

Friends of the Centre for English Local History

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER NUMBER 30 OCTOBER 2017



Dorset Street, Whitechapel, London

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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.

Title page:

Dorset Street, Whitechapel, London c1880

‘... the worst street in London for crime and poverty - a place where you could do as you please ...’

Taken from:

Research Seminar: ‘Dissecting Jack-the-Ripper: An Anatomy of Murder in the Metropolis’

Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Phil Batman



Welcome to your autumnal Newsletter. It looks and feels pretty much the same as last year's, but changes are afoot. Actually, we need your help - read on.

This is my first year in the editorial hot seat. Our retiring editor, Sylvia Pinches, told me *sotto voce* that if nothing else, editing the Newsletter gives you the opportunity of speaking to everybody in the Centre and finding out just what is going on. How right she was!

What I have found is that the Centre is full of optimistic people with positive feelings about the future of history. Everybody is beavering away on their own little corner or facet of English (or Welsh) history, energised by their own notion of Englishness, what makes England England (or Wales Wales). We historians love not only history, but words too. As one of our most illustrious historians (of political history) Sir Winston Churchill once famously said, words are the only things that last forever, and one of the few ways we can delve into our history is by reading and writing words (Winston didn't say the second bit as far as I know). This Newsletter is packed with words emanating from the Centre.

What is just as heartening is the motivation behind all this industry and craftsmanship. I'm reminded of another of England's most famous historians (of natural history) Charles Darwin – he toiled for a lifetime on his theories not because he was told to do it, or because he would make his fortune, or gain influence or power – but because he had bees in his bonnet and ideas occurred to him. His maxim was 'It's dogged as does it'. He

couldn't help but toil. Could the same be said of our endeavours? We want merely to make our contributions to English culture, don't we? We are a most healthy community of Friends.

Enough of this pretentious overblown rhetoric. Back to the Newsletter. We have in this journal summaries of many events and seminars held by the Centre over the last year, a list of publications and details of prizes and awards written and won by staff, students and Friends, some personal reflections, and many other items of interest and information. New ventures in this edition are some book reviews and posters of PhDs currently being researched by our students (you may need a magnifying glass for these). The activities of our Centre are colossal measured by any standard, and I reckon that if you set about reading all the publications written by our members in just this year alone, you would finish just about in time for next year's Newsletter.

Which brings me to the request I made in my opening paragraph. We've come to the conclusion that the Friends and its Newsletter are due for a makeover, and we would welcome any suggestions from our membership. Perhaps the title 'Newsletter' is a little bland and uninformative for this celebrated publication, and another title might be more eye-catching? How about 'Ridge and Furrow', or 'Palimpsest', or 'Hue and Cry' or ... ? We would also like the artistic among you to come up with designs for a logo to head the flyers and publications from the Friends. One idea is the ridge and furrow depicted above, but we would like some others to choose from. Please don your historical-creative hats and by all means send any suggestions to me please.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the Newsletter.

THE CENTRE

CENTRE REPORT

Richard Jones

Change—one hopes evolutionary rather than revolutionary—characterized the Centre during the academic year 2016-17. This should come as no real surprise in the fast-changing landscape of higher education. The Centre's activities are always, and correctly, up for scrutiny. As the university seeks to meet new, and often far from predictable challenges, so it is keen that one of its flagship research centres plays its full part in forging a new future. Measured by any yardstick, it is clear that the Centre continues to prove its worth and vitality. Staff and students, past and present, continue to publish important historical studies in considerable numbers. The Centre, largely as a result of the magnificent grant of £815,000 obtained by Andy Hopper from the AHRC, remains a major contributor to the external research grant capture of the School (now the School of History, Politics, and International Relations—HyPIR, symptomatic of the wider changes afoot) as a whole. A raft of research activities, notably the Charnwood Roots Project, but also our work with the National Civil War Museum in Newark, environmental agencies, and HS2, are demonstrating the impact and societal value of local history beyond the academy. Student recruitment remains solid. And our lively seminar series, sizable PhD community, and hosting of the Leicestershire VCH, provide the foundations for a vibrant scholarly environment. But one can never rest on one's laurels. Changes have begun to be made; and more are planned in the near future.

One of the most regrettable changes seen this year has been the university's decision to close the Vaughan Centre for Life Long Learning. The Centre's close relationship with life-long learning can be traced back to the early years of the Department. Hoskins' *The Making of the English Landscape* was, in

significant ways, shaped by conversations with students during adult education classes held at Vaughan College. Vaughan has acted as an extraordinary recruiting agent for ELH. In facilitating access to higher education for generations of students who would otherwise have missed out; in demonstrating to them their latent academic abilities; and, particularly, in fostering for many a love of local history, the Centre has been fortunate to welcome a constant stream of talented students for whom an MA with us represented the next logical step in their scholarly journey. Many, of course, went on to doctoral research too, including some in our current crop of PhD students. We will have to monitor closely the effect of this closure and to explore how we can continue to provide learning opportunities for those wishing to return to study at all stages in their lives.

The most significant local change, of course, has been Keith's decision to stand down from the Directorship of the Centre. Keith has led the Centre with distinction since he took over from Chris Dyer. His commitment to the Centre has been total and all-consuming, and at personal scholarly cost as he sacrificed research leave to its cause. He has advocated loudly, passionately and effectively on behalf of the Centre throughout his time as Director. His will be a hard act to follow: I feel I shall be playing David Moyes to his Sir Alex Ferguson. It is the university's decision that the Directorship should now rotate on a three-year cycle. While this represents a radical departure from the previous norm, it should bring benefits to the Centre as new heads bring new ideas and energy to the role on a regular basis.

Our MA students have excelled as usual. Liz Round, whose dissertation won the Margaret Spufford Prize for best overall MA

performance, Alister Sutherland, who was awarded the McKinley best dissertation prize, Tracy Jones, Keith Hanley, and John Pullin all graduated with distinctions. Liz, whose dissertation also won the John Nicolls Prize, Alister, and Tracy have all secured funded-PhDs here and elsewhere, and John has made the transition to doctoral research too. We have a decent-sized cohort coming through and the signs are good that recruitment for 2017-18 will be solid. The MA course remains at the core of our activities so I would encourage everyone to continue to spread the word and point others in our direction. We were warmed recently by the glowing endorsement of the course provided by one former student, Dr Ian Friel via Twitter (@elhleicester) who commented in 140 characters ‘Best academic year I ever spent was on the English Local History MA course—multi-period, cross-disciplinary, open to new ideas—and fun!’ We trust that it still is!

Our PhD community continues to flourish. Four of our number have successfully completed and defended their theses this year—Matthew Blake, Hilary Crowden, Michael Gilbert, and Hannah Worthen. We have seen, or will shortly see, the publication of three articles by students in significant journals, a clear reflection of the quality of the research that is being undertaken. Hannah Worthen has written on royalist widows’ petitions in *Women’s History Review*; Steward Beale has had an article on war widows and revenge in Restoration England accepted for publication in *The Seventeenth Century*; and Katie Bridger’s study of the late fifteenth- and early sixteenth-century Leicestershire gentry in Star Chamber records has been accepted by *Midland History*. I thoroughly recommend that you seek these out once they appear.

The diversity of innovative research currently being undertaken by our students can now be explored on the Centre’s website (<http://www2.le.ac.uk/centres/elh/postgraduat>

[e/current-ma-mphil-phd-titles](#)) and here in the Newsletter. They demonstrate just how vibrant local history is a discipline. For those wishing to see how the subject has developed since the then Department, now Centre, was first established in 1948, we have created a wonderful web resource where you can access 101 theses (including 2 MPhil theses) written here over the years. Please do take a look at <https://elhleics.omeka.net>. This is exciting window on our subject: more importantly, it makes accessible to a global audience the scholarship of the Centre and should help to raise our profile both here and abroad.

Andrew Hopper has been particularly busy in the last year. In December 2016 he heard that the Standard Grant application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for which he had been Principal Investigator had been successful. The project is entitled ‘Welfare, Conflict and Memory during and after the English Civil Wars, 1642-1700’, and it was awarded £1,019,000 (inc. FEC) over 4 years. In April 2017 the project team appointed Dr Ismini Pells, Research Associate of the University of Exeter’s Early Modern Medical Practitioners project, as Project Manager. The project commenced on 1 June. We have been delighted to welcome Ismini into the Centre. She joined us on 1 July and she now has an office in room 9 of 5 Salisbury Rd.

In January 2017 Andrew was the lead applicant for a grant of £206,040 from the University Equipment and Infrastructure Fund for ‘State Papers Online, Parts I-IV: The Tudors and Stuarts Domestic and Foreign 1509-1714’, and ‘The Grand Tour Online 1550-1850’. These important online resources are now available to our early modernist students, saving many from having to make trips to the National Archives at Kew.

Andrew has been busy delivering public lectures and conference presentations this year. Highlights include plenary lectures for the Battlefields Trust AGM, National Civil

War Centre, 17 June 201, and the British Commission for Military History Conference, National Civil War Centre on 8 July 2017. He was also the respondent to panel entitled 'Nostalgia and Memory of the English Civil Wars', at the North American Conference of British Studies, Washington DC on 13 November 2016. He continues to serve as the external examiner of the MSc in English Local History at the University of Oxford. This year he has also been appointed a patron of the Naseby Battlefield Project, in particular to advise on their Heritage Lottery Fund application to develop a visitor centre in Naseby parish church. Andrew was also advisor to the playwright Richard Bean in the Hull Truck / RSC Production of *The Hypocrite* – a play about Hull in the civil war – that drew upon Dr Hopper's book on the Hotham family. He has delivered two public lectures for Hull History Centre about the Hothams and the civil war as part of the Hull City of Culture 2017 celebrations.

The 'Battle-Scarred' exhibition at the National Civil War Centre has been extended to March 2018, making it Newark Museum's longest running temporary exhibition (24 months), and it has been entered for an East Midlands Heritage Award. Andrew is speaking on his experience on the 'Battle-Scarred' exhibition at 'Presenting the Early Modern: A Knowledge Exchange Workshop' at the University of Oxford on 4 September 2017. The conference proceedings on which the exhibition was based are in press as David J. Appleby and Andrew Hopper (eds), *Battle-Scarred: Mortality, Medical Care and Military Welfare in the British Civil Wars* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2018). His other publications this year include 'William Cavendish as a Military Commander', in Peter Edwards and Elspeth Graham (eds), *Authority, Authorship and Aristocratic Identity in Seventeenth-Century England: William Cavendish 1st Duke of Newcastle, and his Political, Social and Cultural Circle* (Leiden: Brill, 2016), pp. 216-236; 'At the Town's Gate: On Hull's

Importance to the English Civil War', in Richard Bean, *The Hypocrite* (Royal Shakespeare Company and Hull Truck Theatre, 2017), pp. 4-9. The Court of Chivalry website for which Dr Hopper was principal researcher from 2003-2006 has now been republished on British History Online.

A year ago, Susan Kilby joined Richard Jones' Leverhulme Trust-funded project 'Flood and flow: place-names and the changing hydrology of river-systems' from Charnwood Roots. This is an interdisciplinary endeavour, encompassing archaeology, history and onomastics, and Susan is principally responsible for the project's archival research. Whilst the project as a whole covers the River Severn catchment – an area of some 11,000 km², broadly encompassing Powys, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire – Susan is largely focusing on the smaller, more detailed case studies, and selecting the locations for these has been her focus for much of the last twelve months. To that end, she has been 'on tour', visiting archives in the Midlands and elsewhere, including Stafford, Shrewsbury, Gloucester, Worcester, Westminster Abbey, Nottingham and Worcester Cathedral Library.

