehicles. This system gave pedestrians and children a sense of safety and well-being. It represented an ‘exciting sense of modernity’ and ‘a new sense of a social democratic future’. Another feature of the estate was the shopping precinct, officially opened by Pat Phoenix (Coronation Street’s Elsie Tanner), in 1963. Dr Waites suggested that the event was considered important by the local council and that it was a source of civic pride to secure the presence of such a well-known celebrity.

Sadly, the shopping precinct was demolished in 2000, after most of the units had been left vacant. Having described the making of Middlefield, Dr Waites went on to describe the three phases of its ‘unmaking’. Firstly, ‘disinvestment’ which featured a reduction of state funding and the sale of council housing, secondly ‘residualisation’ and degradation of the fabric of the estate, and thirdly ‘stigmatisation’ which he suggested featured the concentration of ‘problem families’ on the estate. Although recently most of the houses have been

refurbished by a housing association, many of the original features of the estate have been lost. It is through the contemporary archaeology and memory work that Dr Waites is currently undertaking that these features, and their role in individual and community lives and identity, are being revisited. Such research represents a new and exciting area for students of English Local History, and one that might inform the debate about the future of social housing.

Anne Stones

13 November 2014

David Crook (The National Archives), *Robin Hood and Criminality*

David Crook spent over 30 years at the Public Record Office, ending his career as assistant keeper of records at the National Archives; he now holds an honorary post at the University of Nottingham.

With a background in the use of official records, he firmly believes that the records of the English state from 1200 to 1500 must be used in any attempt to clear up the 'legend' of Robin Hood. Dr Crook explained his belief that Robin Hood was a 'legend', an inauthentic story based on a genuinely historical person, rather than being a 'myth', something purely fictitious. In a wide-ranging paper, he examined the truth behind a number of different aspects of the Robin Hood story.

The thirteenth and fourteenth centuries have left documentary evidence of several habitual poachers, ranging from peasants to minor landowners. Until the Charter of the Forest (1217), the penalty for taking deer was death, or, as a lesser punishment, blinding or emasculation; this was then reduced to a fine, or imprisonment for a year and a day, after which you were expelled from the realm. Whilst Robin Hood is, in the modern interpretation of his stories, always seen as living by poaching venison, it is clear to Dr Crook that this could not have been his principal crime; it was not the business of a sheriff to deal with forest law, so Robin's crime must have been more serious – robbery.

Dr Crook also looked at the area of Barnsdale, in South Yorkshire, where the earliest ballads were based (sorry to our Nottinghamshire readers!)

Barnsdale was never subject to Forest Law, but it was an area rife with highway robbery, with the Great North Road passing through it. Could Robin Hood have been an anonymous criminal from the Barnsdale area who was given a name by later ballad writers? Certainly, it is true that no contemporary writers recorded Robin Hood by name, and so, in effect, he had ensured obscurity at the time.

Dr Crook then went on to consider the idea of criminal gangs. An analysis of recorded medieval robberies shows that 78% of them were committed by two or more people, and that 21% of gangs were formed of kin-groups. In the legends, there is no mention of women in his "gang", and family are not named, but there was always a small group, and the ability to call on many others if required.

To conclude, Dr Crook presented his own theory as to who the real Robin Hood may have been, a theory first put forward 25 years ago. The Yorkshire pipe rolls of 1226 – 1234 identified an outlaw named Robert Hod, also known as Hobbehod. Dr Crook revealed that one Robert of Wetherby, was hanged by Eustace of Lowdham, Sheriff of York, in 1225. Eustace of Lowdham was a former assistant sheriff of Nottingham. As sheriff of York, he may have had connections with the Barnsdale area, and as a previous assistant sheriff of Nottingham he may have been known locally by this sobriquet. So was Robert Hod the same person as Robert of Wetherby? And was Robin Hood the name given to his legendary persona? We will never know....

The question session at the end of the seminar included discussions on the nature of hue and cry, the possibility of Robin Hood being the representation of a popular perception of an attack on the monarchy, rather than being a real person, and the charismatic nature of surviving tales.

Robert Mee

27 November 2014

Gary Crossley (University of Oxford), *Kinship and strategies for family survival on Bodmin Moor during the long nineteenth century*

Gary Crossley presented his partially-completed work on kinship families on Bodmin Moor, discussing the wider issues, the history of Bodmin

Moor, and some preliminary results. Bodmin Moor comprises 60,000 acres of land, both granite and fertile land in places. His period of study is 1793 to 1911, for which he has reconstructed kinship families. 1793 marked the start of the French Wars, and 1911 the completion of the industrial phase of mining. He has studied 13 parishes, plotting their population from 1801 to 1911, rising from 6000 to a peak of 14,000 people in 1871, and falling to 8000 in 1911. There was a mining collapse from 1866, followed by the exodus of miners.

Cornwall shows marked differences from the rest of England, with its distinctive politics, culture and language. There are, of course, similarities with England in many respects, with the 'Kernosceptics' and 'Kernocentrics' holding their contrasting views. The 13 parishes varied greatly in size and generally had land on both the fertile moor and granite. In 1793, the land was predominantly agricultural. The moors were generally devoid of settlement, apart from a few farms. There was some mining with extraction of tin from close to the surface, as an adjunct to mixed farming. About two thirds of the farms were held on three-life leases. The farmers were thus tenants, although thought of as owners.

There were some large landowners at the time, notably the Agar and Tilley families. They began to get rid of three-life leases, and rack-rented with seven- or fourteen- year leases. Their motivation was to improve farming. The 1815 to 1820 post-war slump showed falling incomes and rising poor rates. The population emigrated and enclosed moorland to reduce poor rates. There was both legal enclosure, encouraged by the landowners, and illegal. Manorial ties diminished. In the second half of the nineteenth century, large enclosures were made for livestock.

The parishes were large with limited parochial structures; churches could lie a long way from most of the population. People could then baptise their children in the nearest church rather than in their parish church. Methodism was slow to become established. Wesleyan preachers included the Bible Christians, established in 1815, who became the dominant sect. In the 1830s riots were feared, especially by the smaller farmers. Methodism and the Bible Christians were fought by the established church. One family of Methodists, the Parkins, arrived in the late 1700s

and are still present in the valley today. The family exhibited cousin marriages; one of this family owned Jamaica Inn. Dynastic families such as this ran the churches. Copper was discovered in the 1830s, and the boom in mining lasted until the 1860s. Mining then collapsed in the face of overseas competition. Advertisements for mines were placed in local newspapers, but most mines were not commercially viable. After the collapse of mining, landowners sold the land, and the cottages were bought by small landowners.

Kinship links sustained this society. Recent work has shown 70% kinship links, in which the heads of households of the same name are found in the geographical area. The work has built up a kinship-base from parish and other records over a long period. The study begins in 1793 with a survey of 1793. Rent books often give relationships, setting out the three life lease agreements. The kinship-base has been constructed using Ancestry.com software. Household structures have been plotted from the 1851 Census. Plotted extended families show structures similar to other studies. Kinship links between households in the parish are shown to differ from other studies, showing higher kinship links. Kinship links differed by occupation, tanners having high links probably because they arrived in families whose children subsequently intermarried. A comparison of kinship links between 1793 and 1911 still shows strong links despite mass emigration. Comparison of kinship links with other published works shows higher absolute kinship density in St Neots than other studies. Other sources have shown how families used kinship links, rent books occasionally listing debts payable to kin. In conclusion, the work has shown that as manors collapsed, the kinship groups maintained the structure of society.

Phil Batman

15 January 2015

Matthew Ward (University of Nottingham), 'A color of the kynge lyverey': Livery Collars, Church Monuments and the Expression of Identity in Derbyshire, 1450 to 1500

Dr Ward had recently completed his doctoral thesis on this fascinating subject. These collars, which were held in high esteem by

their wearers, appeared to indicate that they were bestowed either by the king to a loyal follower of the royal household who had performed some special duties or for outstanding valour on the battlefield. They symbolised the special relationship between the wearer and the master. Collars were first seen in the 14th century and were sometimes made of leather or ribbon with metal letters, with the most valuable being entirely fashioned of precious metals.

The most common type of collar encountered was the 'SS' type, which seems to have had a connection with the House of Lancaster. Indeed, the earliest known sculptured example is on the effigy attributed to Sir John Swinford, d.1371, a follower of John of Gaunt. As to the design, all incorporated a pendant; some were exclusively formed of the letters 's' and some alternated a family symbol, such as a knot. Some collars were large, resting on the shoulders and others more delicate, worn around the neck. There are various theories concerning the significance of the 'S' motif. The most popular is that it stood for 'Soverayne' but it could also stand for the Latin *signum*, meaning badge.

Collars could symbolise membership of an affinity but a different meaning would be implied if given by a husband to his wife, say. They could be worn by kings and queen, when they would be most valuable and made by goldsmiths. In families, collars often became heirlooms and were passed down the generations to show the status of the family and the original wearer. Whilst the 'SS' type collar was perhaps the most common and associated with the House of Lancaster, when the Yorkists came to power, they had their own designs. These usually featured a sun and a rose - or sometimes a *rose en soleil*, which is a rose within a sunburst. These were not found before 1461.

In Derbyshire, examples are to be found on the tombs of the early Curzons at All Saints

church, Kedleston. There are also the Knivetons at the lovely Mugginton church, (now only three tombs where there were formerly at least seven) and at the splendid Radbourne parish church, are to be found the Poles. The Curzons and several other notables were named as 'Parkers' of Duffield Frith.

After 1399, Parliament attempted to restrict the giving of chains to the king. It is clear above all that they were much treasured.

Noel Tornbohm

29 January 2015

Matthew Champion (Norfolk Medieval Graffiti Survey), *Medieval Graffiti: the hidden history of the parish church*

Dr Champion, who heads-up both the Norfolk and Suffolk Medieval Graffiti Surveys, delivered an excellent, animated and stimulating paper on the graphics to be found etched into our medieval church buildings. He explained that such surveys have now been extended to another four eastern counties and would eventually go nationwide, the project being entirely volunteer-led. There are some 650 medieval churches in Norfolk and 550 in Suffolk, the majority being rural; that said, apparently Norwich cathedral has 8,000-12,000 medieval inscriptions! 60% of medieval churches have significant, (meaning at least 24) inscriptions. It seems that these inscriptions were considered acceptable in their day, when church interiors were covered in brightly coloured plaster, easy to mark, so that what we see now is just the trace where the underlying stone was incised. Memorials of the elite were often targeted but not necessarily maliciously.

There are distinct types and recurring subjects. The Peridexion Tree; apotropaic or witch marks; ritual protection marks; compass-drawn or daisy wheel, geometrical designs; crosses; pentangles; text; caricatures; animals; heraldic; shoes/feet; merchants' marks; masons' marks; ships. The Peridexion tree, with its dove(s) and serpent or dragon at

its base, symbolises the safety of the Christian while in the church. The witch and ritual protection marks, were for warding-off demons and the devil. The compass drawn designs, were at first thought to have been made by stonemasons to instruct their pupils, as they are an introduction to all Euclidian geometry; but they are usually small, say two or three inches in diameter, too small to have been made with a mason's dividers. Recently, it has been suggested that they were made using 'snips', the simple, sharp-pointed scissor-like utensils commonly hanging from the girdles of the well-equipped housewife. These tend to be found showing quite elaborate designs. Some crosses were based on the circular, geometric design. Sometimes, they may have been consecration crosses, marking the point in the building where the bishop sprinkled consecration oil. Crosses were often found in porches and around principal doorways, where all sorts of business would have been transacted. It is thought some might commemorate the making of an oath.

Pentangles were originally an important Christian symbol. They were often shown on top of demons, as if to ward them off but when shown with a person, the symbol would usually be to one side, as if seeking protection for that person. Occasionally, architectural sketches are found, as at Bilham Priory where such a sketch shows ground-breaking advances in bar tracery. Text represents about 5% of the subjects, and was sometimes made by the rector or churchwardens. Sadly, inscriptions are now often badly degraded - and in bad Latin in the first place! Merchants' marks were like modern logos, to promote their businesses. Ships were often featured and in such detail that the particular vessel might be recognised. They may have represented prayers for a safe voyage, or perhaps for a lost crew.

Noel Tornbohm

12 February 2015

Matthew Beamish (University of Leicester Archaeological Services) and Julie Attard (Victoria County History, Leicestershire), *The analysis of aerial LiDAR: New possibilities for prehistoric and historic landscape interpretations in Leicestershire*

Julie Attard, the manager of the Charnwood Roots project, began with an example of the use of LiDAR in Mayan archaeology in the jungles of Belize; a team of archaeologists had spent 25 years mapping a site of 3.5 km², a site which had required annual clearance with machetes. A LiDAR survey in 2009 found an ancient developed landscape of some 150 km². She then gave an overview of the Charnwood Roots project (a slightly different landscape), covering 35 towns, villages and hamlets, with archaeological work, including test-pits and field-walking, showing human activity back to the Palaeolithic period.