In order to build a comprehensive picture of the local landscape in each instance, field-names and water management data are required, usually found in manorial documents and charters. After wandering down several cul-de-sacs, it looks as though Alrewas (Staffs: Trent and Tame), Pershore (Worcs: Avon), Broadwas (Worcs: Teme), and Stoneleigh (Warks: Avon and Sowe) may have suitable material; Tidenham (Glos: Severn and Wye) is currently under assessment. The sharp-eyed amongst you will have noticed that most of these settlement names are watery, which, in addition to the documentary finds, should also, we hope, yield suitable archaeological depositional material. The team has already been productive. Our first collaborative article (on

the River Trent) has been published in the *European Journal of Post-Classical Archaeologies*: Jones, Gregory, Kilby and Pears 'Living with a trespasser: riparian names and medieval settlement in the River Trent floodplain'. Susan has expanded her section of this work into a single-authored article, which has been submitted for review. Additionally, she has co-authored (with Richard) a further paper on flood risk, which, it is hoped, will be published in the proceedings of the Medieval Archaeology Society's conference on Perceptions of Disaster and Risk in Medieval Europe.

In addition to her work on Flood, Susan has co-authored a chapter on 'Perceptions of Medieval Settlement' with Mark Gardiner (University of Lincoln) in *The Handbook of Later Medieval Archaeology* (OUP, 2018). She is also re-working her PhD thesis into a monograph, due to be published with University of Hertfordshire Press next year. She returned to Charnwood Roots briefly, giving papers at the LVCHT seminar and the Charnwood Roots' Heritage Festival at Beaumanor Hall recently. Finally, in January this year Susan took on the role of Hon. Secretary for the Medieval Settlement Research Group. Once again, this year's MSRG Winter Seminar will take place in Leicester in December.

Keith Snell has published *Spirits of Community: Belonging and Loss in England, 1750-2000* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2016, due out in paperback as from November 2017). An online book version is at <https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/book/spirits-of-community-english-senses-of-belonging-and-loss-1750-2000>. In addition he has published 'The rise of living alone and loneliness in history', *Social History*, 42:1 (2017), which has attracted a great deal of media attention across Europe, with interviews (for example recently for BBC2) and resulting articles by journalists from various countries, and 'Modern loneliness in historical perspective', in Ami Rokach (ed.),

The Correlates of Loneliness (Bentham Science, 2016), pp. 3-33. Linked to the latter theme he is also involved in a project with Prof. Barbara Taylor (Queen Mary College, University of London) on 'Pathologies of Solitude, 18th-21st century', which has just been awarded funding as from September 2017 under the Wellcome Trust's Senior Investigator Award scheme. Further, he is on HS2's Advisory Panel, which has involved many meetings in London to address the issues and possibilities arising in particular from the planned HS2 going through three historic burial grounds, and the historical-medical research that will result from about 90,000 bodies being exhumed from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards. He continues to co-edit *Rural History* for CUP, with two issues of this journal every year. His present research relates to the above themes, and he is currently finishing an article entitled 'Churchyard memorials, 'dispensing with God gradually': Rustication, decline of the Gothic and the emergence of Art Deco in the British Isles'.

Kevin Schürer is currently on sabbatical until October 2017, being a Visiting Scholar at the University of Cambridge where he is working with former colleagues at the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure. Whilst in Cambridge he has been working in particular on the ESRC-funded Atlas of Victorian Fertility project led by Alice Reid. This project utilises the enormous I-CeM census database, covering the complete countries of England, Wales and Scotland for 1851-1861 and 1881-1911, and is undertaking an analysis of changing fertility patterns across England and Wales at the Registration Sub-District level applying the Own-Child Method of estimating age-specific fertility rates. An additional novel aspect will be the calculation of fertility rates according to where individuals were born rather than where they lived, which is how most conventional demographic rates are calculated. This will enable the effects of migration upon fertility to be measured

directly for the first time in nineteenth-century England and Wales. Various papers by members of the project team were presented at both the European Society for Historical Demography conference in Leuven, Belgium and the British Society for Population Studies conference in Winchester, both held in September 2016, and these will be published over the course of 2018. The project is also creating an interactive website which will allow users to map various demographic rates for England and Wales, at both national and local levels. This could potentially be a significant resource for Friends and other researchers.

Related to this project, further work is being undertaken with Simon Szreter, also at Cambridge, on the special returns of the 1911 'fertility' census. A chapter for a forthcoming book to be published by Rochester University Press (USA) has been written on the impact of sexually transmitted diseases (in particular gonorrhoea) in fertility and suggests that VD may have had a much larger role in the fertility decline of the nineteenth-century than previously thought. The book will be published in 2018.

Also using the I-CeM census data, an article has been written (for the journal *Continuity & Change*) on changes in household and family structures in the period 1851 to 1911. In particular this reassesses the position of extended family households during this period, but also explores the rise of living alone, the process of leaving home and household formation. A paper has also been written on changing patterns of migration to London during the second half of the nineteenth century, looking at migration, for the first time, from the perspective of the place of departure rather than the place of reception. This paper (to be published next year) also explores the development of the north-south divide and argues that it was clearly defined and in operation from the early-twentieth century.

Lastly, work also continues on aspects of Richard III. I will contribute to a new article with Turi King and others analysing the calculus of the Greyfriars. This will explore a number of issues, including diet. Together with Turi, I have also continued working on the identification of the Plantagenet Y-chromosome.

As for me, I have been on my travels this year. Manure raised its ugly head again with invitations to present papers in the south of France at the long-running *Journées Internationales d'histoire de Flaran* ('Vers une compréhension du fumier et de la fumure médiévale: quelques enseignements d'Angleterre') which will be published in the proceedings of the conference; in Cologne ('Interpreting medieval ceramic manure scatters'); and in Oxford ('Shit happens: the mitigation of risk in early medieval agriculture risk through manuring'). My work on the historical genetics of Normandy, undertaken with a view to producing a comparative dataset which will allow us to understand better the scale and nature of Scandinavian settlement in England during the first millennium, prompted an invitation to speak at a conference dedicated to Norman historiography held in Ariano, Italy. The written version of my presentation 'The Viking diaspora: historical genetics and the perpetuation of national historiographical traditions' has been accepted for publication. My final continental adventure resulted from an invitation to contribute to the round table discussions which concluded a two-day conference organised by the Istituto Internazionale di Storia Economica "F. Datini" on the theme of 'Water and water-management in medieval and early modern Europe'.

Water has been the principal theme of the year. As I write the Leverhulme Trust-funded project 'Flood and flow: place-names and the changing hydrology of river-systems' is approaching its halfway point. I have given

seven papers to diverse audiences over the year, notably to the Cumbria Flood Action Partnership and, with colleagues, at a conference on medieval disasters at Oxford. This paper, co-written with Susan Kilby, has been substantially reworked as 'Mitigating riverine flood risk in medieval England'. Other solo and collaborative publications coming out of the project include 'Responding to modern flooding: Old English place-names as a repository for Traditional Ecological Knowledge' which appeared at the end of last year in the *Journal of Ecological Anthropology*; and with Susan and others 'Living with a trespasser: riparian names and medieval settlement on the River Trent floodplain'. Rather than burden you with more details, I point you in the direction of the project's website <https://waternames.wordpress.com> where you can learn more and read our project blogs. One forthcoming event which might be highlighted, however, is my invitation to deliver a paper to the English Place-Name

Society AGM meeting in the British Academy this September. The paper is entitled 'Old English place-names and the communication of Traditional Ecological Knowledge'.

I continue to be co-editor of the University of Hertfordshire Press's Explorations in Local and Regional History series, which saw the publication this year of former MA student Ronan O'Donnell's study of enclosure in Northumberland, and *Farmers, Consumers, Innovators* which I co-edited with Chris Dyer exploring the continuing legacy of the work of Joan Thirsk, I continue also to sit on the committee of the English Place-Names Society.

As always, then, a busy and fruitful year. We have important plans for 2017-18, notably developing a Distance Learning programme, which I look forward to reporting on in twelve months' time.

HEAD TO HEAD: TALKING TO ANDREW HOPPER

A Round Head in a Round Hole!

Phil Batman



Andy Hopper with the Hairy Bikers in the Black Bull in Otley

Where were you educated? What and who had the most influence on you at school?

I went to Alderbrook Comprehensive School in Solihull, and then Solihull Sixth Form College. I was fortunate enough to be taught by inspirational history teachers at both: Kathy Wilde at Alderbrook and Dr John Burgess at Sixth Form. Dr Burgess had done his PhD on civil-war period England at the University of York in the 1970s so it seemed natural that I should do the same. We keep in touch and meet for the occasional pint now and then. He is in the process of bequeathing me his library in stages, and about 300-400 of the volumes already adorn the shelves of the Marc Fitch library.

Did you always want to be a Historian? Have you always been interested in the English Civil War?

I have been interested in the civil wars since my early teens and have wanted to be a historian since. I enjoyed a misspent youth in the Roundhead Association of the English Civil War Society (not the Sealed Knot, I hasten to add), something I have been careful to keep quiet from Professor Dyer since. My leanings towards the Parliamentarians fit with my politics I suppose – a disillusioned Liberal Democrat.

What has been your career pathway? What brought you to Leicester?

I undertook my BA, then my MA and PhD at the University of York. I have great affection for the city and my colleagues at York and try to go back to visit every year. I became interested in how the parliamentarians mobilised support in Yorkshire at the outbreak of the civil wars and thereafter, and wrote my doctoral thesis on that topic. My supervisor was Professor James Sharpe, but I was fortunate to receive much additional criticism, support and advice from Professor William Sheils, Dr Mark Jenner and others. I graduated in 1999 and obtained a research post on the Virtual Norfolk Project at the University of East Anglia in 2000. This involved building a teaching and learning

website on early modern Norfolk history, as well as teaching undergraduates. Then in 2003 I moved to the University of Birmingham to take up an AHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to work on Professor Richard Cust's High Court of Chivalry Project. This examined over 700 cases dealt with by the court in the 1630s, ostensibly to prevent duelling, but in most cases to protect the gentry from plebeian insults. My passion for the Civil War is not so much for the military history and battles, but for the impact, memory, allegiances, and impact on civilian life.

The 'New Blood' Lectureship advertised at Leicester in 2006 came at just the right time, when the Court of Chivalry project was ending. This highly attractive post allowed me enhanced research time for the first four years, which enabled me to produce numerous publications as well as establishing my graduate teaching in the Centre.

What or who sparked your interest in history?

Both my parents are very interested in history. When I was a young child they encouraged my interest a lot by visiting historical sites. Many of my toys and books were history related. We are still at it. My Dad still makes and paints toy soldiers. He did his National Service in Gibraltar, and worked in later life for an airline so we enjoyed many foreign holidays. In 2015 I went with Dad to the 200th anniversary re-enactment at Waterloo, where I met several Leicester history students who were participating as infantry in Wellington's Brunswick Division.

What would you ideally like to have been if not a historian?

I have been lucky enough not to have had to give this serious thought. I have no idea what else I might do – maybe bar work?! I have worked as a bar manager in Solihull and York and seem to have an aptitude for it!

Who do you most admire as a historian?

There are several historians I admire and I am lucky that many of them are my friends. I can say without embarrassing anyone (as he passed away in 2009) that I have enjoyed the works of David Underdown. In particular, his books *Revel*, *Riot and Rebellion*, and *Fire from Heaven* have done much to show how proper attention to local history can recast our understanding of the civil wars as a cultural conflict. Perhaps in retirement I could emulate David Underdown and write a 'Northern' *Fire from Heaven*, set in Halifax?

What part of your job do you most enjoy? Least enjoy?

I used to most enjoy the research and writing, and the satisfaction felt when the work was published. I still do, but now I get more pleasure from the privilege of helping others develop and mature as historians. It is really fulfilling to be able to help people succeed and realise their potential as historical researchers and teachers. I also enjoy being the Admissions Tutor for both the Centre and the School of History. Visiting schools, meeting candidates and parents and offering them advice on applications all feels far more fulfilling to me than some of the other administrative tasks academics can get landed with. Visiting universities on a road trip through Virginia and North Carolina with my colleague Dr Andrew Johnstone a few years back was tremendous. I least enjoy the increasing administrative paperwork, committees, minutiae and endless targets, and how universities are becoming more and more like businesses.