Matt Beamish then went on to explain the system of LiDAR – whilst this could have been a very scientific narrative, he successfully pitched the talk at a suitable level for both the historians and the archaeologists in the room. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) has a huge advantage over other forms of aerial investigation, as it “cuts through” the vegetation, such as woodland and heath, to reveal the contours of the land beneath, in fine detail. The Environment Agency have been using the technology since 1990, and since 2013 their records have been released to academic researchers – if this had not happened, the LiDAR available for the Charnwood area would have cost over £100,000 to obtain.

LiDAR basically works by illuminating the target area, at precise intervals, with a laser, and then measuring the distance until it strikes the earth. The data produced is then compared with various other resources, such as conventional mapping, the Historic Environment Register and Google Earth. The versatility of LiDAR means that it can be used on large areas, such as entire parishes, or on precise sections down to just part of a field. The aim of the process is to objectively identify features within the landscape, such as boundary banks, field systems, enclosure patterns, paths and hollow-ways, mounds, warrens, and extraction sites. However, LiDAR is completely non-discriminatory – it cannot tell the difference, for

example, between an ancient boundary bank and an overgrown wall. LiDAR can never replace conventional archaeology; some 780 potential features have been found in Charnwood, and each one will need to be physically checked on the ground. An illustrative anecdote was given, where a circular feature “seen” by LiDAR, which might have been a charcoal hearth, was later correctly identified as a modern trampoline!

Matt then went on to show several specific examples of the LiDAR results in Charnwood, including Bradgate Park, where the eighteenth century race course was highlighted, the Bronze Age settlement at Beacon Hill, Martinshaw Wood, and Ratby Boroughs.

At the conclusion, there were questions about geological features showing up as possible archaeological sites, the impact of water courses on LiDAR, the future use of drones to carry out this work, and the obliteration of prior archaeology by ridge and furrow farming.

Ann Stones

12 March 2015

Ismi Pells (Cambridge University), *The seventeenth-century London Trained Bands and the Artillery Company*

Dr Pells has recently completed her thesis on Philip Skippon, a Major-General of the infantry in the New Model Army. She explained that the Artillery Company, known as the Honourable Artillery Company since 1860, is now part of the Army Reserve, drawing most of its personnel from the London area. She is a reservist with the Honourable Artillery Company herself.

At the time of its establishment in 1537, ‘artillery’ meant any form of projectile. Its charter of incorporation mentioned long bows, cross bows and hand guns. The word ‘infantry’ was not introduced until the seventeenth century. They leased the Teasle Grounds in Spitalfields for training. In 1573, with the fear of invasion by the Spanish under the Duke of Alva, all able-bodied men over the age of sixteen were to be trained in the use of weapons – the formation of the Trained Bands. The captains of the HAC were responsible for training the officers of the London Bands until 1780.

By 1604 there was a slackening in the regularity of training; it was now done by inspection rather than regular drill. More formal training recommenced in 1610/11. The members felt that it was a God-given and patriotic duty to join. Although the Church taught that war was God’s punishment of sin, preachers gave sermons praising citizens for their patriotism and for taking up a role formerly reserved to the aristocracy, many of whom were now wastrels, papist-sympathisers etc. The members of the Trained Bands themselves, though were parodied in plays such as Francis Beaumont’s *Knight of the Shining Pestle* (c. 1610); they were regarded as having, in modern parlance ‘all the gear but no idea’. By the 1630s there were men who had had experience in the continental wars to train the men and military textbooks were being published. By 1642 the Trained Bands had made great strides. The previous year they had moved from Spitalfields to the New artillery Garden, south of Bunhill Fields Burial Ground on the City Road, which is still its headquarters. Philip Skippon, who had served in the continental wars, had been appointed sergeant-general of the company in 1639

Sylvia Pinches

16 April 2015

Matthew Johnson, (Northwestern University, USA). *Bodiam Castle: Landscape, lived experience and political ecology*

Prof. Matt Johnson is an archaeologist with wide-ranging interests; he is particularly fascinated by castles and is the author of *Behind the Castle Gate* (2002), which explores how castles were really lived in, as well as what influenced their siting and building. In that book, his chapter on ‘Watery landscapes’ includes a study of Bodiam, an iconic, almost-fairy tale castle which continues to intrigue and divide historians. Built in the 1380s, was it primarily a defence against the French, or an old soldier’s dream house, set in a symbolic landscape? Prof. Johnson argues that it is best understood neither as ‘defence’ nor ‘status’, but as a complex series of scales ranging from the actions of washing hands in the chapel piscina through participation in regional, national and international history.

Sylvia Pinches

Centre publications 2014-15

Staff

Keith Snell

(Professor of Rural and Cultural History)

Co-edited journal

Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture, 25:2 (October, 2014).

Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture, 26:1 (April, 2015).

Articles in journals

‘Agendas for the historical study of loneliness and lone living’, in *The Open Psychology Journal* (2015), (a special issue on loneliness, ed. by Ami Rokach).

Andrew Hopper

(Senior Lecturer in English Local History)

Books

Andrew Hopper and Philip Major (eds), *England’s Fortress: New Perspectives on Thomas, 3rd Lord Fairfax* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2014).

Articles in edited volume

‘Newcastle as a military commander’, in Peter Edwards and Elspeth Graham (eds), *Authority, Authorship and Aristocratic Identity in Seventeenth Century England: William and Margaret Cavendish 1st. Duke and Duchess of Newcastle and their Political, Social and Cultural Circle* (Leiden: Brill, 2015).

‘The armies’, in Michael Braddick (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the English Revolution* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), pp. 260-275.

‘Hans Behr’ (fl. 1641-1646), parliamentarian soldier, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

Articles in journals

‘Treachery and conspiracy in Nottinghamshire during the English Civil War’, *East Midlands History and Heritage*, 1 (2015), pp. 18-20.

Book Reviews

J. Moore, *Counting People: A DIY Manual for Local and Family Historians*, in *Midland History*, 40:1 (2015), p. 130.

D. Hallmark (ed.), *The Battle of Worcester 1651: A Collection of Essays on the History of the Battle of Worcester*, in *Midland History*, 39:1 (2014), p. 155.

Richard Jones

(Senior Lecturer in Landscape History)

Articles in edited volumes

‘Names and Archaeology’ in C. Hough (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Names and Naming* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).

‘Place-names in landscape archaeology’, in A. Chavarria (ed.), *Handbook of Landscape Archaeology* (In press).

Christopher Dyer

(Emeritus Professor of Regional and Local History)

Articles in edited volumes

‘England’s economy in the fifteenth century’, in L. Clark (ed.) *The Fifteenth Century* (2014), pp. 201-25.

‘A “Golden Age” rediscovered: labourers’ wages in the fifteenth century’, in M. Allen and D. Coffman (eds), *Money, Prices and Wages: Essays in Honour of Professor Nicholas Mayhew* (Basingstoke, 2015), pp.180-95.

‘New thinking about medieval settlement and its relevance for Leicestershire’, in K. Elkin (ed.), *Medieval Leicestershire. Recent Research on the Medieval Archaeology of Leicestershire* (Leicester, 2015), pp. 1-11.

‘Medieval small towns and the late medieval crisis’, in J. Drendel (ed.), *Crisis in the Later Middle Ages: Beyond the Postan-Duby Paradigm* (Turnhout, 2015), pp.35-52.

Book reviews

T. Williamson et al, *Champion. The Making and Unmaking of the English Midland Landscape*, in *Economic History Review*, 67 (2014), pp. 847-8.

C. Clarke (ed.), *Mapping the Medieval City*, in *Medieval Archaeology*, 58 (2014), p.437.

C. Rawcliffe, *Urban Bodies. Communal Health in Late Medieval English Towns*, in *Medieval Archaeology*, 58 (2014), pp. 438-9.

S. Rees Jones, *York. The Making of a City, 1068-1350*, in *Medieval Settlement Research*, 29 (2014), pp. 94-5.

R. Britnell (ed.), *Durham Priory Manorial Accounts*, in *Agricultural History Review*, 62 (2014), pp. 360-1.

Honorary Visiting Fellows

Martin Marix Evans

‘Battlefield of Naseby’, *Icons of Northamptonshire* (Northamptonshire County Council and CPRE Northamptonshire, 2014).

Alan Fox

Books

Parish Government in a Leicestershire Village: The Buckminster Town Book 1663-1767 and Constable’s Book 1755-1813, Vol. 1 of Leicestershire Record Series, M. Page (series ed.), (Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, 2015)

Articles in edited volumes

‘The location of the priory at Kirby Bellars: a reappraisal’, in J. Bourne (ed.), *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, 88 (2014), pp. 75-84.

On-line publication

‘Kirby Bellars’, *Victoria County History of Leicestershire, VII*, <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/leicestershire>. P. Fisher, VCH Leicestershire Coordinator, and A. Chapman, Institute of Historical Studies, University of London, eds (2014).

Graham Jones

Articles in edited volumes

‘Holy Cross and Holy Fire: Place, name and metaphor in the narrative of holy Helena’, in Miša Rakocija (ed.), *Niš and Byzantium. Twelfth Symposium, Niš, 3-5 June 2013. The Collection of Scientific Works XII* (Niš, University of Niš, 2014), pp. 517-36.

‘Shepherd of his flock, guardian of the *polis*: the geography of regional identity as expressed in the dedications of churches’, in Stanislava Kuzmová, Ana Marinković, and Trpimir Vedriš (eds), *Cuius patrocinio tota gaudet regio. Saints’ Cults and the Dynamics of Regional Cohesion*, Bibliotheca Hagiotheca, Series Colloquia III (Zagreb, Hagiotheca [University of Zagreb], 2014), pp. 253-70.

‘The origins of Leicestershire: Churches, territories, and landscape’, in Katherine Elkins (ed.), *Medieval Leicestershire: Recent research in the medieval archaeology of Leicestershire* (Leicester, Leicestershire Fieldworkers, 2015), pp. 13-40.

‘Seas, saints, and power-play: The role of the supernatural in state-building and culture-forging in the world of Stefan Nemanja’, in Miša Rakocija (ed.), *Niš and Byzantium. Thirteenth Symposium, Niš, 3-5 June 2014. The Collection of Scientific Works XIII* (Niš, University of Niš, 2015), pp. 87-104.

Book reviews

Trees and Timber in the Anglo-Saxon World. Edited by Michael D. J. Bintley and Michael G. Shapland, 2013’, *Antiquaries Journal* 94 (2014), pp. 377-78.

On-line publications

‘Bartlemas: Chapels and landscape’, East Oxford Archaeology Project, https://www.archeox.net/sites/www.archeox.net/files/reports/Bartlemas%20Chapels%20in%20the%20Landscape_1.pdf.

‘The Patronage of St Nicholas at Littlemore Priory’, East Oxford Archaeology Project, <https://www.archeox.net/sites/www.archeox.net/files/reports/NicholasLittlemore.pdf>.

Mark Page

Books

General Editor: Alan Fox (ed.), *Parish Government in a Leicestershire Village: The Buckminster Town Book 1665-1767 and Constable's Book 1755-1813* (Leicestershire Record Series, volume I, 2015).

Sylvia Pinches

Edited journal

Newsletter of the Friends of English Local History (2014), 38 pp.

Articles in edited volumes

'An Agricultural Settlement for Ex-Servicemen in Bosbury', *Herefordshire and World War One*, Workers Educational Association, 2015, pp. 46-51.

Julian Pooley

Books

Caroline Wessel, Julian Pooley and Robin Jenkins, *Nichols' History Leicestershire. A Bicentenary Celebration 2015* (Leicestershire Archaeological Society, 2015).

Kate Tiller

Ewelme Church: a history and guide (Friends of Ewelme Church, 2013 and reprinted 2015).

Ewelme School: a history and guide (Friends of Ewelme School, 2015).

On-line publication

'Local history and the First World War'

www.balh.org.uk/education/local-history-and-the-first-world-war

Papers presented at seminars, conferences etc.

Staff

Richard Jones

Papers

'L'impact des diasporas sur les Iles Britanniques: l'histoire, l'archéologie, et la génétique' Université de Caen, 27 February 2015.

'Flood and Flow: water consciousness in the early medieval England', Travel and Communication in Anglo-Saxon England, UCL, 20 April 2015

'Manuring as art and science in medieval England', Lyddington Manor Historical Society, 3 June 2015.

'The Coopers of Thurgarton's *Gerard's Herbal*', Mortality, Care and Military Welfare during the British Civil Wars, Newark, 7-8 August 2015

'Water consciousness in the early medieval England', EAA conference, 2-4 September 2015

'Dedicatory place-names', MSRG annual conference, Leicester, 5 September 2015.

Workshops

'Naming in diasporic contexts', Leicester, 9-10 September 2015.

Research Projects

'The Historical Genetics of the Cotentin Peninsula: a case-study'. Valognes 16-17 June 2015.

Andrew Hopper

Papers

'The self-fashioning of the petitioning narratives of parliamentarian war widows', 'Mortality, Care and Military Welfare Conference, National Civil War Centre, Newark, 8 August 2015.

'The Great Blow: Riot and Urban Governance in Civil War Norwich', Cities and Citizens Conference, University of Durham, 14 July 2015.

'The Great Blow: Riot and Urban Governance in Civil War Norwich', Norfolk Record Office, 12 June 2015.

'The World of John Secker, Quaker Mariner', Lincolnshire Historical Association, 10 June 2015

'Reluctant Regicides? The Trial of Charles I Revisited', Prince's Teaching Institute, 9 and 16 May 2015.

'Turncoats Renegadoes: Changing Sides in the English Civil War', The Commandery, Worcester, 30 April 2015

'Turncoats Renegadoes: Changing Sides in the English Civil War', Shrewsbury School, 30 January 2015.

'The Great Blow: Riot and Urban Governance in Civil War Norwich', University of East Anglia, 3 December 2014.

'War widows in the English Civil Wars', Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon, 25 October 2014.

Events

Opening of the National Civil War Centre at Newark Museum on 3 May 2015.

'Mortality, Care and Military Welfare in the British Civil Wars', international inaugural conference of the National Civil War Centre, 7-8 August 2015, organised by Dr Andrew Hopper with assistance from Hannah Worthen and Stewart Beale, with sponsorship from *Midland History* and the Springhead Brewery: www.le.ac.uk/militarywelfare2015

Chris Dyer

'Landscape, farming and society in an English region: the west midlands, 1250-1509', Conference on the Inquisitions Post Mortem, University of Winchester, September, 2014.

'Was there really an English village community in the middle ages?', Chaddesley Corbett Local History Society, September, 2014.

'New light on a dark age: Evesham Abbey and the Vale of Evesham in the middle of the fifteenth century', Simon de Montfort Society, Oct, 2014.

'Who made the medieval English landscape?', First Mick Aston Memorial Lecture, Taunton, October, 2014.

'Pourquoi les paysans anglais etaient-ils consommateurs (XIIIe – XVe siècle)? Journées Internationales d'Histoire de l'Abbaye de Flaran, 'Le nécessaire et le superflu. Les paysans consommateurs dans l'Europe medieval et moderne', Abbaye de Flaran, Gers, Oct., 2014.

'Lords and landscape: Northfield in the middle ages', Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society, November, 2014.

'Compton Scorpion. The ups and downs of a medieval village', Blockley Heritage Society, November, 2014.

'Who made the medieval English landscape?', University of Worcester Student Archaeological Society, December, 2014.

'The diets of the poor in the middle ages', the Anselm Lecture, University of Kent at Canterbury, January, 2015.

'Surviving or thriving? The world of Gloucestershire peasants, 1200-1540', Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, Gloucester branch, February, 2015.

'John Heritage: the world of a Cotswold wool merchant, 1494-1520', Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society, March, 2015.

'Response' to papers at a conference on 'Aliens, Foreigners and Strangers in medieval England, 500-1500', British Academy, March, 2015.

'Magna Carta and the common people', Salisbury Cathedral (lecture series to commemorate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta), April, 2015.

'What have medieval peasants done for us?', Historical Association, Nuneaton Branch, May, 2015.

'Peasant dairying, 1200-1500', Diet Group, Rewley House, Oxford, May, 2015.

‘Documentary and archaeological evidence for the hinterlands of English medieval towns’, Conference on Medieval Urban Environment, Natural History Museum, Brussels, May, 2015

‘Medieval peasants and their barns’, Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust, June, 2015.

‘Governing a paradox. How did lords manage towns that were not boroughs, and boroughs that were not towns?’ Keynote to conference on Urban Society and the Borough Court, University of Nottingham, July, 2015.

‘Renewing feudalism: responses to adversity by English lords, 1315-1348’, in a session on the Rule of Lords in Times of Change, 1300-1500, Leeds International Medieval Congress, 2015.

Honorary Visiting Fellows

Graham Jones

‘Niš and Byzantium’, Twelfth and Thirteenth Symposiums (see publications above).

‘Proclaimed at York: Constantine’s posthumous impact on kingship and devotion on the Imperial frontiers’, St Emperor Constantine and Christianity international conference, University of Niš, Faculty of Philosophy, 2013.

‘A country called Europe? Cultural landscapes through English eyes’, Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Würzburg English Language Programme public lecture, June, 2013.

‘Peoples, places, and saints: The making of a European cultural landscape’, Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Philosophy Faculty, departmental public lecture, June, 2013.

‘Theatres of power: Buckinghamshire forests and chases’, Buckinghamshire Local History Network annual conference and fair, Little Chalfont, September 28, 2013.

‘The saint at the gate and the king on the shore: St Botolph’s cult over time and space’, St Botolph Society, Cambridge, October 9, 2013.

‘Heeding Helen: More questions than answers in the life and legacy of Helena Augusta’, ‘Constantine the Great’ Conference, Kellogg College, Oxford, December, 2013.

‘Guthlac and Bartholomew: The choice of a saintly patron’, ‘Guthlac of Crowland: Celebrating 1300 Years’, University of London, Institute of English Studies, April 2015.

‘Silvan landscapes and the birth of modern European economies’, Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Würzburg English Language Programme public lecture, June 2015.

‘Woodlanders: European perspectives on “half our history”’, University of Würzburg, Philosophy Faculty, departmental public lecture, June 27 2015.

‘European forests: A common pool resource rediscovered’, International Forests Conference, Research Centre of the University of Würzburg Archaeological Spessart-Project/Institute, Flörsbachtal-Lohrhaupten, June 28-29 2015.

‘Seeds of sanctity: Constantine’s city and civic honouring of his mother Helena’, Niš and Byzantium. Fourteenth Symposium, University of Niš, June 3-5 2015.

‘What’s going on over the German Ocean? Europe past and present in the light of the UK referendum’, public lecture, Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Würzburg English Language Programme, June 13 2015.

‘Magna Carta, June, 1215: What have forests to do with freedom?’ Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Philosophy Faculty, departmental public lecture, June 20 2015.

‘Mapping episcopal forests’, ‘Princes of the Church and their Palaces’ conference, University of Durham, June 30-July 4 2015.

Mark Page

‘A History of Nuffield Parish, Oxfordshire’, to The National Trust, Nuffield Place Aug 2014.

‘Hampshire’s Medieval Landscape in Context’, to Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society, Winchester, Nov 2014.

Sylvia Pinches

'Anglesey Almshouses – how Welsh were they?', Locality and Region Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, 27 January 2015.

Julian Pooley

'"The Very Nerves, Sinews and Vitality of Local History": John Nichols and the History of Leicestershire, 1775-1815' Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, 16 Oct 2014.

' "A Laborious and Truly Useful Gentleman": Mapping the Networks of John Nichols (1745-1826), Printer, Antiquary and Biographer', at 'Networks of Improvement: British Literary Clubs and Societies, c.1760-1840' Conference, Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies, University of York, 13-14 Mar 2015.

'Discovering an Archive of Local History: The Papers of the Nichols Family of Printers and Antiquaries 1745-1873' St Albans & Hertfordshire Archaeological Society 27 March 2015.

'Joyous to a pitch of Bacchanalian Vivacity'. John Nichols as bon viveur, good company and historian of Leicestershire. A talk at a dinner to celebrate the bicentenary of the completion of John Nichols' History and Antiquities of Leicestershire hosted by Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, 15 May 2015.

Kate Tiller

'Remembrance and Community', IHR Summer School in Local History 2015.

'Priests and people: changing relationships in south Oxfordshire, 1820-1920', Berkshire Local History Association annual conference, Reading, 14 March 2015.

'The Great War at Home', Buckinghamshire Local History Network annual conference, Buckingham 2014.

'Wychwoods Landscapes: past and present', Wychwoods Project, annual meeting, 2014.

Dr Andy Hopper made an appearance on the civil war episode of the BBC's *The Pubs that Built Britain*, with the Hairy Bikers in the Black Bull, Otley.



Richard Jones has had a more mixed media exposure. He says, ‘readers of the *Newsletter* might be interested in the press coverage (not altogether favourable!) of my DNA sampling in Normandy and a couple of TV clips’:

The Guardian:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/16/hunt-for-viking-dna-among-normandy-residents-riles-anti-racism-activists>

The Independent:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/hunt-for-viking-dna-in-normandy-riles-antiracism-campaigners-who-fear-the-results-could-contribute-to-increasing-xenophobia-in-france-10327258.html>

France 3:

<http://api.dmcloud.net/player/pubpage/4f3d114d94a6f66945000325/558044eb06361d2e09cf887f/efca7a6ab272473498bf27babca0e7a2?wmode=transparent&chromeless=0&autoplay=1>

BFM TV:

<http://www.bfmtv.com/mediaplayer/video/les-normands-sont-ils-des-vikings-qui-s-ignent-563107.html>

Prizes, Awards and Grants

Grants

Dr Andrew Hopper

Grant from the Wolfson Foundation for a Wolfson Research Centre into Care, Medicine and Military Welfare during the British Civil Wars, based in the National Civil War Centre at Newark Museum - £64,000.

Successful M3C PhD studentship application for Stewart Beale - £52,878.

The Thaxted Society Studentship for the MA in English Local history and Family History, 2015/16 - £8,000.

Conference grant for ‘Mortality, Care and Military Welfare in the British Civil Wars’, at Newark, College of Social Sciences, University of Leicester, £5,000.

Dr Graham Jones

The Marc Fitch Fund, Special Research Project additional funding, 2014-2016, St John’s College,

Oxford, ‘Forests and Chases of England and Wales, c. 1000-c. 1850’.

Rovira i Vigili University of Tarragona, Catalan Institute of Classical Archaeology, two-year Visiting Research Associateship, 2014-2016, ‘Diachronic investigations into the pilgrimage cult of Sant Magí and the cultural landscape of Brufaganya’.

Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg, Visiting Lectureship, 2013-.

Elected FSA, 2014.

Harold Fox Award

The first Harold Fox Award was granted to Tracey Jones for her essay, ‘What factors make a particular locality historically distinctive, and by what means might such local history now be studied?’ Space precludes publishing the essay here, but it is hoped to publish it on the Friends’ website.



Tracey Jones congratulated by Noel Tornbohm

McKinley Prize for the best Dissertation

The McKinley Prize for the best dissertation was awarded to Heather Tonge.

Margaret Spufford Prize

The Margaret Spufford Prize was awarded jointly to Nicola Blacklaws and Alexandra Marshall.

Report on the Nichols Archive Project

This year marks the bicentenary of the completion of John Nichols' *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*, a work which consumed over thirty years of Nichols' time and several thousands of pounds of his personal income in travel, paper and commissioned engravings. It eventually ran to over 4,500 pages in eight folio volumes and was one of the largest and most useful of the great Georgian county histories. For James Knight Moor of Sapcote it was the 'most perfect provincial history at present extant', while Joseph Budworth described it as 'a work founded on such stout antiquarian knowledge and research, sound sense, and indefatigable labour that, besides the *depth* of Leicestershire being explored, there is scarcely a county unmentioned, and whose historians must not reap advantage from it.' Two centuries later it remains the foundation for many local studies in Leicestershire - its towns and villages, churches and stately homes, people, religious life, local customs and natural history.

What makes Nichols' county history special is that so much of his correspondence survives. It allows us to see a local historian at work and map the complicated network of friends, local experts, landowners, lawyers and parish officials who were caught up in his project and able to contribute to it. The Nichols Archive Project, which is providing a guide to the enormous but scattered archive of John Nichols and his family between 1745 and 1873, has enabled me to chart the history of Nichols' *Leicestershire* and identify nearly 300 people who helped him. I'm using a Microsoft Access database to manage the detailed calendars I am making of each letter and transcripts of diaries, travel journals and library catalogues. The 15,000 items now on this database enabled me to prepare a detailed talk about Nichols' achievement for Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society last October, contribute to Caroline Wessel's fascinating publication, *Nichols' History of Leicestershire, a bi-centenary celebration 2015* and give an after-dinner speech for the LAHS's

Bicentenary Celebration Dinner held at the Leicester City Rooms in May. The menu was based upon a feast Nichols had enjoyed with Joseph Cradock at Gumley Hall in 1819, described in a letter which survives in private hands.