Who do you most admire in other walks of life?

My wife is incredible. She can do almost anything. Alongside a successful career as a well-known actress in TV she has taken a degree and retrained as a nurse and now works in an A&E department between acting jobs, as well as being a superb mum to our two boys. I don't know how she does it all. I met my wife when I was beginning my PhD

in 1995 and we have supported each other's career aspirations ever since. We are very happy sharing all our roles.

Do you have any other passions outside history?

I would like to become a better tennis player but my other interests include craft beer, cheese and snooker (highest break 35 off 10 balls, not bad for an amateur!), which prevents this sporting passion from becoming too serious.

What are your ambitions?

My ambitions are to see the collective scholarship of the Centre for English Local History go from strength to strength. I would like to see the Centre's reputation continue to rise, both nationally and internationally. But I would also seek to preserve something of the Centre's unique character and see that it remains as a friendly and fruitful environment for students and staff alike.

What has been the highlight of your career so far? Any low points?!

I have had to overcome a few setbacks along the way. My application for MA funding was rejected, so I took a year out to work in a hotel bar for 12 months to raise the money myself. I have been unsuccessful in numerous job interviews and funding applications, but coping with rejection is all part of being an academic.

On a more positive note, obtaining the £1 million grant for the maimed soldiers and war widows project from the Arts and Humanities Research Council this January has been the undoubted highlight. It's a massive grant which should be very productive. It has been the vindication of several years' worth of effort building the momentum to establish this project, and now it is nice that other academics seem to take me and my research more seriously. I'm very optimistic about the Centre, which has a buoyant MA and PhD recruitment, and I would hope to remain here for the foreseeable future.

PS. Andy explains: 'I met the Hairy Bikers on BBC2's Pubs that Built Britain series and they 'interviewed' me in the Black Bull, Otley, during their episode on civil war pubs.

The pub claims Cromwell's troopers drank the pub dry the night before Marston Moor, which they didn't, but I had to put a brave face on it.'

Research Seminar Programme 2016-17

29 September 2016: Elizabeth Hurren (Leicester)

Dissecting Jack-the-Ripper: An Anatomy of Murder in the Metropolis

Elizabeth Hurren shocked the Friends with her talk on arguably the most notorious serial killer in British history, Jack-the-Ripper, in which she speculated on one of the most crucial aspects of any major crime: motive.

That motive, she argues, was financial gain from the secret trade in the dead poor, the gory body parts business. The body dealers and their accomplices had the infrastructure to provide a disguise for the serial killings. They competed for body supplies and targeted areas of destitution where the poorest congregated in the largest number. In each of the five well-known murder cases she suspects 'a dealer' or someone connected to the body business stepped in and arranged to buy the human remains.

The East End of London had become a body-broking business by the 1880s. Charles Booth nicely sets the scene in his *Life and Labour of the London People*, in which he depicts the East End a 'place of misery, vice and a cesspool into which the most degraded had sunk'. This was a poverty trap. Prostitutes used the walls of alleyways and privies to ply their trade. At least four of the five Ripper murders happened along Dorset Street in this part of London, 'the worst street in London for crime and poverty - a place where you could do as you please'. There were obvious body-dealing premises along Dorset Street. Most dealers worked nightly from these haunts and bought bodies found dead in the street. The street scenes and its architectural features provide vital clues about this secretive trade in the dead. Each venue of a Ripper murder was a place where it was

possible to buy a dead body or body parts under the Anatomy Act of 1832. All five victims met their fate in a geographic alignment with the body trade transportation routes out of the East End.

Jack's *modus operandi* has also aroused Dr Hurren's suspicion of his involvement in the body trade. He worked in a methodical manner suitable for the needs of the body business of the East End. Seemingly the murderer grabbed the woman, slashed the neck and throat, and then eased the victim onto the street. He then opened the torso from neck to navel and removed organs, including the uterus. Performing this manoeuvre at speed required some skilled application and anatomical dexterity. Dr Hurren also suggests that a partner-in-crime, an accomplice, might have made the first initial approach to each victim. It's curious, isn't it, that seasoned street-workers, accustomed to the rough and tumble of Dorset Street, should fall victim to a violent man without raising a cry for help? A woman accomplice, familiar to the female victims, say from the workhouse infirmary or a previous body deal, may have groomed the unsuspecting women and taken them off their guard. Perhaps this accomplice approached a potential donor to the body business, while Jack attacked her from behind?

Finally there are some possible links between the players in this Ripper saga. A Roman Catholic Night Shelter & Refuge for the Destitute facing down Dorset Street was an ideal location to encounter body dealers and their accomplices. A former nun there claimed one charity recipient may have had a

personal connection to Jack-the-Ripper. Mary Ann Kelly, the Ripper's final victim, and the woman singled out for unusual violence, could well have encountered her killer there when she first arrived in the capital four years before she was murdered. This could explain how she may have later encountered and helped with Jack's body-trading business. Her attire was certainly more appropriate to a body dealer posing as an undertaker than to a prostitute soliciting sex. She died in Miller's Court off Dorset Street. Perhaps then she was Jack's accomplice who was on the receiving end of

such brutality as their business arrangement turned sour? Mary Ann Nichol, a regular inmate of the local workhouses and Lambeth infirmary, and the first Ripper victim, may have had contact with Jack and his accomplice in their body dealings in these Poor Law institutions too.

Dr Hurren's talk and her paper then, without pinning a name or identity on Jack-the-Ripper – a task for other crime historians – gives us plenty of food for thought in placing him at the centre of the web of the gruesome body-business world.



Miller's Court off Dorset Street

This review is abstracted from: E. T. Hurren, 'Dissecting Jack-the-Ripper: An Anatomy of Murder in the Metropolis,' *Crime, History & Sociétés*, 20 (2016), pp. 5-29.

13 October 2016: Andrew Reynolds and Stuart Brookes (UCL)

Understanding social complexity in Anglo-Saxon England: names, places and connectivity

This paper was an introduction to the UCL *Early Medieval Atlas* (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/early-medieval-atlas>).

The *Atlas* is a long-term collaborative venture which is collating and analysing spatial evidence for early medieval Britain. Using historical cartography as the unifying method, the *Atlas* draws upon historical, archaeological, landscape, linguistic and literary sources to widen understanding of social complexity in Anglo-Saxon England. Recent thematic enquiries include civil

defence and warfare, administration and legal landscapes.

Professor Reynolds described three themes that have arisen out of the research: The emergence of power and governance; Configurations of power in the landscape; and Social mechanisms by which power is embedded in landscapes.

He said that there are many blunt if not crass comparisons between Roman and Early Medieval society, but that the research team

take a different view. They suggest that there was dispersed social complexity in the countryside, not just in towns, and that there was a different notion of power structure from the Romans. What happened before the kings' laws? For a long time, social sciences took a top-down approach, looking at the formation of dynasties; in the last five years or so, there has been more interest in a bottom-up, local approach to understanding the diffuse nature of power. The 'Landscapes of Governance' project looked at hundredal meeting points from the 5th to the 11th centuries. These assembly sites were places to settle disputes and therefore to organise civility. But they did not take a monumental form. For example, Swanborough Tump, Wiltshire (mentioned in King Alfred's will) is marked by a low hump – and two 20th century stones. Note that Swanborough means the peasants' (swain) barrow (borough) – a common naming typology.

Another site where archaeology sheds light on origins is in the Domesday hundred of Heane, Kent. Extensive excavations were conducted before the building of the Channel Tunnel at Saltwood, and revealed a complex landscape densely used over many centuries. Late Iron age routeways were identified with four early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, each having some social stratification from the wealthy to the not very wealthy. In the Harley Psalter (first half of the 11th century) there is a curious illustration of a mound with bodies on it. Archaeology has found prone and decapitated bodies, 'weird and wonderful' burials, of pre-Kingdom date, on the edges of churchyards. Later, these bodies were not buried in the cemetery, but in the wider landscape, perhaps as markers of territorial boundaries.

Andrew Reynolds is Professor of Medieval Archaeology at the UCL Institute of Archaeology. His recent books include *Landscapes of Defence in Early Medieval Europe* and *The Archaeology of Legal Culture*.

Dr Brookes then spoke about the methodologies employed. These include mapping models (empirical observation), quantitative models and complex models. Mapping brings together archaeology with current landscape and place names, conceiving places as books to be 'read'. This approach combines palaeography with literary criticism, as in the example of Harlow, Essex – in 1181 it was given as *here-hlāw* 'army mound' and by 1380 *Mudborow* (*mot barrow*), 'meeting place'. Evidence can be analysed spatially, using large-scale mapping, for instance to look at hundreds and their meeting places – where hundreds seem to be contingent, interdigitised, there is a correlation with place name evidence of hundredal meeting places. Or one can look at clustering, comparing natural clustering of settlements with administrative arrangements.

Professor Reynolds then returned to discuss complex structures. This bottom-up, consensual approach to early Anglo-Saxon societies suggests they were really keen on mounds! Mounds could be used as cult sites (*hearg* – 'harrow'), meeting (and probably marketing) places and execution sites. In the 8th century execution sites were on the boundaries of kingdoms. By the 10th century they were on internal, hundredal boundaries. There is a suggestion that ragged hundredal boundaries reflected stability – peaceful agreement and exchange of territory, whereas the more regular patterns were imposed by conquest or forced reorganisation. The project has started to look at the broader landscape, noting that there are often small assembly tumps close to larger objects, such as Silbury Hill. Professor Reynolds spoke of how power was embedded in the landscape, creating and consolidating identity.

Stuart Brookes is Research Associate at the UCL Institute of Archaeology. His work includes *Beyond the Burghal Hidage: civil defence in Anglo-Saxon England*.

27 October 2016: Malcolm Dick (Birmingham)

Making Sense of an Industrial Town: Birmingham - 'The City of a Thousand Trades'

Malcolm's presentation was based on a chapter in his latest book, *Birmingham: the Workshop of the World* (Liverpool University Press, 2016), co-edited with Carl Chinn. His paper discussed the different ways in which the industrialisation of Birmingham has been explored since William Hutton wrote the first history of the town in the eighteenth century. The focus was on how the rapid growth of Birmingham has been explained in the past and he framed his approach on the stimulating effects of the interplay of both demand and supply factors, including the contribution of international trade. The involvement of local industrialists in the slave trade and commerce with the plantation economies of the Americas deserves exploration – a feature which has been ignored by historians of the town. Malcolm also focussed on the changing shape of manufacturing in Birmingham until the late nineteenth century and the different

types of materials which historians might use to investigate and reinterpret economic life, including archaeological evidence, visual sources, ephemera and artefacts, which they have traditionally neglected.

Comparing Birmingham's experience with that of other manufacturing towns such as Coventry, Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield allows the extent of Birmingham's uniqueness to be evaluated. Despite Birmingham's importance as a manufacturing centre, there has been little research into the metallurgical industries, the impact of transport developments, especially the crucially important carrier trade and the role of small and medium-sized businesses in shaping the town. There is more to 'the city of a thousand trades' than the histories of well-known businesses such as Boulton and Watt and Cadburys.

Dr Malcolm Dick is Director of the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham. Malcolm is also Editor-in-Chief of History West Midlands Ltd (www.historywm.com)

17 November 2016: Caroline Nielsen (Northampton)

The following is a summary of Dr Nielsen's chapter:

C.L. Nielsen, '**Disability, fraud and medical experience at the Royal Hospital of Chelsea in the long eighteenth century**' in K. Lynch and M. McCormack (eds), *Britain's soldiers. Rethinking War and Society, 1715-1815* (Liverpool, 2014).

Chelsea pensioners demonstrate vague boundaries of 'military' and 'civilian' in the long 18th century. Some pensioners served only months before being wounded, others re-enlisted multiple times and served for decades. Discharge from the military did not mean return to being a civilian. Becoming a pensioner meant the end of their career but not the end of their relationship with the

military. These were men whose lives in some way had been shaped and destroyed by their military service, and their pensions were a recognition of this.

Serving soldiers were not automatically entitled to Chelsea pensioners before 1807. Government of Army pensions was ineffectual. Large numbers of men were

barred from applying. The Royal Hospital Chelsea was part of a movement towards regulation of vagrants. Out pensioners were the largest group to receive the benefit of Chelsea. Amount of the pension recognised the status of the applicant's regiment and their personal rank. The level of debility and age of the pensioner were also taken into account when fixing the sum awarded. They could live anywhere as long as they kept in regular contact with the hospital confirming their continued debility. They had to attend the commissioners or their representatives at least once a year to demonstrate their continued decrepitude. They had usually suffered repeated infections and multiple serious

injuries. The condition had to have become incurable or have weakened the man's body to such an extent that he was no longer fit for normal duties. The pensions were meagre in real terms, but envisaged as definite markers of the deserving nature of these men and their families. Pensioners frequently begged using their war stories, elderly uniforms, frail bodies and pension certificates to legitimize their claim to informal alms. Middling 18th-century British society recognised former soldiers as a deserving group for charitable assistance, but this sat uneasily with concerns about encouraging fraud. Society was increasingly critical of outdoor relief systems.

24 November 2016: Carenza Lewis (Lincoln)

New archaeological evidence for the Black Death: from local histories to global narrative

'Pottery finds: the 'dandruff' of the mediaeval population.'

The aim of Prof Lewis' talk was to assess what is known about the impact of the Black Death, and give us a new way of looking for fresh evidence. Archaeological evidence shows us settlement shrinkage, but the short answer to the question: What does that tell us about the Black Death?; is, quite simply, we don't know!

The Black Death is an arch enemy of history. Maps of intensity and case studies are of variable success in assessing its impact. Documents of population change from national surveys, e.g. taxation, wealth and population taxes, were levied on different principles so are not comparable. Manorial records can be illuminating, but they are few in number. As for the evidence from deserted villages, some sites are now densely populated and some earthworks have been found not to be medieval. Some earthworks may have nothing to do with settlement, and some test pits in potential sites, eg Ufford, may not yield archaeological evidence of settlement. No convincing burial pits with bodies piled in as would happen with the Black Death have been found, and DNA

analysis has been done only in a small number of cases.

The new approach is to look for population decline after the period of the Black Death in currently occupied villages. One metre square pits are dug, each 10 cm layer is plotted, and the earth and finds sieved. The most useful find is pottery: it's widespread, cheap, breakable, durable and datable. In Houghton and Wyton, for example, Anglo-Saxon finds increased in density before the Black Death and fell after it. In Pirton there was a similar drop in finds after the Black Death as the village depopulated, with similar patterns in Shillington (adjacent to Pirton) and Carleton Rode.

In East Anglia, 90% of excavated settlements have shown a decline in pottery in the late Medieval period. Is this showing demographic change? We think so!, since there was no change in pottery use, the disposal of pottery is frequently zoned, and the pottery data appears to correlate with historical data. We have evidence then that pottery decline occurred during the Black

Death. There appears to have been withdrawal from recently occupied areas. The impact on dispersed settlements was just as great as on nucleated settlement, and the impact on higher status settlements was great too, e.g. Ashwell. In some places with an economic base, e.g. Nayland and Walberswick, there was an increase in pottery after the Black Death.

The distribution from pottery decline appears to match the distribution of deserted mediaeval villages. The whole country can be mapped, showing regional variation. In the eastern region there was a decline in

pottery after the Black Death and Norfolk parishes all seem to follow the similar post-Black Death decline. In Suffolk parishes the data is not so consistent. The data is not restricted to East Anglia; the same dip has been found in Reeth in Swaledale and in Kibworth.

In summary, test pit excavations can identify sites of change and quantify them. The Black Death possibly accounted for a 45% drop in the pottery-using population across one sixth of England. There is moreover an unlimited reservoir of new evidence available from pottery, the 'dandruff' of the mediaeval population.

C. Lewis, 'Disaster recovery? New archaeological evidence from eastern England for the impact of the 'calamitous' 14th century', *Antiquity*, 90 (2016), pp. 777-797.

O.J. Benedictow, *The Black Death 1346-1353. The Complete History* (Boydell Press, 2004).

Bailey, M. 'Demographic decline in late medieval England: Some thoughts on recent research' *Economic History Review*, 49 (1996), pp. 1-19.

8 December 2016: Fiona McCall (Portsmouth)

The experience of Civil War in the Midlands from the records of Leicestershire clerical trials

During the English Civil Wars thousands of clergy judged to be 'malignant', 'delinquent' or 'scandalous' were forced from their livings. The decision to eject usually followed trials by local parliamentary committees for each county. Records of this process only survive for six counties; those for Leicester in the Bodleian Library are the most complete but have received relatively little attention from historians. This paper considered what we can learn from these sources about the religious and social complexion of Leicestershire in this period and the effects of the wars on local people.

The main finding is that central issue prompting ejections was clergy's allegiance during the recent years of Civil War. Nearly all were accused of acts coming under the heading of the more serious political charge of 'malignancy' against the parliament cause. The proximity of war, in this heavily fought-

over county, pushed individuals towards engagement, some as active or even aggressive royalists, others reluctantly to actions which could later be interpreted, perhaps unfairly, as cooperation with the enemy. Religious motivations were of lesser import. A minority puritan agenda did exist, however, so that clergy were ejected here not so much for Laudianism or Arminianism, but for their conservatism in the face of religious reform, many for continuing use of Common Prayer, or rituals associated with it, or for their antipathy to puritanism and the new religious policies introduced by parliament. 'Merry England' pastimes like Sunday sports and hunting were also more of a live issue in Leicestershire than elsewhere, indicative of a cultural clash between Leicester puritanism, and the traditional pastoral communities which predominated in the county.

When assembling a case against an individual clergyman, the custom, borrowed from the church courts, was to itemize the individual's deficiencies in every aspect of their behaviour and lifestyle. The defence statements, and comparison with evidence from Leicestershire church court records, cast doubt on these as an accurate summation of the complex set of past hostilities prompting claims of moral failure. Complaints about clerical misbehavior often masked more pertinent economic and social considerations: conflicts over tithes, quarrels with influential parishioners, rivalries with other clergy for the few rich-pickings amongst Leicestershire benefices, power struggles between local

magnates. Clergy involved in such conflicts were unlikely to be given the benefit of the doubt by the Independent-dominated Leicestershire committee over suggestions of royalist delinquency or past ceremonialist religious practice. Tensions were exacerbated by the losses of war: in less conflicted counties, ejections rates were lower, because more borderline cases escaped ejection. The Leicester records reveal that the scapegoating of clergy after the Civil Wars owed as much to their social relations within the community and the desire of local residents for recompense for their own sufferings in wartime, as to the clergy's religious practices, behaviour, or beliefs.

12 January 2017: Neil MacDonald (Liverpool)

Epigraphic records: a valuable tool in flood reconstruction and estimation

Epigraphic flood markings are the intentional lines, nicks and scores indicating past flood levels spanning several centuries. These markings are relatively common across much of Europe, with an increasingly evident rich presence in the British Isles, though many remain unknown outside of local communities. Whilst many are found in urban centres, they can be found in rural areas, with many preserved on bridges (or on their buttresses) and walls (defensive and domestic structures), though others can be found in some unusual and unexpected places (e.g. inside an outside farm toilet, River Lune, Lancashire). Epigraphic records are a valuable tool in understanding the nature and frequency of extreme flood events and, on

rare occasions, also contain information relating to droughts; providing valuable information used in reconstructing past flood event magnitudes. This paper considered the reasons why epigraphic records are created, the individuals that recorded them, their social and community value (memory) and explored how these can be of use to reassess and communicate flood risk. The paper finished by showing how through a combination of sources, including instrumental gauged river records, epigraphic, documentary sources and images, a fuller understanding of flood risk across the British Isles can be created, illustrating that whilst the current period of increased flooding is severe it is not unique in British history.



Flood marks recorded on Trent Bridge, Nottingham

Dr Macdonald is currently a Reader in the Department of Geography and Planning and the Discipline Lead for Geography at the University of Liverpool.

26 January 2017: Miriam Muller (Birmingham)

Coastal communities and neighbourhoods in the later medieval manor of Heacham, Norfolk

As medievalists we are very much accustomed to dividing rural society not just between the free and the unfree, but also between the poor and the better off, typically by categorising peasants as smallholders, medium sized tenants or larger tenants. A key concern of Dr Muller's research on Heacham is the analysis of social structures in a society which is coastal and whose economic base is not merely residing upon landed resources. Heacham, as a manor unusually perhaps for East Anglia under the jurisdiction of a single lordship – the priory and Convent of Lewes in Sussex, provides us with a highly interesting example of a manorial society which was highly complex and multifaceted. Its inhabitants resided in 8 distinct hamlets, some of which were close to the sea and some located further inland. The local population primarily made their living from arable and pastoral agriculture alongside a significant local population which was engaged in various aspects of the fishing industry. In this context it becomes quickly apparent that landholding is only one of several indicators of wealth locally, and that traditional ways of analysing social structures of such

communities by examining landholding falls short of providing a fuller and more accurate picture. Family reconstructions alongside the reconstruction of hamlets and individual neighbourhoods is so far indicative of strong local familial ties, not necessarily to individual plots of land, but neighbouring locality, a tendency which is further reinforced by emerging patterns which indicate that families who were engaged in any seafaring or fishing related activity were similarly housed in particular neighbourhoods. Such structures make for interesting social dynamics of cooperation and fissures in relationships, which are still not fully explored. It is clear that seasonal rhythms associated with either agriculture or seafaring influenced local cultural and social practices, including marriage allegiances and the seasonality of the purchase of marriage licences for unfree tenants. The manor allows exciting insights into the complexity of coastal communities, where the economics of land and sea intertwined, and which impacted significantly on all aspects of daily life of Heacham's inhabitants.

9 February 2017: Nicola Verdon (Sheffield Hallam)

Gender, class and region in the operation of the Women's War Agricultural Committees, 1915-1920

This paper analysed the form and function of the Women's War Agricultural Committees (WWACs) during the First World War. Records from the Bedfordshire and Gloucestershire committees formed the core of the analysis. The development of the women's committees was slow and ad-hoc at first, reflecting wider state hesitancy to

intervene in the labour market in the early stages of war. In light of increasing labour shortages however, the government ordered all counties to form a women's agricultural committee, if they had not already done so, in February 1916. By the summer of that year, 63 women's committees were in existence. They operated under the Board of

Agriculture, but were essentially sub-committees of the already formed War Agricultural Committees (WACs). The relationship of the WWACs to both the Board at the centre and to the WACs in their locality (dominated by farmers), caused tension and the WWACs sometimes had difficulty in establishing their authority. The paper explored the personnel of the committees and showed that the central role of the WWACs evolved over time. In 1916 they concentrated on trying to increase the number of resident village women working on the land through a system of registration. In early 1917, their work extended to recruiting, training and placing the newly-formed Women's Land

Army at the local level. All this involved a wide network of both volunteer and paid officials – Village Registrars, District Registrars, Organising Secretaries, Welfare Officers, Group Leaders, Hostel Wardens and Travelling Inspectors – and necessitated the formation of numerous sub-committees to assist the General Committee and Executive Committees. The structure of the Bedfordshire WWAC in 1917 was discussed in detail to illustrate the complexity and reach of the infrastructure. The paper ended by examining women's motives for working for the WWACs and concluded that county networks and traditional social structures survived during (and after) the Great War.

Nicola Verdon is Reader in History at Sheffield Hallam University. Her latest book, *Working the Land: A History of the Farmworker in England from 1850 to the Present Day*, was published by Palgrave in May 2017.