Alongside their relevance for Leicestershire's local history, the papers of John Nichols and his family of printers and antiquaries are also a major source for the study of the book trade, of antiquarianism and of lives and letters in Britain in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. As leading London printers and editors of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, they were at the heart of a network of information exchange between local antiquaries, collectors and members of learned societies. In March this year I was invited to contribute a paper on this topic at a conference held at the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies at the University of York, called 'Networks of Improvement: Literary Clubs and Societies, c.1760-c.1840'. I drew upon the archive, the *Gentleman's Magazine* and another of Nichols' extraordinary achievements, his *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century* (also completed in nine volumes in 1815) and its successor, his *Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century (a further eight volumes, completed by his son in 1858)* to show how Nichols was at once a key member of many societies but also a chronicler of their histories and biographer of their leading members. This paper will shortly be published in an issue of the *Journal of Eighteenth Century Studies* devoted to the proceedings of this conference.

The papers of John Nichols are equally useful for research beyond Leicestershire and the achievements of clubs and societies. In March this year the St Albans and Hertfordshire Archaeological and Architectural Society invited me to discuss the Nichols Archive Project at one of their meetings. Nichols was a friend of James Brown (c.1751-1839), an antiquary of Shoreditch and later of St Albans. Nichols printed Brown's *History of Stoke Newington* in 1783 as part of the

Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica, and their correspondence on the Nichols Archive Database is a wonderful source for local historians. Brown provided a huge amount of antiquarian and biographical information for Nichols' works. He contributed fifty-seven biographies to the *Literary Anecdotes* including those of John Barber, an early 18th century printer who was known to Swift; Jabez Hiron, a Dissenting Minister at St Albans, John Bennet Lawes of Rothamsted, Harpenden, William Herbert, printing historian, of Cheshunt and James West, Recorder of St Albans in 1758. I was also able to show how Nichols is a key source for Hertfordshire's early county historians, such as Sir Henry Chauncey, Paul Wright, Nathaniel Salmon, Thomas Blore and Robert Clutterbuck. A number of Clutterbuck's own papers survive in the Nichols archive, including some fascinating material relating to the notorious murder of William Weare by John Thurtell at Radlett in 1823.

The Nichols papers are of wide ranging scholarly interest and in this year I have received enquiries, via the CELH website, relating to the booksellers John Nourse, Thomas Davies, Thomas Harrison and George and William Nicol; George Steevens the Shakespearean scholar; the Basire family of engravers; Thomas Dudley Fosbroke the Gloucestershire antiquary; Anna Laetitia Barbauld the poet and essayist; Richard Gough the antiquary and John Chessel Buckler, the artist and architect. I have also been asked about the Nichols Collection of Newspapers at the Bodleian Library, sixteenth-century poetry known to Nichols through his work on the Elizabethan Progresses, eighteenth century copyright and the links between Beaumont Leys and the Knights Templar. The Nichols Archive Database and the transcripts and research documents linked to it are constantly growing but together they are already proving to be a most useful resource. Although the database is not yet accessible via the internet, anyone is welcome to consult it by appointment with me at Surrey History Centre in Woking.

Julian Pooley

John Nichols Prize

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

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.



JOHN NICHOLS

Recently completed theses

Ian Bailey

'Unifiers and dividers in a North Staffordshire parish: Audley, 1840-1939'

This thesis examines aspects of the history of the ancient parish of Audley between 1840 and 1939 through the concept of 'unifiers and dividers'. This short phrase encapsulates the idea that people are brought together and separated by factors beyond themselves and that individuals actively shape the world around them. Large-scale cultural and economic movements and individual action are entwined and expressed through observable behaviour. The three-word phrase therefore also encompasses change over time, sees human relationships as a process and avoids reified concepts such as 'community'. It is a means of describing changes rather than identifying causes. The focus of the thesis is on microhistory, broadly understood, and the parish of Audley is well suited to this. Over most of the period its mining industry expanded rapidly in several distinct settlements, though in the last two decades that industry declined rapidly. Audley was a semi-industrial, changing and reasonably populous place, of a type not often used in this way. A number of aspects of life are taken as illustrations of the value of the idea of unifiers and dividers. There is consideration of the parish as part of a wider, even international, context as people migrated in and out, while it is recognized that the boundary had practical significance; and it is noted, also, that two people brought up together in the same place, Audley, might live in different and mutually incomprehensible universes. The poor law, friendly societies and the churchyard are given as examples of how life in the parish can illustrate the concept. Finally, there is an exploration of the way catastrophes of varying sizes can initiate unifiers and dividers and also illustrate them in 'ordinary life' before the catastrophe occurred.

Jonathan Duck

'Space, segregation and spirituality': Expressions of meaning and belief in the domestic buildings of southern fenland, Cambridgeshire, c.1500-1700'

My original contribution to knowledge concerns the home, and will show how it was used as a vehicle for the expression of private and individual belief over and above the employment of simple decoration, during a prolonged period of religious and social turmoil by Catholics, Protestants and those in between. The geographical area of study has been chosen for several reasons, not least because of the apparent lack of attention paid to the county by vernacular architectural historians in the recent past which lies, metaphorically, in the shadow of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk, counties which display a fine range and quality of vernacular houses and have duly been pored over by researchers in the last few decades. It is intended to discover how the villagers of the fen edge expressed their religion and what influences popular culture exerted, through the expressions they left upon their homes. These expressions are a single aspect of the lives of our ancestors, but one which has been little studied to date. Whilst there are analyses of specific sorts of expression, for instance of graffiti in East Anglia and wall paintings in the Welsh Marches, there are far fewer studies of an area's collective range of spiritual expressions as witnessed over several hundred years. In order to do this, the research looks at a selection of houses from 13 parishes lying to the north and east of Cambridge. The parameters for research have to an extent set themselves. The houses are all listed by the Government as buildings of special architectural and/or historic interest. They are all intact, were designed as dwellings and remains as such. They range in date from the late fifteenth-century to the start of the eighteenth. They range in status from two bay cottages to gentlemen's farmhouses. An interdisciplinary approach, the analysis considers elements of architectural history, buildings archaeology, art history and social and cultural

history, and employs documentary and micro-historical approaches. The same manifestations and further, documentary evidence is taken from neighbouring counties to reinforce the regional context. There is limited primary evidence for most of the expressions considered here, though the buildings themselves provided plenty of circumstantial evidence, which secondary source material has been employed to support.

The analysis concludes at a time when the gathering pace of the Enlightenment and Palladianism meant broadening horizons through scientific discovery and arguably more formulaic architecture with less emphasis on tradition and more on international style, with the coeval, though not necessarily related, reduction in the expressions of personal belief.

Maureen Harris

‘Schismatical People’: Conflict between Clergy and Laity in Warwickshire, 1660-1720

The clergy were the focus of early modern parish life, yet their often-troubled relationships with parishioners have received little attention from social historians. This thesis offers new evidence by examining the Warwickshire clergy, in the turbulent years between 1660 and the repeal of the ‘Occasional Conformity’ and ‘Schism’ acts, as both victims and perpetrators in clerical/lay conflicts.

Using the ecclesiastical records of Worcester and Lichfield/Coventry, the two dioceses covering Warwickshire, this study has found clerical authority weakened through contempt, and disadvantaged by the Anglican Church’s continued use of medieval methods of ecclesiastical discipline and funding. It has also discovered a strong laity using both legal and subversive tactics to express frustration with the clergy and influence clerical behaviour, by negotiating an acceptable Anglican orthodoxy or by opposing the minister to force his resignation, suspension or deprivation.

Mapping of tithe and non-tithe clerical/lay incidents shows that conflict was more frequent in south-west Warwickshire, particularly in the Hundred of Barlichway, than in the north and east of the county. Strong gentry control decreased the likelihood of clerical/lay disputes while the proximity of grammar schools increased them, and the presence of dissenters in conflicted parishes was of major significance. Catholics in particular, but also Quakers and Presbyterians, participated in disputes. Conversely dissenters were few in parishes without recorded conflict. Warwickshire disputes were more prevalent than in the often dispersed settlements of York diocese, and violent hostility towards Warwickshire clergy and their families was greater in 1690 to 1720 than in 1660 to 1689. This study of clergy-centred conflict finds rare examples of harmony in a society of institutionalized informing and malicious intent, and sees frequent clerical/lay antagonism as part of a continuous narrative of religious ‘schism’ from before the civil wars, through the seventeenth century to the present day.

Michael Wallace Heaton

‘English interwar farming: a study of the financial outcomes of individual farms, 1919-1939’

The interwar years were particularly harsh for the farming community. The big upsurge of prices during the Great War was quickly reversed in 1920-1921. Government considered the plight of farming in 1923 but, when this improved, continued laissez-faire policies throughout the 1920s. However, they became interventionist in 1932-1933, first with subsidies for wheat and then later with cattle and other grain products.

There is scant research into the profitability of the different branches of farming. While there is reasonable historiography for the 1920s, there is very little detailed information about the fortunes of farming in the 1930s, a gap which this thesis has filled. This study is based on 35 studies of

profitability of individual farming operations, and it uniquely offers an insight into the *minutiae* of farming in the interwar years. Apart from identifying individual trends of the components of arable and livestock farming, it also evidences benefits of specialisation or competitive edge where these were found.

After the price adjustment of 1920-1921, mixed farming was the first to become unprofitable due to increasing imports from major grain producing countries. Cattle were the next to come under pressure from the Meat Trusts of North America. Milk had its problems too, so no sector was immune during the study period. The 1930s were almost universally harsh for farming, with the exception of cattle grazing in the second half of that decade. Where in earlier times there may have been a greater degree of commonality of outcomes with mixed farming at the fore, this later period saw a divergence in farmers' fortunes, which this thesis articulates.

MA Dissertations 2014-15

Nicola Blacklaws

'Outdoor relief in Blaby poor law union, Leicestershire c.1916 – c.1926'

There are two key neglected areas in poor law historiography. The first is the nature of outdoor relief after 1834; the second is the twentieth century poor law. This study examines both these issues through the prism of Blaby poor law union in Leicestershire, using as a foundation a sample of outdoor relief lists and guardians' minute books from two chosen years, 1916 and 1926. Outdoor relief was consistently preferred over indoor relief in the union, but numbers of outdoor relief receivers and workhouse inmates were subject to fluctuation caused by a variety of different factors. These included the advent of military conscription, the development of liberal

welfare reforms, and the changing role of the workhouse. An assessment is made of the types of families who received outdoor relief, which demonstrates that women, particularly lone women, received outdoor relief in the greatest numbers, due to a complex set of factors not least of which was the relationship between poverty and the life-cycle. An attempt is made to gain an idea of the occupations of outdoor relief receivers, and it is suggested that while workhouse inmates were more likely to have been employed in agriculture, those on outdoor relief were more likely to be workers in the footwear or hosiery industries. The continued importance of settlement in the twentieth century is also acknowledged. Finally, the nature and extent of the relief itself is examined, exploring the amount of relief given to different family types, the generosity of that relief and the continued although relatively infrequent use of relief in kind. This reveals guardians who were flexible with relief provision, taking into account individual circumstances. An awareness of the impact of regional and national developments on the implementation of the poor law at a local level informs discussion throughout the study.

Celia Cotton

'Black Roods, Rang Back and Dob Headland: a study of Thrussington field-names'

This study takes the English Place-Name Society's entry for Thrussington, Leicestershire, published in 2004, with the aim of finding additional field and minor names, then creating maps showing the pre- and post-enclosure landscapes. Neither enclosure nor tithe maps survive, therefore an extensive range of sources have been used to determine the location of fields and then the earlier open-field furlongs. Four principal sources made this possible: a strip-by-strip survey of the three open fields and meadows made in 1789 prior to enclosure; a valuation of Thrussington lordship in 1837; glebe terriers spanning 1601 to 1708; and farm sales and tenancy agreements from the nineteenth and

twentieth centuries. Geology, soil quality, an earthwork survey, lidar, maps and archaeological finds are also drawn upon to build a broader picture of Thrussington's setting, its head lying in the Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire wolds and its base in the Wreake valley. It was not certain at the outset whether mapping the fields described in 1837 would be feasible, but by integrating data from these sources two maps have been created, allowing the study of names within their landscape setting as per the Leicester approach.

Field-name and field system studies have been valuable secondary sources, particularly those covering places within the Danelaw and the central province of England, and techniques used in these have been adopted. The earlier history of Thrussington's land is also researched: this includes the manor based around Thrussington Grange, originally held by the wholly English Gilbertine order of Sempringham, Lincolnshire. Finally, evidence is sought (and found) of a regular tenurial order, indicative of a laying out of the open field strips prior to 1200; this may be the first example found in Leicestershire.