23 February 2017: John Morgan (Warwick)

Defending against flooding in early modern England: dikereeves in Lincolnshire 1550-1700

Dikereeves played an important role in drainage and flood defence in early modern Lincolnshire. This paper sketched some of their roles and functions in lowland and coastal areas, from the later sixteenth to the early eighteenth century, and considered what we might learn about English local history from studying their surviving financial accounts. The paper argued that by looking more closely at our relatively-neglected dikereeves' accounts, we might both expand the number of floods in the historical record, and gain a more rounded understanding of the causes of flooding in the period.

John Morgan's research aims to shed light on historical flood prevention activities in the county of Lincolnshire, using as source material the financial accounts of the dikereeves. The county was vulnerable to inundations from multiple rivers, and from coastal flooding caused by storm surges. The dikereeves were the lowest layer of an administrative structure headed by Commissioners of sewers. Under these came

surveyors, and in turn jurors. The commission derived its power from the crown. It was responsible for flood defence, drainage and navigation, and had full authority of law to tax, fine, imprison and distrain goods. The dikereeves were elected officials who were responsible for organising the actual work that was required to create and maintain flood defences. They looked after the infrastructure – banks, sluices and so on – and usually operated in pairs. A great number of their accounts documents survive from the early modern period and give the opportunity both to examine how flood management evolved over time, and to compare the measures taken with those in other flood-prone parts of England, and of Europe.

The accounts have allowed John to trace how the flooding risk changed over time. His period of study saw the introduction of windmill-powered drainage (which was the main solution until steam pumps appeared in the nineteenth century). As the land is drained, so it dried, compacted and shrank.

This in turn required more anti-flood infrastructure. The actions of drainage entrepreneurs, seeking to extend productive agricultural land, brought added complexity.

The accounts reveal the routine tasks that could be organised by the dikereeves. There was a regular 'riding of the sewers' to survey the state of the drains to anticipate any problems. At times of particular danger, it was common for locals to mount nighttime watches. Seasonal tasks included clearing of ditches, digging of temporary waterways, and installation of rudimentary sluice gates. There were some surprising problems to deal with; in cold winters ice could block ditches and cause rapid flooding as it thawed.

The actions of dikereeves were often driven by the policy that it was better to be flooded by fresh water than by salt water. But there were harder moral decisions for them to

make. It was a fact that preventing a flood in one area could cause a flood in another, and it was up to the dikereeves to make the choice. They were held culpable when things went wrong, sometimes being accused of taking the money, but not doing the work. The accounts reveal the large cost entailed to living and farming in a flood-prone area. Population migrations can be associated with the move away from hard-to-defend coastal regions inland.

John concluded by emphasising the relevance of his studies to modern flooding problems, so often in the news these days. He suggested that modern communities need to reconnect with their flooding history (an endeavour that the Centre is currently working on), and that local endeavours were leading to systems that were not entirely unlike that of the early modern Lincolnshire dikereeves.

J. Morgan, 'The micro-politics of water management in early modern England: regulation and representation in Commissions of Sewers', *Environment and History*, 23 (2017).

A.E.B Owen, 'The Upkeep of Lindsey Sea Defences', *The Lincolnshire Historian*, 2 (1963), pp. 23–30.

9 March 2017: Victoria Anker (Edinburgh and Leicester) **Soldiers, citizens and courtiers: rubbing shoulders in Civil-War Oxford**

The title of Dr Anker's paper reflects the transformation of the town and university of Oxford into a military garrison and monarchical residence during the First Civil War (1642-1646), and the uneasy co-existence of these royal bodies with citizens and scholars who held parliamentary sympathies. Despite the assumption that the historic rivalry between the town and the university produced (and in turn, was reinforced by) political divisions during the civil wars, Dr Anker emphasised how the two institutions remained economically and socially intertwined as (for example) townspeople sold victuals to the colleges and university employees lodged in the town.

The nuanced responses of the town and university to royal demands were then explored. Both institutions armed themselves in August 1642 but neither sent men out of the county to join the king. When the Convocation, in June 1642, agreed to raise £10,667 14s 3d to finance the king's campaign, several colleges – Merton, Brasenose, Pembroke, and Lincoln – were slow to produce these loans. Conversely, while the town did not send a contribution, the mayor ignored a parliamentary writ to arrest the university's Vice-Chancellor in July 1642. Dr Anker also highlighted divisions within the town's council – over building fortifications – and among college heads – over Saye's decision to evacuate Oxford.

These examples were used to demonstrate the complex web of allegiances that existed prior to Charles I's arrival in Oxford in October 1642. But while parliamentary spies reported Charles and his court feasting on cheeses stolen from Marlborough and enjoying wine smuggled from France, the city council acts, civilian petitions, and parish records reveal overcrowding, poor sanitation, and high risk of disease. When the royal garrison surrendered on June 1646, the university chest was empty and academic life virtually non-existent. A fifth of Oxford's population had died, the town's resources were exhausted, and its privileges had been grossly undermined by heavy-handed royal proclamations.

R. Kelly, 'A city parish in the English Civil War: St Aldate's, Oxford, 1642-6', *Oxoniensia* (2011).

I. Roy, 'The City of Oxford, 1640-60', in R.C. Richardson (ed.), *Town and Countryside in the English Revolution*, (Manchester, 1992), pp. 133-5.

M. Toynbee and P. Young, *Strangers in Oxford. A Sidelight on the First Civil War, 1642-1646* (Oxford, 1973).

23 March 2017: Nicola Blacklaws (Leicester)

Workhouse Raids and Strike Relief: the Poor Law in twentieth century Staffordshire.

The twentieth century poor law has received little attention, but it has important implications for welfare reform. Stafford and Newcastle-under-Lyme were the subject of Nicola's talk, namely the responses of the poor law authorities to unemployment crises. How did people adapt to recent changes?

Stafford was dubbed as 'one vast coalfield', but unfairly, because there were in the town other industries related to salt, electrical equipment and iron. The people in Stafford were affected by unemployment in several heavy industries. Newcastle-under-Lyme was a suburb of the potteries, and a commuter town. It was affected also by unemployment. Both received more outdoor relief than workhouse relief, just as did many other unions. The dominant guardian, Percy Mannering, served for 25 years in Newcastle-under-Lyme, and the motto in the Stafford guardians was 'efficiency with economy'.

Poor Law expenditure increased sharply from the 1920s. The expenditure was unequal among industries after World War I, and it affected mining in particular. In Stafford, the guardians adopted a weekly scale of relief, excepting men on strike. In Newcastle, relief was not payable to able-bodied men, but to

their dependents. Normal relief couldn't be applied, and families were expected to rely on kin networks. A pragmatic flexible approach was adopted, but also tight controls were kept on outdoor relief. Vouchers were used, and there were clear views on items that were essential which could be bought by vouchers. The guardians took into account other sources of income. Food vouchers were issued by mining companies, but rumours circulated that they were to be discontinued. Some in fact were discontinued but the guardians in general didn't increase relief. Applicants mentioned their relief vouchers for fear of legal action, and fear of prosecution for fraud. Some men were indeed fined for not declaring other vouchers to the guardians.

Schemes of work for obtaining relief were implemented. Regular face-to-face meetings were required in order to obtain relief. There were meetings of paupers to lobby the guardians to relieve distress, and they were conducted calmly. But relationships became fraught between the guardians and unions. Letters were exchanged, there were complaints about adverse comments, refusals to continue the labour schemes, and meetings were obstructed. Police were called. The

guardians maintained a policy of refusing relief if men were not working.

In 1926 there was a great increase in expenditure with the coal miners' strike following a massive increase in applications for relief. Newcastle-under-Lyme fell into serious financial difficulty. There were difficulties in collecting rates to pay for the relief. The money was just not available, or was not collected on principle. There was ambivalence as to whether the miners were deserving of relief. The overseers also faced difficulties, in that their post had been abolished, but they were still required to do the work. Newcastle-under-Lyme union spiralled into debt, and it applied for overdraft and loans. Private bank loans were sought. The plight of widows was used for both sides of the argument, and the discontinuation of

relief was eventually agreed. There are arguments about responsibilities held by the guardians to protect either paupers or ratepayers. The decision was controversial and the unemployed protested. There were written objections, and withdrawal of relief was suggested in order to force men to return to work. Wedgwood, the chair, agreed the continuation of relief. Others argued that men were 'deserving' and some recipients offered to repay their relief.

In conclusion even in the 1920s, the Poor Law was essential and flexible. The boards of guardians were restricted and they passed their restrictions on to the paupers. Their obligations were to pay relief but also to protect ratepayers, and the guardians differed in their views on the best policy.

Notice of Research Seminar Programme 2017-18

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.



Centre for English Local History

Semester 1

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| 5 October | Kevin Schürer (ELH, University of Leicester) 'Migration to London in the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the development of the north-south divide.' |
| 19 October | Edward Legon (UCL) "Seditious memories of the British wars and revolutions: the local legacies of conflict after the Restoration"? |
| 2 November | Christopher Langley (Newman University) 'Understanding neighbourliness: a parish perspective from early modern Scotland' |
| 16 November | Hugh McLeod (University of Birmingham) 'Religion and the rise of sport in Victorian England' |

30 November Nicolas Schroeder (Université Libre de Bruxelles) ‘The Tide of Historical Thinking’ – a conceptual genealogy of W.G. Hoskins’ perception of early medieval landscapes’

Semester 2

25 January Jayne Carroll (University of Nottingham) ‘Scandinavian identities and English place-names’

8 February Eddie Procter (University of Exeter) ‘The path to the monastery: communication networks linking monastic estates in the southern Welsh Marches’

22 February Philip Slavin (University of Kent) ‘The impact of scab panzootics on sheep farming and wool industry in England, c.1270-1320’

8 March Colin Pooley (Lancaster University) ‘Mobility, transport and community: evidence from life writing’

22 March Jonathan Healey (University of Oxford) ‘Seeing and performing the State in English local communities, c. 1485-1640’

Hoskins Lecture 24 June 2017

From Tents to Townhouses: The Viking Great Army and the Origins of the Borough of Torksey.

The Hoskins Lecture of 2017 was delivered by Professor Dawn Hadley, Professor of Medieval Archaeology, Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield.

Prof Hadley is an authority on the Viking invasions of the ninth century and the establishment of the Danelaw. In this lecture she described the aims, methods and results of a five year project recently carried out in collaboration with Professor Julian Richards (York University) in an area north of the village of Torksey, which lies on the River Trent at its conjunction with the Roman waterway, the Foss Dyke.

One of the few documented activities of the Viking Army (the Micel Here) to be found in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles are the sites

where the army overwintered in England between 865 and 874 AD, but archaeological investigation of most of them is impeded by their location in modern conurbations. Only Repton (AD 873/4) and Torksey (AD 872/3) are accessible sites, and Repton was extensively investigated in the 1970s and 1980s by Martin and Birthe Biddle. The site of the Torksey winter camp lies in six ploughed fields north of Torksey village. This site has yielded over 1500 metal artefacts, found by metal detectorists since 1990, and now dispersed between a number of museum collections. Prof Hadley’s team determined to investigate this site further by examination and analysis of the vast collection of metal work, geophysical analysis of the site and selective small-scale excavations. The distribution patterns of

specific categories of finds and also of burial sites have been carefully plotted using GPS on a LIDAR analysis of the landscape extending down towards the present village, in an attempt to establish any connections between the Viking camp and any Anglo-Saxon settlements. The data has been interrogated in order to determine the activities of the winter camp and its organisational structure and social composition. From the outset the huge amount of excavated metalwork resulting from such a short period of residence suggested that very specialised activities occurred here, the character of which implied an 'urban' settlement. Comparisons were made with other 'urban' sites of the period and later.

The metalwork showed that the army was operating a bullion and a monetary economy. They were processing silver and gold hackmetal into ingots and coins. Copper-alloy (bronze) dress fittings were processed into ingots and perhaps even coins (Northumbrian Stycas), lead was used for scale weights, fishing weights, spindle whorls and gaming pieces and there were iron tools for manufacture and for woodwork. There was evidence for minting coins and ingots, creating weights and making boat repairs and sword repairs.