Peter Hammond

[Title not supplied]

The study attempts to explore the effect on the rural communities of north-west Leicestershire of transportation communication improvements, agricultural change and rural industrial development between 1750 and 1800. During this period an extensive turnpike system was created across Leicestershire and the river Soar made navigable from the river Trent to Leicester, which allowed improved communications for both commercial traffic and personal travel between the east-midland towns and also Leicester to its markets towns. Parliamentary enclosure was awarded to several north-west parishes during this time and framework-knitting, already established across the region, developed. A barometer of change in a community can often be measured by

the increase or decline of its populace. One means of measurement is the marriage rate and marriage horizon of its populace. From an initial regional study to determine marriage rate and horizons, the communities of Long Whatton, Kegworth and Lockington were selected to determine the effect of improvement during the study period. Evidence was sourced from parish marriage and baptism registers, parliamentary enclosure awards, Land Tax records, Leicester Freeman records, poor rate evidence, Probate records, secondary evidence and field study. The research indicated communities were subject to substantial social and economic change, assisted by an improved transport communication system, which supplied the means to develop change. During a period of both agricultural and industrial innovation, new skills were required and population change occurred. The movement of people, indicated by marriage horizons generally diminished after agricultural change, but an imbalance of gender was a constant presence during the period and extra-parochial marriage increased for some communities.

Alexandra Marshall

'The Psyche of the Landowner and the Development of the Country House Estate: An Examination of the Woodland and Avenues at Boughton House, 1700-1750'

Taking Boughton House and John, 2nd Duke of Montagu as its case study, this thesis aims to analyse how the actions of the landowner affected the development of the country house estate. Using records such as correspondence, accounts, plans and audit minutes it endeavours to explore the manifestation of Duke John's personality in the management of the estate and the rural communities around the house. Focus has been particularly given to woodland and avenues because they are a useful medium through which to explore development. The thesis will assert the significance of an efficient managerial structure, but will argue that Duke John was involved in

every aspect of his estate. It will analyse the decision to use the woodlands for commercial forestry, rather than for hunting, and note the difficulties of using the forest to stock deer and timber. The social bond between Duke John and his tenants will be studied in relation to issues of common right and enclosure. The continuing significance of common right to many will be contrasted to Duke's John's desire to protect his forest resources from the acts of poaching and stealing. Finally, this thesis will examine the motivations behind the development of an extensive avenue scheme, exploring some of the more under-represented aspects of Duke John's personality. Findings will be placed in the context of the eighteenth century, by contending that economic circumstances, social conditions and cultural assumptions were significant influences on the Duke's actions. Ultimately it will be contended that the Duke's compassion, meticulous nature, passion for planting and his financial needs were significant factors in the management of woodlands and avenues between 1700 and 1750.

Jack Riley

'Holmfirth: a study in regional and local identity and community'

This dissertation is a study of local identity and community in Holmfirth in West Yorkshire, it aims to assess the development and changing nature of the community over the last 10 years and assess the extent to which a local identity and community still exists in the area. A secondary objective is to try and understand the effect the long running television show 'Last of the Summer Wine' has had on local community, and the local area. Through the use of oral history conducted by the author and an analysis of several episodes of 'Last of the Summer Wine', it is hoped that through a joint analysis of these sources and secondary literature, the profound effect that the program has had the creation of new communities and the decline of traditional communities and

institutions of community in the local area will be revealed, through the analysis of three main areas: angles of view, community and identity and matriarchy and family. It can be shown that the program has acted as an alternate history for the local area that diverges from the reality often areas history and has influenced the creation of community and changed the nature of rural and village life indirectly and directly in the local area.

David Robinson

Title and abstract not supplied

Ann Spiers

Title and abstract not supplied

Jamie Taylor

Title and abstract not supplied

Heather Tonge

Title and abstract not supplied

If any of the above graduates would like to let me have the details, they can be included in included in next year's Newsletter. Current students, once you have been told you have your MA, please send your title and abstract to the Editor.



'I get slightly obsessive about working in archives because you don't know what you're going to find. In fact, you don't know what you are looking for until you find it.'

Anthony Beevor, military historian,
The Independent, 20 April 2014



50 Years of the M.A. in English Local History

Next year, 2016, sees the 50th anniversary of the start of the M.A. course. (Before anyone points out that we said 2015 previously, that was because the course was given the go-ahead in 1965, but did not commence until 1966.)

We would really like to make contact with as many past students as possible, to obtain their recollections of the course, and, hopefully, to get the odd photograph of their time at ELH. We have had a good response so far, but still only a tiny proportion of those we would like to hear from. Arrangements have also been made to carry out oral history interviews with three or four former students. Please don't feel that your input isn't valid – we want to hear from everybody, whether they graduated in 1969 or 2015.

The Friends have set up a new web site (www.anniversary.englishlocalhistory.org) onto which a history of the department/centre will be added, along with students' memories of their time here; hopefully excerpts from the oral histories will also be included. Provided that we receive sufficient information, then we would also like to produce a commemorative booklet.

We also aim to compile a list of 100 places which an English (or Welsh) local historian should visit. We would like your responses to this too – just 400 words and a photo you have taken.

All of this work is being carried out jointly by the Friends and the Centre, and the project is being led by our secretary, Robert Mee. Please help us to make this a success. Robert can be contacted via the Centre, or by email on rm421@le.ac.uk.



'Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man'

Francis Bacon, *Essays*, 'On Study'.



'After Margaret Spufford' Roehampton, 19-20 June 2015

This two-day conference, to celebrate the legacy and achievement of Margaret Spufford who died in March 2014, was held in the university that recognised her with a Chair in Social and Local History. The warmth with which she was remembered by the colleagues, friends and former students who delivered papers spoke eloquently of her enthusiasm, determination, scholarship and support. Bill Sheils remarked on her capacity for asking 'left-field' questions and pushing scholarship in new directions and Peter Edwards, 'nagged' by Margaret to produce a survey of Surrey farming, recalled that it was 'Inadvisable to say "No"' to her'!

Proceedings began with a tribute by her husband, Professor Peter Spufford, recalling the themes with which Margaret began and ended her academic career: probate inventories, the Hearth Tax and the agricultural history of local communities to explore how people lived and worked; education, religion and popular literature, and clothing to discover what they read and believed and wore. She believed in the detailed study of ordinary people, with samples of not less than 100 and an essential attention to 'context', of what was normal or abnormal in that community. To encourage new scholars she set up Prize Funds for the best MAs at Newman College, Lucy Cavendish and the University of Leicester. Peter Spufford presented a cheque to Roehampton for a similar Fund to be set up there in Margaret's memory.

Papers were given by colleagues and former students, and touched upon the many subjects which Margaret researched over her long career: wealth and poverty reflected in the Hearth Tax, Tudor prosopography, family budgets, debt and credit, economic history from probate accounts, religion and community, marginal people and clothing.

For a set of abstracts of the papers, see <http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/Research-Centres/Centre-for-Hearth-Tax-Research/After-Margaret-Spufford/>

THE FRIENDS

Publications by Friends

Elizabeth Allan

Chepyng Walden. A Late Medieval Small Town. Saffron Walden 1438-1490 (Saffron Walden Historical Society Publications, 2015).

Celia Cotton

‘Beating the bounds in Brentford’, *Brentford and Chiswick Local History Journal*, 22 (2013), pp. 7-22. (Shortlisted for BALH award for short article, 2014).

Ron Cox

The Happiest Days... Life as seen through Croydon Log Books (2014, Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society),

Hubertus Drobner

‘La Passio de san Vicente de Zaragoza según las prédicas de Agustín en el día de la fiesta (sermones 4; 274-277A; 359B)’ *Augustinus* 59 (2014) 17-45.

Augustiniana Coloniensia. Zwei neu identifizierte Augustinuspredigten in Codex Köln Dom 70: *Enarratio in Psalmum* 70/2,6-9 und *Sermo* 135,6-8: Heinz FINGER / Harald HORST (eds), *Mittelalterliche Handschriften der Kölner Dombibliothek. Fünftes Symposion der Diözesan- und Dombibliothek Köln zu den Dom-Manuskripten* (30. November bis 1. Dezember 2012) (= *Libelli Rhenani* 51), Cologne 2014, 69-101.

(With Karl HENGST) ‘Die Professoren und die Leitung der *Academia Theodoriana* 1647-2014’, Josef MEYER ZU SCHLOCHTERN (ed.), *Die Academia Theodoriana. Von der Jesuitenuniversität zur Theologischen Fakultät Paderborn*, Paderborn 2014, 541-576.

(With Karl HENGST) ‘Die Promotionen und Habilitationen der *Academia Theodoriana* 1617-2014’ Josef MEYER ZU SCHLOCHTERN (ed.), *Die Academia Theodoriana. Von der Jesuitenuniversität zur Theologischen Fakultät Paderborn*, Paderborn 2014, 581-604.

(With Ernst DASSMANN) ‘Baptism II. Iconography’ *Encyclopedia of Ancient*

Christianity, ed. Angelo DI BERARDINO et al., vol. 1, Downers Grove/IL 2014, 322-324.

‘Cologne’, *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*, ed. Angelo DI BERARDINO et al., vol. 1, Downers Grove/IL 2014, 570-572.

‘Easter Homilies’, *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*, ed. Angelo DI BERARDINO et al., vol. 1, Downers Grove/IL 2014, 764-766.

‘Germany’ *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*, ed. Angelo DI BERARDINO et al., vol. 2, Downers Grove/IL 2014, 127-132.

‘Mid-Pentecost’, *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*, ed. Angelo DI BERARDINO et al., vol. 2, Downers Grove/IL 2014, 798.

(With Ernst DASSMANN) ‘Paul, apostle II. Paulinism’, *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*, ed. Angelo DI BERARDINO et al., vol. 3, Downers Grove/IL 2014, 99-101.

(With Ernst DASSMANN) ‘Penance II. Iconography and epigraphy’, *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*, ed. Angelo DI BERARDINO et al., vol. 3, Downers Grove/IL 2014, 134-136.

‘Philosophy and Ancient Christianity’, *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*, ed. Angelo DI BERARDINO et al., vol. 3, Downers Grove/IL 2014, 176-178.

(With Vinzenzo LOI) ‘Providence’, *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity*, ed. Angelo DI BERARDINO et al., vol. 3, Downers Grove/IL 2014, 339-341.

‘Gregory of Nyssa’, *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* 10 (2015) 933-937.

Helen Gristwood

‘Puerperal Insanity in Brookwood Asylum 1867 – 1900’, *Surrey History* X111 (2014), pp. 28-37.

Kenneth Hillier,

"Lest We Forget": In Memory of the Fallen in the Great War, North West Leicestershire (Ashby de la Zouch Museum 2015).

Elias Kupfermann

Royal Windsor, Images of a Bygone Age (Windsor, 2014).

Muriel Paterson

'Sir Nathan Wright (1653-1721), Recorder of Leicester and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal: A re-appraisal.' *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* 89 (2015), pp. 205-22.

Peter G. Scott

By Train to Bentley Priory: The Harrow & Stanmore Railway, Hartest Productions (2014).

C. Starr

Medieval Lawyer (Colchester, Essex Society for Archaeology and History, 2014), 80pp.

Mike Thornton

'"Feloniously slain": murder and village society in fourteenth-century Northamptonshire', *Northamptonshire Past and Present* 67 (2014), p.46.

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:

Congratulations to Friends

Hubertus Drobner has received two academic honours: Doctor of Divinity from the University of Oxford (28 September 2014) and Honorary Professor of the Catholic University of Australia (20 November 2014)

On Tuesday 21 July the University of Sheffield conferred the honorary degree of Doctorate of Letters (Litt.D) on Emeritus **Professor David Hey** in recognition of his 'distinguished career in the field of local and family history'. David's connections with the Centre for English Local History at Leicester go back to 1965, when he was awarded the John Nichols Prize. He became a part-time MA and then PhD student of William Hoskins and Alan Everitt and from 1969 to 1973 he was Research Fellow in Agrarian History at Leicester, before moving to Sheffield. He is currently President of the British Association for Local History and the Chairman of the British Record Society.

Current MA student Liz Round has won *The Local Historian* prize and her essay will be published in a forthcoming issue of the magazine.



Friends' Occasional Papers

Enquiries to: Publications, 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*.

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.

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.

Warwick Outing, September 2014

On Saturday, 13th September 2014, a group of the Friends visited Warwick for a day organised by Sylvia Pinches. We gathered together in the Great Hall of the medieval Lord Leycester Hospital, a rest home for retired service people. After coffee Sylvia Pinches gave an introductory talk on the history of Warwick. We learned that the Anglo-Saxons had developed a *burh* here, on the River Avon, in the ninth century. The Normans then built the castle in 1068 and this was to remain a dominant feature of the town to the present day, when it is a major tourist attraction. The medieval town was also surrounded by a wall which has gone, but two gateways survive. In the medieval period and later, the Earls of Warwick held the castle and were very influential both locally and nationally.

In 1694 a considerable part of the town was destroyed by fire so that today one can see a pleasing mixture of medieval and Georgian buildings. Warwick was never an important industrial centre, being overshadowed in this respect by Coventry and Birmingham. The adjacent town of Leamington Spa also became a more fashionable tourist destination. As a result this county town of Warwickshire has a surprisingly small population.