The site itself was carefully selected to be easily defensible, being similar to an island with a deep water river-bay at one end and a swampy paleo-channel of the Trent lying behind the land above the river flood-plain. It was also within easy striking distance of two Anglo-Saxon churches and the Vikings may have been systematically raiding or

purchasing the church renders to feed themselves.

No burial grounds like the ones at Repton and Heath Wood near Repton were discovered at Torksey. Fieldwalking in one place yielded a quantity of human bone fragments in a relatively small area. This location was at the top of the prominent clay bank to the west of the site. There were Anglo-Saxon burial grounds lying close to the village of Torksey but these were eleventh-century and associated with the sites of two early churches.

It is estimated that the camp (the largest found in England), covering 55 hectares, must have accommodated more than a thousand people and would have included women and children, merchants and craftworkers as well as fighting men. After this over-wintering, the army moved on to Repton after which it divided into two.

An attempt has also been made to relate the subsequent history of the Torksey site to this significant split. In the late Anglo-Saxon period Torksey became the site of a fine pottery industry in which wheel-thrown pottery was fired in up-draught kilns, and the products of these kiln sites have been examined. Most of them lie around the area of the eleventh-century borough of Torksey, not on the camp site, but as the techniques used were imported from continental Europe it does imply continuing interest by the Danes in Torksey. The development of a town specialising in manufacture suggests a possible Viking investment. The clay used for the pottery was special to the locality and may have been first discovered by the continental potters.



Evidence of coin and metal production at Torksey. Top left: lead bearing the impression of lunette type A coin of Burgred of Mercia; top right: a lead trial piece for triangular punches; bottom: a lead striking from dies of a lunette type A coin. Photograph: © Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

The results of this project were published in 2016 and the paper may be downloaded freely from the internet.

D.M. Hadley and J.D. Richards, 'The Winter Camp of the Viking Great Army, AD 872-3, Torksey, Lincolnshire', *The Antiquaries Journal*, 96 (2016), pp. 23-67.

FRIENDS

**Visit to Castor and St Kyneburgha's Church
9 October 2016**

Andrew Whiting



St Kyneburgha's Church

For those of us who like our legends to be conflated and our medieval imagery to be ambiguous, this trip was a real treat. Doubly so, with matters of the tummy being so well and truly addressed, both before and after the intellectual bit. Two puzzles to solve. First up was that of iconographical interpretation; is that serpenty thing on the church capital a basilisk or an iaculus or a salamander? Is that other creature a wolf or is it a pig? Hmm, tricky. Then to Normangate Field; did it witness the miracle of St Kyneburgha, armed only with a basket of flowers, fighting off a gang of ruffians loaded with ill intent, or are we looking at a Danish war party being atrocious? Read on!

Twelve noon on 9 October 2016. Lunch at the Paper Mills pub in Wansford just west of the A1 by Peterborough. For the fourteen Friends who fancied being earnest on a full stomach, including our Star of the Day Susan Kilby, carrot and coriander soup followed by a choice of sausage, fish, bacon and brie, and cheese and tomato sandwiches was just the job.

And then to Castor, a few miles to the east, to park up at two o'clock by the church. And what a church. With its enormous, ornate stone tower and spire and its commanding location, it is splendid. Worthy indeed of four stars in Simon Jenkins's 'England's Thousand Best Churches' in which it is described as a 'minor masterpiece of Norman architecture'. Major, I'd say. On being joined by a further ten Friends and following a greeting from David, the rector, we entered in awe.

Susan set the scene. We learned of Castor's Roman origins, and heard about the site of a Roman palace (circa 250 AD) to the north of the church. So dense was settlement in the area that it is littered, even today, with distinctive pottery known as 'Castor Ware'. High-class Anglo-Saxon finds nearby - bone combs, pins and brooches - indicate continuing occupation. In Domesday, Castor answered for six hides, three held by Peterborough Abbey with which Castor had a long-standing association.

The present church dates from 1114 or 1124 (the foundation stone is not fully legible). It is dedicated to St Kyneburgha, a daughter of the last great pagan warlord, King Penda of Mercia. In her widowhood, she had founded a convent, of which no trace remains. Its founding charter, dated 664 and witnessed by Kyneburgha and her sister Kyneswitha, purports to attach it to Peterborough Abbey but is, alas, a medieval forgery. However, every indication is that the convent was indeed attached, and that it subsequently became a Saxon minster church which itself, according to early chronicles of the Abbey, became 'much ruined'.

Susan focused our attention on the Romanesque capitals beneath the great central tower. Dating from the early 1100s, they present a feast of medieval iconography. Wild-eyed beasts are everywhere, surrounded by exotic vegetation. The capitals' many faces include cat masks and tongue-poking foliage-spewers, and portray demons, dragons, reptiles and mammals of all shapes and sizes. Serpents and lizards, some that just slither and others with four legs, a ridged body and a bifurcating tail, abound. In the medieval period serpents were super-beasts, much more than just snakes. Many of the images are of the supernatural, but some are less nightmarish, including a tasty looking cluster of grapes (albeit being eaten by a vineyard worker). Some reflect local traditions, one capital, for instance, showing a wild boar being chased through medieval Castor's densely wooded hunting landscape.

But how to interpret all this carved imagery? It really is (and was in medieval times also) ultimately in the eye of the observer, but there are certain conventions. A lion or an eagle may represent Christ fighting Satan who appears as a serpent or dragon. If doves take sanctuary in a perindens tree, they are traditionally protected from such serpents as the iaculus that flies and bites a lot, the basilisk with a small crown on its head and, most poisonous of all, the salamander. A stag, associated with baptisms and hence often to be portrayed on fonts, trampling upon a

dragon, a notorious bringer of pestilence, is a Biblical reference to Christ challenging idolatrous Man. The demonic imagery is deliberate; how better constantly to remind medieval congregations that the Devil lurks everywhere, itching to condemn their souls to eternal torment? Do not sin!

It may be all about good and evil, but much of it is still ambiguous. Is that an ibis feeding on serpents' eggs and animal corpses? Does that big bullock represent goodness or is he an emissary of Hell? What on earth are we to make of that dog being well and truly eviscerated by a boar? Is that creature with an iaculus on its back a wolf or is it a pig, and is the man in front feeding it or trying desperately to wrestle it to the ground? Are those horns or just rather big ears? Answers on the back of a postcard.

One or two of the capitals are different to the rest, apparently alluding to two local legends, that of the miracle of St Kyneburgha in the seventh century and of the Danish incursion in the eleventh. What were they all about? Could those two legends have become conflated over time? Cue exodus to the outer reaches of the parish, determined to find out. In the almost totally featureless expanse of Normangate Field, flanked by the river Nene, we stood astride Ermine Street, raised slightly as it runs on its north-south axis. The legend has it that in this place, Kyneburgha dropped her basket on being set upon by ruffians, the

flowers spilling out and immediately becoming bushes in which the thugs are trapped. What's not to believe? Anyway, exit Kyneburgha, virginity intact.

We were far from convinced. Prompted by Susan, we reckoned that this spot was a rather unlikely one for a miracle to have happened. We thought that, in reality, any such attack upon Kyneburgha would have been deep in the woods of Castor rather than out in the open. But we also accepted that something very nasty probably did happen out in Normangate Field with which the legend of St Kyneburgha has become conflated. And the penny dropped. Normangate! The clue is in the name. What happened in this remote spot was not the attempted rape of little Kyneburgha in the mid-seventh century but rather an atrocity committed by a war band of Danish Vikings (Northmen) 350 years later. Emerging from the mists of the north they had come, following the line of Ermine Street, before doing something unspeakable in Normangate Field and then sacking Castor itself.

Lacking a bit of detail perhaps but problem solved. As our reward, we took tea in the Cedar Centre, back by the church. Tea, that is, in the shape of a wonderfully refreshing cuppa and two slabs of the most gorgeous squidgy chocolate cake imaginable. And then we went home.

Study Weekend -Lincolnshire 31st March – 2nd April 2017

Frank Galbraith

As Shakespeare said "Englishmen that lie abed shall think themselves accursed they were not here this day...." *Henry V Act IV Sc iii* (and Ladies too, no doubt) and this was the immediate thought as we stood on the steps of our splendid hotel in the imposing shadow of Lincoln Cathedral.

Yes, our visit to Lincoln was most enjoyable both socially and in the interest to be found in

the architecture, the underlying history of Lincolnshire together with the quality of our guides and speakers who enhanced our visit enormously. The number of members attending was lower than expected but those present thought the weekend was a rewarding occasion. Our accommodation was most comfortable, positioned as it was alongside the Cathedral and very close to the city centre so that in a short stroll one could find the

dramatic entrance to this impressive edifice together with several characterful hostelrys.

Our studies opened on Friday evening with a speaker on the history of the castle. As far as the fortifications are concerned they originated in Roman times (a small section has been identified under the west wall) and was one of the first to be built since Lincoln or, *Lindum*, is in an important strategic position and became the Northern terminus of the Fosse Way which carries on south to Exeter; in addition it held an important situation on Ermine Street, a main route from London to York, although nothing, apart from the positioning of the roads, can now be seen. It is thought to have also been of strategic importance in Danish Mercia and this was recognised by the Normans with new fortifications being erected soon after the Conquest. Its importance continued with the castle playing an important part in the conflict between Empress Matilda and King Stephen resulting in the First Battle of Lincoln in 1141. The second Battle of Lincoln was fought soon after in 1217 during the contest between the Barons and King John. The later history was more about civil needs with a prison being built in the grounds in the late 18c. while the 19c saw Courts of Law being constructed within the walls.

The following morning saw us take the short walk to the Cathedral (or the Minster as it is often known) and in through the Norman style doorway. The West end of the building is truly amazing and deserves a visit at any time. Above this entrance is a frieze with some interesting (if not slightly improper) carved figures. Certain parts of this frieze have eroded and are being replaced with exact replicas thus showing that the craft of artistic sculpture has not entirely died out in these modern times.

Inside we met our excellent guide Joe Vittoria whose depth of knowledge helped us to understand the development of the building as we see it today and the importance it played

in the life of some notable folk through the centuries. He also explained the significance of the designs in the east window and the huge Rose Window in the south transept.

Often overlooked features of many cathedrals and churches are the misericords found under the seats of the choir stalls. These carvings are skilfully executed illustrations of all kinds of scenes and situations from the religious e.g. the Crucifixion and Mary with the Child to the bizarre such as a fox preaching to priests or a cook chasing a dog pinching a chicken from the cauldron. Lincoln has a splendid collection of these artefacts, indeed it is the third largest number in the country.

After refreshment in the Cathedral refectory we took a short step away to the Castle, unfortunately it had started to rain and a goodly part of our visit was outdoors. How ironical since this was the only adverse weather we experienced during the whole weekend. Our guide, sheltering under his umbrella, gave us a resume of the history and conducted us on a walk through the grounds surrounded by imposing walls during which we saw remnants of an Eleanor Cross and an attractive oriel window removed from John of Gaunt's Palace in Lincoln. After this damp experience we were able to withdraw indoors to the former prison which houses an original version of the Magna Carta together with a small theatre in which a film was showing further details of the Battle of the Barons and the subsequent results. A possibly unique feature of the prison was the Chapel where the prisoners were enclosed in separate, secure, open fronted cell like structures in order to take part in services. Most depressing!

After lunch in the estimable Wig & Mitre with its comfortable traditional interior we then made our way to the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, housed in the 19c. Barracks, which had a variety of displays ranging from domestic scenes and interiors of the late Victorian period, reproductions of

small commercial concerns such as saddlers, blacksmiths, pharmacists, carpenters and then on to a gallery dedicated to the Lincolnshire Regiment showing uniforms, equipment and weapons of various eras. Both inside and out there were good examples of the industrial activities in the city and county. These included a WWI battle tank, tractors and excavators manufactured by local companies.