We were then introduced to the Master of the Lord Leycester Hospital who took us on an entertaining tour of the buildings. He pointed out

that the institution had never been a hospital in the modern sense. It had been the meeting place of medieval guilds for 200 years and today included the superbly timbered Guildhall, built by Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, in 1450. The buildings include the fourteenth-century chapel, built on top of the West Gate of the town. During the sixteenth century Thomas Oken, Master of the Guilds, had the foresight to transfer ownership of the property to the Burgesses of Warwick and it thus escaped the attentions of Henry VIII.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth I the patronage of the site was conferred upon the Queen's favourite Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and he converted it into a home for ex-soldiers, called brethren, and their wives. There were originally 12 brethren with a warden, but today there are only eight with a warden as there is not enough room on the site to house more. The brethren still dress in traditional uniform for morning service from Tuesday to Friday in the chapel, which has no heating or electricity. At the back of the Master's house is a secluded garden, partly ornamental, but also used to provide fruit and vegetables for the residents. During our visit we had the added bonus of the unexpected arrival of the Bishop of Coventry, dressed in cycling kit, including shorts and helmet.

After the tour of the 'Hospital' we had free time to wander around the town. Several Friends had lunch in the tea room at Lord Leycester Hospital, where there is Robert Dudley's will in a frame on the wall. He signed his title as 'Leycester', hence the use of this spelling today.

In the afternoon our first visit was to the splendid St Mary's Church, where we divided into two groups for guided tours. The church was partly damaged by the fire of 1694, so the nave and the impressive tower date from around 1700. The eastern end of the church escaped the fire and much medieval building survived, including the Beauchamp Chapel. Here, beneath the vaulted roof, is the tomb of Richard Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, who died in 1439. Two later tombs are

those of Ambrose Dudley Earl of Warwick and his younger brother Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester, mentioned above.

Our final visit was to Hill Close Gardens where we had tea and cake before Sylvia Pinches took us on a guided tour of the site. In Victorian times these hedged and walled plots were used as places of relaxation by people living nearby in the crowded town. In the twentieth century they had become dilapidated and in the 1990s there were plans to build on the site. However through the efforts of local people the gardens have been saved from destruction and they and several attractive summerhouses have now been restored to their former glory. In 2007 they were opened to the public. At the end of the day Sylvia Pinches was thanked for providing such a varied and interesting day out.

Alan Fox.



Doorway in Hill Close Gardens

The Local History of the Family Conference 22 November 2014

On a grey Saturday in November some 50 people had a most enlightening day. As usual with conferences organised by the Friends, the day combined stimulating academic papers, tasty food supplied by the committee, and an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. The following gives a brief overview of the speakers and their papers. Prof. Peter Spufford took the opportunity of the conference to announce the establishment of a prize in honour of his late wife Margaret Spufford, to be awarded for the best MA dissertation.

Prof David Hey

David Hey is Emeritus Professor of Local and Family History at the University of Sheffield. Having been awarded the John Nichols Prize in the (then) Department of English Local History at the University of Leicester he did a part-time MA and a PhD, supervised by William Hoskins and Alan Everitt and examined by Herbert Finberg and Joan Thirsk, and between 1969 and 1973 he was Research Fellow in Agrarian History here, so he has sound claims to be a product of the 'Leicester School' of English Local History.

'Surnames and Family History'

The study of surnames was once the preserve of the specialist in old languages, but it is now clear that a multi-disciplinary approach that uses the techniques of family and local historians and those of the geneticist are essential for a true understanding of the origins and spread of surnames. These techniques have been pioneered at the University of Leicester.

One of the greatest advances in the study of surnames has been through mapping their distributions at various points of time, starting with Stephen Archer's maps from the 1881 national census, and working backwards through the hearth tax returns of the 1660s and '70s to the poll tax returns of 1377-81. The painstaking methods of the family historian are essential in proving links. They can establish whereabouts a surname was formed, or they can at least demonstrate that a distinctive name was confined to a particular locality in the late Middle Ages or by the beginnings of parish registration in the sixteenth century.

Pinpointing the origin of a name is a rewarding task in itself, but surname distributions have a wider use in the general study of population history. In particular, they show that although people commonly moved from their native parishes, their movements were largely confined to the surrounding neighbourhood, which they thought of as their 'country'. The attraction of London was the one great exemption to this general rule. Distribution maps of surnames help us to identify these 'countries'. In so doing, they further the general study of English Local History.

Dr Turi King

Turi King read Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge and specialised in Biological Anthropology. She then got a scholarship to read for an MSc in Molecular Genetics and graduated with distinction. She then got a Wellcome Trust Prize Studentship to work on the link between surnames and the Y chromosome for her PhD and her work has revolved around genetic genealogy and ancestry ever since. She has worked on projects tracing the genetic legacy of the Vikings in the north of England though this has got rather waylaid by the work on Richard III.

'What is a name? The link between genetics and genealogy'

Dr Turi King spoke about her work examining the link between surnames and the Y chromosome, how surnames can be used as a way to tease out the genetic legacy of the Vikings and discuss some famous cases where genetic genealogy has helped solve the puzzle.

Prof. Phil Batman

Phil Batman retired as a pathologist in 2013 in order to further his studies of Victorian families. His MA Dissertation at Leicester explored the effects of enclosure of the fields on core families in two rural Yorkshire parishes. His PhD thesis is looking at the effects of immigration on core families in York and Swaledale in the nineteenth century. His presentation today summarised his MA work.

'Divergent Paths: The Destiny of Rural Kinship Families after Enclosure of the Fields'

The village of the nineteenth century provided itself with employment and marriage partners. Core families in the village lived in kinships over several generations. This paper shows a method

of estimating the density of these families over time. The number of surnames of adults at several censuses, and of fathers from baptismal registers, was assessed in relation to the total population. A parish with few surnames contains a relatively large number of kinship families; by contrast, a parish with a large number of surnames contains relatively few kinship families. A falling surname index over time implies the growth of kinship families, and a rising surname index over time the influx of isolated families.

This is applied to two parishes near York, which are shown to have divergent patterns of family behaviour. The two parishes chosen for comparison were Bolton Percy and Poppleton. Enclosure favoured the gentry in Bolton Percy, and the smaller landowner in Poppleton. The surname indices of Poppleton tended to fall over the nineteenth century. The indices of Bolton Percy, however, rose over this period. Kinship families flourished in Poppleton, but floundered in Bolton Percy or left. The success of kinship families in Poppleton may have been generated by enclosure, which had favoured the small landowner. Their failure in Bolton Percy may have had its origins in enclosure, which had favoured the gentry. Enclosure of the fields turned villagers' lives upside down. This talk shows how its effects on rural families could be felt for at least another century.

Anna Brueton

After a career as a government statistician, Anna decided to enrol for an MA in the local history of South West Wales. Intrigued by the lack of any serious investigation of illegitimacy in Wales, she embarked on a doctorate at the Centre for English Local History at Leicester. Her doctorate is nearly complete, but the topic of illegitimacy in Wales is still full of opportunities for further research.

'The living arrangements of illegitimate children in mid-nineteenth century South Wales'

The history of illegitimacy has been much studied in England, Scotland and elsewhere in Europe, but has attracted little attention in Wales. This paper, drawn from a wider study of illegitimacy in the south Wales counties of Carmarthenshire and Glamorgan, looks at the living circumstances of illegitimate children in the mid-nineteenth century in domestic and institutional settings, using material from census, parish and poor law

records. Examination of poor law records shows that there were marked differences between south Wales and England in patterns of provision for illegitimate children and their mothers. An investigation of illegitimate children living in the community, linking baptism and census records, demonstrates the importance of kin in providing support for illegitimate children, echoing the findings of research elsewhere in Britain.

John Herson

John Herson was formerly Head of History at Liverpool John Moores University and a Fellow of Liverpool University in the Institute of Irish Studies. He is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at LJMU. By background a geographer and town planner as well as a historian, he has publications in the fields of urban history, transport history and Irish migration studies.

‘Divergent Paths: Family Histories of Irish Emigrants in Stafford, 1820-1920’

The Irish were the largest distinct group of immigrants settling in Britain in the 19th century but there are still many gaps in our knowledge of the Irish experience. Perspectives are dominated by the big cities and industrial areas and by either Catholic Celts or Orange Protestants. The family dimension to Irish life has been almost totally ignored.

This paper discusses a new perspective on the Irish using the methods and resources of family history. It focuses on Stafford in the West Midlands. The original choice of this town was serendipitous. It proved, however, to be an ideal location to test the possibilities of collective family biography in fusing an overall picture of the Irish families with detailed evidence from representative case studies. The paper outlines the definitions of ‘family’, ‘Irish family’ and ‘settled Irish family’ adopted in the research. A family’s initial origin was little guide to its subsequent trajectory. Overall, families diverged in three directions. About one third proved to be *long-term transients* whose settlers or their descendants ultimately left Stafford. Just under one fifth proved to be *terminal* and died out in the town. The remainder were *integrating families* who intermarried and put down deep roots.

The detailed family histories are used to suggest possible causal factors behind these trajectories. Given the time limit in the conference session, the

history of just one family, the Mullarkey/Larkin family, will be outlined to illustrate this and, more generally, the family history approach to the Irish experience. It is suggested that a fruitful synthesis is possible between academic generalisations about the family, popular studies of the genealogy of individual families and wider issues in social history such as, in this case, migration and settlement.

Dr Holly Furneaux

Holly Furneaux is Reader in Victorian Literature at the University of Leicester. She is currently completing an AHRC-funded project called ‘Military Men of Feeling: Masculinity, Emotion and Tactility in the Crimean War’, in which she looks at Victorian fiction and art as well as soldiers’ letters, journals, craft work and souvenirs. The project is in partnership with the National Army Museum, which has the UK’s largest Crimean War archive.

‘“They Shall Not Take My Child”’: The Boy Captain and Familial Feeling in the Crimean Campaign’

This paper focuses on the life and death of ‘the boy captain’, Audley Lempriere, to explore the intensity of familial feeling among mid-Victorian soldiers. Lempriere, a small Officer aged 18 when he joined the Crimean campaign in 1854, was widely known as the ‘child’ of the 77th Regiment; he was described by war photographer Roger Fenton as ‘very young and very minute’. When Lempriere was shot in an attack on the Russian rifle pits his commanding officer lifted his small body from the field shouting ‘They shall not take my child’. This paper explores the powerful, emotive accounts circulated about this event, and considers the potency of domestic and familial narratives for both military men and civilians in navigating loss, grief and condolence. It draws upon previously unstudied archival materials including Audley Lempriere’s substantial war correspondence, and memorial albums compiled by his sister and his aunt. These albums incorporate letters, memorial objects, and eulogistic poetry that was sent to Lempriere’s family in Hampshire by soldiers of all ranks who expressed their kinship with this charismatic young man. I put this example in the context of wider familial feeling in the British Army, considering men like Colonel ‘Daddy’ Unett, who also died heroically in the Crimean war and was widely mourned as a lost father.

There has been some attention to the experience of “maternal” feeling and care between soldiers in the absence of women, and the incorporation of supposedly feminine qualities into male behaviour in wartime. This paper will argue that bonds between fathers and sons also provided a rich emotional vocabulary through which feeling amongst soldiers could be understood and described. This is, perhaps, at variance with what we expect of Victorian masculinity. Male gendered domestic ideals of the caring daddy and beloved son provided sufficiently emotionally expansive models through which to express the desire to nurture, showing that care could be imagined in masculine terms.

Dr Andrew Gritt

Andy Gritt has recently taken up the post of Academic Courses Manager for history and heritage at Nottingham Trent University, following many years as Director of the Institute of Local and Family History. He has spent many years teaching and researching in the areas of British local and family history, and is supervising a number of postgraduate students who are utilising family history techniques within their research. Andy has published widely on British rural history, and is currently combining an ongoing interest in that area with research on the New Poor Law in the north of England.

‘The Value of Family History to Local History’

Academic historians have been using microhistorical techniques for several decades as a way of casting light on complex historical problems. However, while some microhistories use nominal record linkage that would not be unfamiliar to genealogists as a means of understanding the dynamics of life histories, the links between academic microhistory and popular family history are not as strong as they might be. One bridge between these two approaches might be local history. Family history, though limited, provides a route into understanding how communities functioned and the connections and tensions within them. Using examples drawn from a variety of research areas, this paper will explore some of the links between family history and local history, discussing some of the research potential of family history techniques applied to a variety of local history topics.