That evening the visit was complemented by a talk from a local historian about the importance of industry in Lincolnshire which included the development of the ports i.e. Boston, Grimsby and, latterly, Immingham which with the canals played an important part in the industrial development of the area. Many of the items we had seen in the museum were made by nationally, if not internationally, known firms such as Ruston Bucyrus, excavators, Marshalls, tractors and cranes, William Foster & Co. made WWI tanks. This aspect of Lincolnshire is often overlooked since many regard the county as purely an agricultural entity.

The Sunday programme comprised a visit to Gainsborough Old Hall some 20 miles distant, an easy journey but we were somewhat disturbed to discover on the previous day that certain roads leading to our destination would be closed since a race was being held that day. Eventually, however, a safe journey was made by all and we were able to meet, on time, at our destination in Gainsborough.

At the Old Hall we had yet another guide who was most knowledgeable on the history and architecture. Unlike many manorial houses that stand in many acres of ground and have been occupied by families over centuries, the Old Hall is a little known gem built around 1465 in the half-timbered style and at that time surrounded by orchards. Now it stands the edge of the town very close to the River Trent which is an important canal connection to the River Humber and its ports with their connections to Scandinavia and Europe.

Many years later much of the original structure was enclosed by brickwork by the Hickman family who lived there from 1596 to 1720. Since those days it has had a chequered existence being used as a pub, a theatre and Masonic Hall among many other applications. Eventually it was given to English Heritage in 1970. It has been turned into a visitor attraction while maintaining its character.

Much of the interior has the appearance of being of original 15th or 16th century style especially the central grand hall, the kitchen and the main bedroom.

After lunch in the cafe we were free to explore the town and make our way to our various destinations after an excellent weekend spent expanding our knowledge and in good company. This is what the 'Friends' events are intended to provide!

Museum of Lincolnshire Life

Saturday afternoon saw the Friends progress to the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. Having seen medieval Lincoln military architecture before lunch, this gave us a chance to examine the 19th century version, as the museum is located in Victorian brick barracks. The museum is arranged around a large central courtyard, erstwhile parade ground, and then a manège for the Yeomanry's horses in the early twentieth century. The right hand range used to provide accommodation for NCOs, and now houses various room reconstructions depicting middle-class life in late Victorian England. These included nursery, bedroom, and parlour, but also a working kitchen with an impressive range, and line-up of manual machines that minced everything from beef to nutmegs (a sort of distributed food processor). The laundry room, with enormous copper for heating water, tubs, dollies and mangles made everyone appreciate washing machines and tumble driers. This part also houses the museum for the Lincolnshire Regiment. The left hand range houses reconstructions of

Victorian shops, and the museum sometimes opens an old fashioned sweet shop there (not during our visit, unfortunately).

The main point of interest for many of us was the large modern building at the far end of the courtyard, which housed the museum's very impressive collection of agricultural and industrial equipment. There we immediately learnt the difference between a waggon (four wheels) and a cart (two wheels), and a 'hermaphrodite', which is a two wheeled cart to which you can bold an extra two wheels for when extra carrying capacity is required, for example at harvest time. We also learned that North Lincolnshire wagons and carts were painted an orangey 'farmer's red', while South Lincolnshire's were painted blue. The collection demonstrated the increasing impact of mechanization on agriculture. There was an example of a horse-drawn plough immediately next to one of a pair of enormous steam ploughing engines. This one was named 'John', the museum also had his partner, who was in storage. These engines worked by situating one at either side of the field to be cultivated, and running a plough between them on a metal cable stretched between two drums beneath the engines, with

the engines gradually progressing until the field was ploughed. We shuddered to think what would happen to the workers should the cable snap... The museum also had a couple of threshing machines, and we also contemplated the hazards of working with exposed belts and other parts (agriculture remains to this day a dangerous industry to work in). These were accompanied by a stationary steam engine of the type that would have been towed around to power the threshers. We then progressed to some very early diesel-engine tractors, looking tiny and very uncomfortable compared to the air-conditioned, GPS-guided leviathans I see working my local fields.

The agricultural engineering knowledge of Lincolnshire was pressed into service in the First World War, and the museum is very proud to have an example of the tanks that were designed in the county. This one was named 'Daphne' – and apparently the very first tanks came in different sexes, with Daphne being unsurprisingly female (sporting five machine guns), while male tanks had cannon in addition to guns. Male and female tanks, hermaphrodite carts - who knew that engineering could be so gendered?

**Victoria County History: Leicestershire
A fantastic year for Leicestershire VCH
Pam Fisher**



Volunteers, civic dignitaries, local people and loyal VCH supporters joined the two authors and VCH committee members in the library at Donington Hall in March to mark the launch of the VCH parish history of *Castle Donington*. Appetites were whetted by a slide show of images, document displays and a brief introduction to the book by co-authors, Pam Fisher and Michael Lee. Even the various stuffed animal heads hanging on the walls seemed to be paying attention, and watched as a steady queue of purchasers exchanged money for books. This was a major milestone for Leicestershire VCH Trust, and is the first book to be published in the Leicestershire VCH series since 1964. Coincidentally, Michael Lee wrote the volume introduction and ten of the parish histories for that 1964 volume, which covers the whole of Gartree Hundred, around Market Harborough. His history of Castle Donington was written for the VCH in 1951, when he was an undergraduate at Oxford, but not published at that time. We were delighted that he could be present to see this history published, with the addition of significant further

material by Pam Fisher. He looked so sprightly, it was hard to believe that he would be celebrating his 85th birthday in the next week.

You've heard what they say about buses, when one comes along ... Well, 2017 is proving to be similar for the VCH. We've achieved a lot since the project re-started in 2008, including two complete parish histories online (Kirby Bellars and Leire), others nearly complete or in progress, and by the time you read this our second paperback will have been published. This is a parish history of *Buckminster and Sewstern*, two contrasting villages bound together in one parish in north-east Leicestershire. If you are interested in the differences between open and closed villages, or how a closed village can evolve and function in the 21st century, this is definitely one for you. Written by Pam Fisher, it's a fascinating study which deserves a wide readership.

That's not all. In July 2017, our 4-year Heritage Lottery funded Charnwood Roots project drew to a close.

Charnwood Roots Julie Attard



Volunteer test-pit team at Rothley's Big Dig

In July 2017, the four-year Charnwood Roots project came to an end. During the final year, our dedicated team of archival research volunteers added more than 3,000 pieces of new research to the project databank, ably

assisted by Volunteer Support Manager, Dr Victoria Anker. The research databank now contains well over 6,000 entries and will be used to write parish histories for the Leicestershire VCH series. It will also be

made available online so that other groups and researchers can access the document summaries and transcripts it contains.

Archaeological research continued with Rothley's Big Dig in the summer of 2016, a programme of fieldwalking over the autumn and winter, which uncovered evidence of a Roman site in Thurcaston, and research into Charnwood's historic buildings and archaeological sites. Some volunteers involved in the Dig and fieldwalking have formed a new branch of the Leicestershire Fieldworkers and will commence their own fieldwalking programme this autumn.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Charnwood Roots Heritage Festival, which was held at Beaumanor Hall on 21st May

2017. The centre-piece of the event was a brand new 50 panel exhibition called *Stories of the Stone Wood: A Thousand Years of Charnwood Life*. The exhibition was based on new research carried out by staff and volunteers and brought together, for the first time, collections of artefacts from Leicestershire Museums Service with artefacts discovered during the project. The event also featured expert talks, films, installations, the first modern performance of the Charnwood Opera (written in the early 1750s), an archaeology tent, historical games for children and a 'Village Zone' of local history stands which gave local groups a chance to network and showcase their own projects. The event was attended by between 1,500 and 2,000 people and was a fitting end to the project.

Nichols Archive Project Julian Pooley

The Nichols papers are a rich resource for research. In January I participated in an Oxford conference which explored the increasing importance of genealogies, especially among the elite, throughout the Enlightenment. The Nichols papers help us to map social networks of correspondence in an age when the research, visualisation and circulation of genealogies were the foundation of a wider biographical culture. My paper discussed the role of the *Gentleman's Magazine* in recording the lineage and status of noble families and explored how John Nichols developed this role after becoming editor and printer of the magazine in 1778. It discussed what kinship meant to Nichols and showed how his genial enthusiasm enabled him, a London printer, to gain access to the personal archives of noble families and landed gentry across the country, especially in Leicestershire.

Much of Nichols's research drew upon his collection of early newspapers and periodicals. Though it survived the printing house fire of 1808, it was later depleted by

theft and sale. The remaining 265 volumes, covering the period 1672-1737 were acquired by the Bodleian Library in 1865 and have recently been digitised by Gale. I was invited to provide an introductory essay to the history of this collection and this can now be accessed at <http://www.gale.com/c/17th-and-18th-century-nichols-newspapers-collection>

Although the Nicholises are often seen as being at the 'heart of the antiquarian network', they are better described as a focal point through which scholars could communicate with each other and with the wider community. Their London printing office was a clearing house for news, information, and loans of books and manuscripts. In July this year I explored this idea in a paper delivered to a conference on Institutions as Networks, held at the Society of Antiquaries of London. Each generation of the Nicholises was appointed as printer to the Society, but their relationship with it changed over the century between 1777, when John Nichols inherited the contract from his former master and partner William Bowyer (1699-

1777), and the 1870s, when his grandson, John Gough Nichols, was a major figure in the Society, contributing papers and taking the lead in significant areas of their research. A summary of this paper can be seen at <http://institutionsofliterature.net/networks/>

New material is constantly added to the Nichols Archive Database. It now contains

calendars of nearly 17,000 letters and I am now exploring ways of making this amazing resource for topographical history accessible online. In the meantime I welcome enquiries by email to me at jpooley@surreycc.gov.uk and am happy to make the database available to visitors, by appointment, at Surrey History Centre in Woking.

Friends Publications and Contributions

John Peter Austin

John Peter Austin, 'The production of charcoal in South-East Hertfordshire', *The Local Historian*, 46 (2016), pp. 229-240.

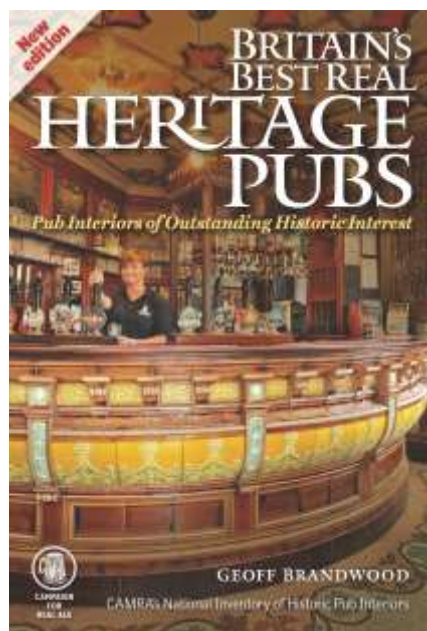
Jill Bourne

Jill Bourne, *The Place-name Kingston and Royal Power in Middle Anglo-Saxon England. Patterns, possibilities and purpose* (British Archaeological Reports, 2017).

This work presents the corpus of all 70 surviving Kingston place-names, from Devon to Northumberland, and investigates each one within its historical and landscape context, in an attempt to answer the question, 'What is a Kingston?' It links together place-names, archaeology, and landscape history to write a story about the organisation of Anglo-Saxon England.

Geoff Brandwood

Geoff Brandwood, *Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs: Pub Interiors of Outstanding Historic Interest* (CAMRA, 2016).



Rapid change over the past few decades means that historic pubs are now few and far between. The best surviving examples, ranging from basic rural timewarps to some of the grandest pubs in the land, are brought together in this book. The core of the book is a listing of the 260 more important surviving historic pub interiors throughout the UK, arranged alphabetically by county. Each pub is illustrated and is given a description drawing attention to its key features. There are background articles on the development of the pub and also features about specific historic aspects of them.