Launch of Chepyng Walden

Elizabeth Allan began her academic career with a degree in Geography, but went on after working in town planning to do an MA and a in the Centre for English Local History. Her PhD thesis on fifteenth-century Saffron Walden (2011) was noticed by the well-organised Saffron Walden Historical Society. They approached her and offered to publish a book based on the thesis, and this project came to fruition with a launch held in Saffron Walden on 24 June 2015. Under the title *Chepyng Walden: a late medieval small town, Saffron Walden 1438-1490*. The book is sumptuously produced with numerous illustrations, and is being sold for the very attractive price of £10. The book covers quite a short period because the town is exceptionally well documented, with a full series of court rolls, gild records, wills and much else. The wealth of information allows Elizabeth to explore a wide range of themes such as economy, society, government, building, women and religion. In the best ELH traditions it shows how the town fitted into its region, at the point where Essex, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire meet. The book’s title reflects the importance of saffron cultivation and trade, which led soon after the period covered by the book to the adoption of the name Saffron Walden, but the Historical Society was anxious that the book should carry the town’s fifteenth-century name of Chipping Walden, reflecting its role as a centre of local trade. Liz Allan points out that in many ways Walden resembles other English towns of modest size, but it has the distinction of being associated with a specialized product, saffron made from the stamens of crocus plants grown in small gardens around the town, and traded as a medicine, dye stuff and condiment. So prominent was saffron in the town’s economy that the new large church, built in the late 15th century, included carvings of crocus flowers in the decoration of its arcades.

On a sunny June evening the book was launched in Walden’s Friends’ Meeting House, with speeches of thanks to the author, the local editor (Jacqueline Cooper) and the designer, after which many of the 60 or so attending adjourned to the Saffron Hotel for refreshments.

Chris Dyer

Annual General 27 November 2014

The quorate meeting accepted the minutes of the previous AGM (18 November 2013). There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

As usual, the Friends have had a busy year with a number of interesting activities. The year 2014 started with the 'Spotlight on the Centre' conference. In June our commemoration of the work of W.G. Hoskins was marked by a splendid presentation by Prof. Chris Dyer on the subject of 'Who Made the English Landscape?', which caused quite a few to question their own previous assumptions. Our Autumn visit was to the charming county and market town of Warwick. [See page 28 Ed.] The final event of our year was only six days ago when we hosted a well-attended conference on the subject of the History of the Family. On this occasion we were introduced to a wide variety of topics, ranging from genetic identification by DNA techniques, Irish settlers in the Midlands and the sentiments of soldiers during the Crimean War.

I am pleased to report that our finances are sound with enough funds to support any applications for bursaries and possible requests from the Centre. This year saw the first award of the Harold Fox Prize for an essay on a subject concerning landscape history.

As I am sure you are all aware, I am retiring as Chairman, as required by the Constitution, although I hope to maintain my interest in the Friends as a committee member, subject, of course, to democratic election! I have enjoyed my five-year term of office and have benefitted greatly from the enthusiastic support of all the hard-working members of the committee, to whom I offer my warmest thanks.

I have also been gratified by meeting so many members of the Friends and encouraged by your support for all our activities. Long may the Friends of the Centre for English Local History flourish!

Frank Galbraith

Treasurer's Report

Ann Schmidt thanked the Independent Examiner, Dr Pam Fisher.

Once again the accounts show a net profit, although this is aided by there being no applications for Student Support in the year 2013-14.

Both subscriptions and donations were slightly up over the previous year, the difference reflecting approximately thirty new members.

The Spotlight Conference produced a profit of £356.75, Hoskins' Day, £271.28 and the Warwick outing £102.60. £393.44 was received as a refund of Gift Aid for the year 2012-13.

As usual, the committee aims to keep expenses as low as possible.

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

Election of Officers and Committee

The following were elected to serve for the following year:

Chairman	Noel Tornbohm
Secretary	Robert Mee
Treasurer	Ann Schmidt
Programme Secretary	Philip Batman
Membership Secretary	Ann Schmidt
Newsletter Editor	Sylvia Pinches
IT Coordinator	Andrew Wager
Committee Member	Amanda de Belin
Committee Member	Katie Bridger
Committee Member	Sarah Gilpin
Committee Member	Frank Galbraith
Committee Member	Anne Stones

Student Representatives: Pam Hargreaves
Kelsey Shea

Centre Representative: Andy Hopper

ACCOUNTS for year ending 30 Sept. 2013-14

Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30th September 2014
General Fund

2013

Receipts

Subscriptions	£2,274.50	£1,877.00
Donations	£289.00	£264.30
Book Sales	£68.70	£291.17
Cirencester trip chqs		£5,265.00
Warwick Trip (banked after year end)	£0.00	£16.50
Publications	£45.50	£276.00
Other events-none		£413.00
Dividends/Interest	£232.58	£489.64
Refund of Gift Aid tax	£393.44	£501.88
Hoskins Day 2014 door & raffle	£5.00	£70.50
Spotlight conference fees	£660.00	£1,040.00 [Landscape Conference]
Total Receipts	<u>£11,157.49</u>	<u>£4,706.58</u>

Payments

Student Support	£0.00	£3,000.00
Hoskins Lecture	£288.04	£56.99
Newsletter (2013)	£388.44	£363.19
Subscription to BALH	£65.00	£58.00
Hoskins 2013	£2.50	233.45
Printing & Publications	£302.92	£181.61
Stationery & postage	£11.33	£80.37
Bowls and cutlery	21.50	56.44
Mugs for Centre (2013-14)	303.36	181.61
Total Payments	<u>£1,383.09</u>	<u>£8,242.63</u>
Deficit/surplus of income over expenditure for the year	£2,583.63	£2,914.86

Opening Funds at 1st October 2013	£24,934.70	£22,019.84
Excess of expenditure over income	<u>£2,583.63</u>	<u>£2,914.86</u>
Closing Funds at 30th September 2014	<u>£27,520.33</u>	<u>£22,019.84</u>

Comprising

Bank Balances

CAF Bank - Gold Account	£989.05	£756.47
Natwest Bank	£18,072.33	£15,719.28
NatWest Investment Account	£0.00	£0.00
	<u>£19,061.38</u>	<u>£16,475.75</u>

Investment Assets at cost

FP CAF UK Equity Fund B Income	£4,278.61	£4,278.61
FP CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income	£4,180.34	£4,180.34
	<u>£27,520.33</u>	<u>£24,934.70</u>

Market value of investments

FP CAF UK Equity Fund B Income	£5,604.81	£5,437.17
FP CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income	£4,239.63	£4,161.51
	<u>£9,844.44</u>	<u>£9,598.68</u>

York Weekend, 10-12 April

The Editor is grateful to Linda Burden Mandy de Belin, Frank Galbraith, Margaret Hawkins for reporting on the various aspects of this splendid weekend at Askham Bryan Agricultural College. Particular thanks go to Phil Batman for making all the arrangements.

Friends who arrived at Askham Bryan in good time on the Friday were welcomed with afternoon tea and a talk by Frank Galbraith on the general area. After dinner in college we had an excellent lecture by Prof Bill Sheil, University of York: 'Slowly and quietly? The Reformation in the countryside: some Yorkshire experiences'. This was followed by a lively discussion, and then by some members sloping off to the local hostelry. Most, though, felt like an early night, after travelling to York and in preparation for a busy day on Saturday.

The visit to York Minster was the first outing of our visit to York. Like most English Cathedrals it is an inspiring sight with soaring pillars and columns. There have been a number of ecclesiastical buildings on this site since 627AD but what we see today was begun in 1230 and finally completed in early 1400's thus showing types of architecture from Early English to Perpendicular. We started our introduction by going into the transepts and admiring the windows. It is said that York Minster contains almost 50% of all medieval stained glass in Britain. Particularly impressive is in the south transept east wall with five lancets depicting four saints (Michael, John the Baptist and William of York together with the Virgin Mary). The north transept west wall has a similar massive presentation.

This was followed by a tour of the remainder of the ground floor which included the octagonal Chapter House, originally the scene of all decision making, before we were led up the very steep and, of course, narrow steps to the bell tower at the west end of the tower. In the south west tower are the fourteen 'change

ringing' bells which are those one hears chiming when services are about to be held or on special occasions and which take a great deal of effort to raise them to the ringing position. In addition there are 24 clarion bells that can be rung by means of a baton keyboard rather the mighty ropes used for the larger versions. The more nibble (or foolhardy) of us then had an exciting walk across an outside open balcony, with marvellous views over the city and over to the Yorkshire Moors, to the north west tower to see the Great Peter bell weighing almost 10 tons which is rung each day at noon. The others had a tour of the nearby Treasurer's House, where we all met for lunch.

We then took the 'land train' to the National Railway Museum. A two-hour guided tour of the National Railway Museum? What's not to love? Well maybe that it wasn't a four-hour tour of the NRM! Highlights included a visit to the workshops - heavy engineering up close: Flying Scotsman's tender and boiler, massive pistons from a class 31 diesel, and a sad little tank engine in need of much TLC. Then a chronological tour of some steam engines, from Rocket (1829) to LMS streamlined Coronation class 'Duchess of Hamilton' (1938), by way of GWR 'City of Truro' (1903) and 'King George V' (1927). We were allowed privileged access to the footplates of the King and the Duchess (much to the envy of some other visitors, whom we kept having to shoo away). I compared the driving positions of both, and came to the firm conclusion that it would have been very difficult to see Jenny Agutter waving her red bloomers in the middle of the line from either vantage point (if you've never seen 'The Railway Children' you will have no idea what I'm on about). We just had time left for a quick browse of the 'Warehouse', which contains rack upon rack of eclectic objects reflecting many aspects of railway history, then came bang up to date viewing the screens of signalling information for York railway station. Then it was time to rejoin the rest of the Friends to re-board the coach - and there was still so much that we hadn't seen!

After a brief interlude to recover from our very busy day in York, it was time for our evening entertainment: a pub meal and a civil war talk. It was a nice pub (Nags Head, Askham Bryan if you are in the locality) and it was busy - dinner took a while to come which was a shame because didn't leave as much time for the talk as was expected. We had been promised a lively talk and we weren't disappointed. Our speaker, Dr Russell Marwood, dressed the part, and had brought along a companion who also dressed the part. The first slide set the tone - it wasn't quite "cavaliers = wrong but wromantic: roundheads = right but repulsive" - but it wasn't far off. Russell himself, despite having ancestors on the royalist side, is now a committed parliamentarian, and belongs to a foot regiment in the English Civil War Society.



There was, of course, some serious content too, and we learned much about the impact of the first civil war on the city of York and the wider area, and particularly the manoeuvrings that led up to the battle of Marston Moor (the battlefield lying just a few miles to the North West). Finally we had a practical demonstration of the clothing and equipment of a civil war soldier. Russell made the point that the two sides were, in fact, very similar in attire and appearance, often relying on a

sash to tell the two armies apart. A small, bone shaped mystery object was passed around for us to guess at its purpose - one person correctly identified it as a hair curler; presumably not just used for archetypal cavalier locks!

Holgate windmill stands in the middle of a mid-twentieth century housing estate, a fate it shares with the tiny, Saxon church of St. John in Escomb, County Durham. Both deserve much better. It is small consolation that Holgate's site has been voted the most attractive traffic island in the country by the UK Roundabout Appreciation Society (no, I'm not joking): it is still a far cry from the small park which its former owner, Elizabeth Gutch, had in mind when she donated the mill to the city of York. In spite of its inauspicious surroundings, this elegant structure, the UK's only example of a double-shuttered, five-sailed tower mill, is an engineering and historical delight. When it was built in 1770, Holgate was only one of twenty mills surrounding the city whereas now it is the only working example remaining. It abounds with stones, chutes, hoppers, bins, rods, beams and cogs, spread over five floors and all working in concert for more than 150 years. The mechanism is complex, even Mickey Mouse, by today's standards. Nevertheless, it works. Grain goes in at one end and flour comes out at the other, and without using a single volt of electricity. Such an operation cannot fail to generate affection. I'd been struck by the same thought when visiting the National Railway Museum on the previous day; modern technology may be far more efficient, but it isn't nearly as much fun.

We then went to Beningborough Hall, where we started with a delightful National Trust Sunday lunch and then had an hour or so to look around the hall and gardens. Some keen group members took the audio guide and did the tour that way, however I did a speedy tour of rooms and paintings as I wanted to spend time looking at the plants for sale and in the library with the books for sale. I did learn though that the hall was created by John Bouchier in the Italianate style after his

grand tour in the early 1700's when he was only 20. He liked the Baroque Churches and Palaces of Rome and after 2 years of studying them he returned to Yorkshire to put his ideas into action. Benningborough Hall has a long term partnership arrangement with the National Portrait Gallery and the collection of portraits feature people who have made and are making British history and culture and the current display is of Royals 'then

and now'. I didn't have much time to see the gardens but I hope you all had time to visit the library and enjoy the books, I restricted myself to only buying three!

After this, the coach returned us to Askham Bryan, we got into our own vehicles and headed for home. The end of another fascinating and enjoyable Friends' weekend.



View of York from the Minster (courtesy of Philip French)



Members of the Friends at the National Railway Museum, York

Hoskins' Day 27 June 2015

Dr Carenza Lewis, Division of Archaeology, University of Cambridge and Director, Access Cambridge Archaeology, **'The power of pits: New evidence for rural settlements from excavations in eastern England'**

Prof. Lewis presented the results of more than 2000 test pit excavations in more than 50 rural settlements in eastern England, ranging widely in land use, settlement form and population level. She presented the results of excavations over her whole career, and mainly from East Anglia with some outlying settlements. The pits had been dug in fens, forests and river valleys, with variable population densities. The sites included nucleated and dispersed settlements, East Anglia representing a mixture of the two.

Contrasting with deserted mediaeval villages, the pits have been placed in small towns and villages still populated in present times. The results build on a body of work already published, including *Interpreting the English Village* and others. The survey began with Time Team's 'Big Dig', which engaged the local communities and the public at large. The 2010 Kibworth project with Michael Wood's *Story of England* was a highlight of the scheme. The same strategy has been employed in eastern England. Some 5000 young people have taken part, with strong community involvement. The test pits are dug one metre square, with a recording of data on a standard proforma. The pits are excavated in 10 cm 'spits', the spoil sieved from each spit, and the finds are kept separate from different levels and areas in the pit. All finds from the pits are kept, and analysed later. Pottery is the most useful evidence from test pits, notably because it doesn't rot but it does change fashion over time.

These test pits have been excavated in as many different places and settlements as possible. The results of the survey are visible on the website, *Access Cambridge Archaeology*, and published as Mediaeval Settlement Research Group publications.

A summary report is published for each village. Prof. Lewis presented her findings from various settlements. Pirton in Hertfordshire is today a nucleated settlement in which 110 pits have now been dug. The pottery is plotted by distribution across the village. There was a Roman settlement clearly towards the north of the village, with a smaller Roman settlement to the south. There was less pottery from the early Anglo-Saxon period, and late Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in central and southern areas but very little in the Roman area. The high Anglo-Saxon period showed widespread pottery distribution, clearly extending as the village expanded. The mid-14th to the mid-16th century revealed fewer pottery sherds. The Black Death evidently depopulated the village, when its pottery diminished. The mid-16th to the early 18th century showed some increase.

Forty pits have been dug in Great Shelford in Cambridgeshire. Roman finds were plotted in the south west of the village, though not as extensive as in Pirton. The mid-9th to the mid-11th century finds showed a small cluster around the church, and the mid-11th to the late 14th century showed a significant increase in pottery. The mid-14th to the mid-16th century showed the post-Black Death contraction, followed by regrowth. Ashwell in Hertfordshire showed a scattering of Roman pottery and few finds from the middle and late Anglo-Saxon periods. The 12th to the 14th century showed the post-Black Death focus of pottery around the church, and then the post mediaeval growth. At Nayland in Suffolk, pottery exploded in the high Anglo-Saxon period with no decline in the late Anglo-Saxon period. Nayland was exceptional in that it did not show the Black Death decline. Sudbury, also in Suffolk, revealed no Roman pottery, but the steady growth of pottery finds in the Anglo-Saxon period. Walberswick in Suffolk reveals scattered Roman material but major changes in the late mediaeval times. Binham in Norfolk was an obvious Roman site. Brooches and other metalware were found here, suggesting a possible site of some significance. There was abundant pottery

in the high Anglo-Saxon period but the Black Death hit the population hard with a collapse in the pottery distribution. Two dispersed settlements have also received attention. Carleton Rode in Norfolk has pottery from scattered farms that have no documented history before the modern period. This community was badly impacted by the Black Death and the settlement then started to concentrate around the church. Clavering in Essex, also a dispersed settlement, showed no pottery in outlying settlements from the post-Black Death period.

Prof. Lewis drew together all these findings into the bigger picture. The maps showed which settlements produced the most Roman finds and clearly central East Anglia was not a Roman stronghold. The overall picture of finds in settlements can be used to relate populations to watersheds, drainage patterns, geology, woodland, ditches and dykes, and the Domesday survey. The Roman and early Anglo-Saxon settlements often coincide. There is a correlation with lower populated villages in Domesday. The high mediaeval distribution shows a central belt of high density. The Black Death shows a central depopulated belt. It's also possible to compare the settlements with deserted mediaeval villages. Most villages show the Black Death depletion, followed by regrowth, although with some exceptions particularly Nayland.

Prof. Lewis' final message was the need to compare these findings with other counties and other areas of England. She plans to extend this work in her new Chair at Lincoln University. Her final point was that this work nicely 'takes the pulse' of communities in exploring population changes in English villages and towns. Pottery sherds uncovered and analysed in English fields and gardens are, of course, an infinite source of research material. Unlike evidence gleaned from documents and deserted mediaeval villages, the insights into English local history gained from simple pieces of pottery will never be exhausted.

Phil Batman, Programme Secretary

As is customary, the lecture was followed by the consumption of tea and cake, accompanied by stimulating conversation and frenzied book buying.



But thou art fire, sacred and hallow'd fire;
And I but earth and clay: should I presume
To wear thy habit, the severe attire
My slender composition might consume.
I am both foul and brittle; much unfit
To deal in holy writ.

Yet I have often seen, by cunning hand
And force of fire, what curious things are
made
Of wretched earth. Where once I scorn'd to
stand,
That earth is fitted by the fire and trade
Of skilful artists, for the boards of those
Who make the bravest shows.

But since those great ones, be they ne'er so
great,
Come from the earth, from whence those
vessels come;
So that at once both feeder, dish and meat
Have one beginning and one final summe:
I do not greatly wonder at the sight,
If earth in earth delight.

George Herbert, 'The Priesthood' stanzas
2-4, (1633)



FRIENDS OF FRIENDS

Leicestershire Record Series

Plans have been laid for some years to correct an omission of the twentieth century: Leicestershire did not form a record society or an historical society when most counties were organizing themselves to publish series of original documents. The excellent publications of the Thoroton Society, or the Lincoln Record Society, or the Northamptonshire Record Society, or the Dugdale Society, to name four neighbouring societies, could only be observed enviously by Leicestershire historians.

Now the planning has borne fruit, and members of English Local History have played an important role in beginning the series. Mark Page, who helped to make a success of the Whittlewood Project, has acted as General Editor, and the ELH graduate Alan Fox has edited the first volume of records of Buckminster. The series could not have begun without the generous patronage of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, which like a number of major county societies around England, has taken the record series under its wing. Additional funding came from the Aurelius Trust.

The first volume, called *Parish Government in a Leicestershire Village. The Buckminster Town Book*, contains the edited text of two manuscripts preserved at Buckminster, the Town Book and Constable's Book, which together cover the period 1665-1813. They show how the parish was governed, and provide many insights into the social history of the period. They relate to one place (or rather the two connected villages of Buckminster and Sewstern), but tell us about a way of life which was widespread in rural England.

Readers of this *Newsletter* can help this deserving project in a number of ways, firstly by buying a copy of the Buckminster book, vol. 1 of the series. The price is modest, especially if the would-be purchaser approaches Chris

Dyer in the Centre. Next you can tell others about the series so that news will travel in the historical community, not just in Leicestershire. And thirdly you must consider editing a volume for the series, or persuading someone else who has a favourite manuscript or archive of papers relating to the county that they would like to edit the source and make it available to the historical world. We have made a good beginning, but we need a continued flow of volumes.

Chris Dyer

Leicestershire VCH – an update

The second year of the Charnwood Roots project has been a busy one. Our focus has been firmly on archival research. Around sixty of our volunteers have been carrying out research for the first three sections of the VCH parish histories for the 24 modern civil parishes that make up the Charnwood Forest area. So far, the volunteers have worked on a variety of themes from geology, topography and demography to manorial history, enclosure, and significant industries in the area such as mining, quarrying, footwear and hosiery. Twenty-three of our volunteers took up the challenge of learning how to read medieval documents. Following a ten-week medieval palaeography course delivered by Volunteer Support Manager, Dr Susan Kilby, a small team are now working through account rolls and charters. There is still plenty of work to do but good progress is being made.

The project has involved more than 400 volunteers since it began two years ago and continues to reach many thousands more through roadshows, schools outreach programmes and family events. Our archaeological work also continues. In April, we began our first landscape survey in Martinshaw Wood, near Ratby. At the end of July, we held our second community dig in Whitwick. This was a wonderful event despite the terrible weather on the second day of the dig!

Obituaries:

Outside Charnwood, although finance is still a major issue we have achieved some significant milestones over the last 12 months. Our first parish history, for Kirby Bellars, written by Friend Alan Fox, has been published online on the VCH website, closely followed by our second full history, for Leire, written by another alumnus of the Centre, Carol Cambers. A parish history of Castle Donington has now been 'peer-reviewed' and after some frantic fund-raising activity will be published as a paperback book in the 'VCH Shorts' series in 2016. That has been written by Michael Lee and Pam Fisher, with lots of help from Centre alumna Delia Richards and others. An article on Countesthorpe schools by undergraduate Emma Roberts will be published in the forthcoming *Leicestershire Historian*, the result of a VCH student project. Parish histories are in progress for Sileby, Loddington, Buckminster/Sewstern and Lutterworth. Local history exhibitions were held during Archaeology Fortnight in Buckminster and Lutterworth, the latter with research and displays by University of Leicester undergraduates as part of our 2015 student county historian programme. Both exhibitions were well attended and have provided us with new contacts and leads. We have also set up Twitter (@LeicsVCHT) and Facebook accounts this year, where you can follow our progress. We are very grateful to all our supporters, donors, volunteers, and those who have helped in other ways to make these achievements possible.

Pam Fisher

Pam Fisher

It is with regret that we record the deaths of the following Friends. Our sincerest condolences go to their families.

Professor Ed Miller

His death and bequest of books to the Centre has been mentioned in the 'Centre Report'.

Christine Draycott

Chris Draycott died on 25 July 2015, aged 73. She had attended a course at Vaughan College in 1983 and then went on to do the MA at CELH. She was a keen supporter of the Friends and served on the committee for many years.

Andy Butler

Andy Butler died on 13 October 2015, a few months after submitting his MA dissertation. He should have graduated this year, but had to delay his final dissertation due to repeated serious health problems. He was also blind, and his sheer determination to complete the MA is testimony to his character – I don't think many of us could do it. He did submit his dissertation, on the destruction of Leicester's professional theatres in the 1950s/60s, a couple of months ago, and (subject to the external examiners) it has been given a distinction, something which, in his usual style, Andy strongly asserted that he did not deserve. Others think otherwise. I had the pleasure to be a support worker for Andy during his dissertation, acting as his "eyes in the record office", a role which took me not only to the Leicestershire County Record Office but also the Victoria and Albert Performing Arts Archive in Olympia. I learned a lot as I went along, and hope that my work helped Andy get to the bottom of a subject which he had been thinking about for years. I shall miss him and his emails.

Robert Mee

Friends' Diary Dates 2015 – 16

Conference: 'The Local History of the Family' Saturday 22nd November 2014

The AGM of the Friends will take place on **Thursday, 19th November at 1.30 p.m**

Spotlight on the Centre: Saturday 27 February 2016, No. 1 Salisbury Road.

Hoskins' Lecture 2015: Saturday 21 May 2016. Prof. Charles Watkins (University of Nottingham) 'Trees and topography: depictions of individual trees in the C18th and C19th'.

Outing: Visit to Leicester Saturday on a Saturday, probably in July 2016

50th Anniversary Conference of the Centre: Sunday 25 September 2016

Seminar Programme 2015-16

All seminars are on Thursdays at 2.15pm in the Seminar Room of No 1 Salisbury Road. You are invited to tea in the Common Room, 5 Salisbury Road, afterwards.

2015

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| Thurs 8 October | Christopher King (Nottingham), Houses and society in an English provincial city: domestic buildings in Norwich, 1350-1660. |
| Thurs 29 October | Andrew Burn (Durham), Surviving the "hard and tedious winter": seasonal work and poverty in seventeenth-century Newcastle upon Tyne. |
| Thurs 5 November | Mark Bailey (UEA), Patterns of migration in late-medieval England. |
| Thurs 19 November | Ian Atherton (Keele), The local commemoration of the English Civil War. |
| Thurs 10 December | Joel Halcomb (UEA), Religious radicalism and the parish in the English Revolution: the case of Norfolk. |

2016

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| Thurs 11 February | Simon Morgan (Leeds Beckett), Dr John Deakin Heaton and the "elusive civic pride" of the Victorian middle class. |
| Thurs 25 February | Stephanie Ward (Cardiff), 'Friends and Fellow-Workers': Emotion, Gender and Class in Working-Class Women's Politics in the Later 1930s. |
| Thurs 3 March | Emily Cockayne (UEA), Randle Holme's Erection. Chester Neighbours 1670-1730. |
| Thurs 17 March | Samantha Williams (Cambridge), Did unmarried parents feel shame, 1576-1900? |
| Thursday 21 April | Bob Trubshaw, What can we ask a gargoyle? Interrogating the first county-wide database of medieval carvings. |

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

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Secretary: Robert Mee, e-mail

Purchase of Friends' Papers:

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

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