Valerie Cook

Marion Caunt and Val Cook, *A History of The Manor House Radcliffe on Trent from 1749 to 2017: The family home of George Parr famous cricketer.* Radcliffe on Trent Local History Society.

Pauline Wharton

P. Wharton, *The Disappearing Yeoman: Windemere, 1640-1841* (Privately published, 2017).

Heather Flack

Fen Flack, *Ironside: The English King who fought the Danes* (2016).

Fen Flack, *Edward the Exile* (in press).

Fenella Flack, *Walking Bewdley's History* (in press).

Philip French, Curator of the Changing Leicester Project



Konrad Smigielski's view of Leicester

After almost 10 months of preparation a new temporary exhibition opened at Newarke Houses Museum called 'Changing Leicester'. This project looks at developments in the city of Leicester in the Post World War Two period and also looks at how perceptions of what constitutes heritage and what we value in townscape have changed. As a 'local historian' and Curator of Leicester History, the topic is fascinating and more complex than meets the eye. Although not being born in

Leicester and therefore not able to remember the changes that took place in the city in the 1960s and 1970s, I am of that age that can remember when ring roads, subways and indoor shopping centres were thought new and exciting then considered outdated, ugly and inappropriate.

A team of volunteers and outreach officers undertook over 40 audio interviews with conservation officers, planners, archaeologists, architects, local politicians, heritage activists and local residents to investigate their role in the development of the city and the preservation of its heritage. These will provide a great archive for the future and also selected clips were edited into an audio-visual display. The changing face of Leicester is also highlighted through the use of objects, photographs, maps, and plans. Many of the photographs featured are from an archive of pictures taken by various council departments including highways, planning and housing and present a remarkable record of the development of the city and changing priorities. The hero and villain of the piece is Konrad Smigielski who was Leicester's first Chief Planning Officer and 'ruled' between 1962 and 1972. His plans were ambitious, sweeping and controversial, and for some he is responsible for the destruction of the medieval street plan of the city and its fragmentation with ring roads and underpasses. But when you next walk down New Walk consider that it was Smigielski who was key in maintaining and redeveloping this much loved promenade.

The Changing Leicester Project is a partnership between Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society and Leicester City Museums and was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

John Goodacre

'The Crying Sin of England and Cotesbach Rebels', Cotesbach Educational Trust, 9 May 2017.



Margaret Hawkins

Margaret Hawkins, 'Solving the architectural puzzle: Delapre Abbey decoded', Northamptonshire Past and Present, 69 (2016), pp.28-40.

Jane Laughton

Jane Laughton, 'Notes on life in Hurdsfield c. 1350-1665: Part One', in A Patchwork of Local History, volume 2 (Rainow History Group, 2016), pp. 6-31.

Jane Laughton, 'Successful careerists from south-east Cheshire in the years 1383-1403', *Cheshire History*, 57 (2017) pp. 8-29.

Wendy Raybould

The editor of *Northamptonshire Past and Present* welcomes papers on any aspect of Northamptonshire history for inclusion in the 2018 issue. The closing date for contributions will be the end of March 2018. Papers and enquiries should be directed to Wendy Raybould, Honorary Editor, Northamptonshire Record Society, Wooton Hall Park, Northampton, NN4 8BQ, or enquiries@northamptonshirerecordsociety.org.uk

Book Reviews

V.C.H. 'Castle Donington'

Delia Richards

This well-researched volume covers one thousand years of the ancient parish of Castle Donington and the outlying hamlets of Kings Mills and Cavendish Bridge. It examines the fluctuating fortunes and changes in character, from the ambitions of a medieval town with hospital, church, castle and market charter, through adaptation from agriculture and village economy to generation and regeneration in the 20th and 21st centuries.

A village is defined not only by its buildings, great and small, ancient and modern, but also by ordinary, or extraordinary events imposed on it and the reaction of the occupants. Alongside the centuries of steady existence, we are told that the villagers had to contend with the summary execution of five Lords of the Manor and the changes wrought by new, but still absentee landlords and their stewards. Magna Carta left its mark and later in 1322, villagers watched as the king's troops broke down the doors of the castle at the end of the main street and would have seen the eventual destruction of it.

In later years, food riots of 1766 brought raids on the cheese warehouses at Cavendish

Bridge and the less than friendly reaction of local people to the cheese owners.

Modern times have brought new opportunities to uncover history: Huge developments in the parish have been preceded by archaeological excavation, revealing an earlier history of occupation from medieval times back to the Neolithic age. Evidence has emerged of water mills, bridges, fish weirs, stone quarrying, Bronze Age log boats and farming activity over millennia.

The book is written in sections, including aspects of topography - river valley and escarpment; land ownership - both manorial and the fortunes of Donington Hall; changes in the range and scale of the village economy; its social life and developments in religion through Catholicism to Non-Conformity. The clear headings within the sections make navigation easy. Throughout there is an awareness of a village and its community, not always peaceful, but at ease within its own place.

Spirits of Community: English Senses of Belonging and Loss, 1750-2000

Phil Batman

Keith Snell poses questions in this interdisciplinary new book: Do community loss and loneliness define our modern way of life? How does one manage the past, and how does one compare it to the present? And he goes on to explore different ways writers or artists have viewed senses of declining community spirit. To use his own words, he comes at the issues 'cubist-like, from various angles'. One of his main lessons is that every generation seems to view community in crisis. And one of his conclusions is that our sense of lost community spirit is a perennial issue and has been so for centuries.

He touches upon virtual communities using the Internet and discusses loneliness in the context of a society dominated by technology. Chapter 2 addresses the notions of home and belonging, friends and community, among the English poor. Chapter 3 looks at the portrayals of migrant poor in English paintings from the mid-eighteenth century. They were separated visually from their social superiors and thereby from an encompassing community life. Snell describes the paintings of Edward Haytley, Thomas Gainsborough, and George Morland in depth. The poor in some paintings are portrayed as placeless, homeless roadside transients. A discussion of parish magazines

K.D.M. Snell, *Spirits of Community: English Senses of Belonging and Loss, 1750-2000* (London, 2016)

A Fond Farewell to the Friends' Committee *A valedictory address from our retiring editor* Sylvia Pinches

'You. Upstairs, now. Committee'. These were the words of the late Professor (then Doctor) Harold Fox in the Common Room after a Thursday seminar early in October 1994. And so began my twenty+-years' association with the Committee of the Friends. (I took a three year break when I was

follows in the next chapter, bastions of an Anglican sense of community and Christian purpose. They celebrated parochial pride and distinctiveness, and depict those humble gestures and efforts that historians can easily overlook. Local community was their focus. Chapter 5 explores Thomas Hardy's perception of community decline in the English parish, a widespread theme in his writings. The book then focuses on detective fiction around village life, notably the work of Agatha Christie. These works characterise the village inhabitants and the upper classes of the interwar period. Chapters 7 and 8 explore the laments of coastal and farming communities in decline as seen by James Wentworth Day and Adrian Bell, and the final chapter explores the themes in the works of H.E. Bates, including the community of RAF pilots and the 'perfick' Larkin family.

Delicious detail and insights and indeed some nuggets of humour characterise this book. Snell relates Sherlock Holmes' riposte: 'I am a brain, Watson. The rest of me is a mere appendix.' Or Hardy's observation of Londoners: '... some wear jewels and feathers, some wear rags. All are caged birds; the only difference lies in the size of the cage ...'. This is a thought-provoking and highly original book, typical of Keith Snell.

working full-time for the VCH in Herefordshire). In that time, I have served as Student Rep., Programme Secretary, Chairman and Editor and general committee member – there was no way anyone was going to persuade me to be Treasurer!

When I joined the committee as Student Representative, the Friends were not yet a formal charity, but a loose association formed through the enthusiasm of Harold Fox, to support staff and students of what was then the Department of English Local History. The constitution was adopted at the inaugural meeting on 11 January 1996 and the Friends became a registered charity three years later, with the objective of 'the education of the public by promoting, supporting, and assisting the study of English local history as taught and practised in the department of English local history at the university of Leicester.' I am very happy to have been associated with supporting these objectives over the years, through fundraising for bursaries, organising conferences and study tours and generally 'waving the flag' for the study of local history in the Leicester way.

I have made many good friends through the Friends, met many fine scholars and visited many fascinating places. It is difficult to pick

out any highlights, but a few special memories include the events of 'Jubilee Year' 1998 (the 50th anniversary of the Department), when the Hoskins' Day lecture was given by Dr Joan Thirsk. I particularly remember that she came up by an early train from Kent, to have time to go to Leicester market to buy Melton Mowbray pork pies before coming to Marc Fitch House to have lunch with the Committee. Later that year the Friends organised a grand Jubilee Exhibition and Lecture, given by Mick Aston. Of the many outings and study weekends I have enjoyed, special mention must be given to those organised by the late Derek Shorthouse. His attention to detail and care in putting on sumptuous lunches and teas was legendary. So many happy memories. I am only sorry that I was not able to attend Hoskins' Day in 2017 or the Lincoln Weekend, but hope that 2017-18 will see me once again attending seminars, lectures and outings and seeing many Friends along the way.

Annual General Meeting and Accounts

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends, held on Thursday, 23 November 2016 at 12:30pm at 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester

Present: Noel Tornbohm (Chairman), Robert Mee, Ann Schmidt, Andrew Wager, Phil Batman, Mandy de Belin, Frank Galbraith, Sarah Gilpin, Sylvia Pinches, John Parker, Malcolm Millard, Beryl Tracy, Andrew Hopper, Frida Raphael, Barbara Harvey, Sam Bourne, Philip Tyler, Susan Kilby, Matt Tompkins, Heather Flack, Pam Fisher, Stewart Ferguson, John Goodacre.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mary Bryceland
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 19 November 2015:** The minutes were agreed (proposed by Mandy de Belin, seconded by Sylvia Pinches).
3. **Matters arising:** No items raised.
4. **Chairman's report:** Noel Tornbohm summarised the events of the year: the spotlight conference, Hoskins Day, the Leicester visit, and the visit to Castor. Financially the Friends remain in a healthy position. The chairman thanked the committee members, particularly Sylvia Pinches who is standing down after many years. He encouraged new members to come forward to help with committee work.

5. **Treasurer's report:** Ann Schmidt circulated a written report. As of 30 September 2016, the general fund of the Friends stood at £29,055.63, a decrease of £654.72. Payment for student support rose last year, which is what the charity exists for. The accounts have been subject to an independent examination by Pam Fisher, who was thanked. The treasurer's report was adopted (proposed by Sylvia Pinches, seconded by Frank Galbraith).

6. **Election of officers and committee:** The Secretary, Robert Mee, reported that the number of nominations received was such that no election was necessary. The following officers and committee members have been nominated and seconded:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman | Noel Tornbohm |
| Secretary/IT Coordinator | Andrew Wager |
| Treasurer/Membership Secretary: | Robert Mee |
| Newsletter Editor: | Phil Batman |
| Programme Secretary: | Frank Galbraith |
| Committee Members: | Ann Schmidt |
| | Mandy de Belin |
| | Sarah Gilpin |
| | Beryl Tracey |

There are two student representatives, Malcolm Millard and John Parker.

Andrew Hopper remains the Centre's representative.

7. **Appointment of independent examiner:** Dr Pam Fisher was reappointed as independent examiner (proposed by Noel Tornbohm, seconded by Mandy de Belin).

8. **Any other business:** None.

Treasurer's Report

| FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE FOR ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| (Registered Charity no.1073528) | | | |
| Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30th September 2016 | | | |
| | | General | |
| | | Fund | |
| Receipts | | | |
| Subscriptions | | £1,394.00 | £2,192.00 |
| Donations | | £220.00 | £277.00 |
| Book Sales | | £104.00 | £87.25 |
| Joint conference | | £177.47 | £897.00 |
| Outings | | £210.00 | £288.00 |
| Publications | | £9.28 | £100.00 |
| Spotlight 2016 (York 2015) | | £843.60 | £4,993.40 |
| Dividends/Interest (CC&C, CAF) | | £523.00 | £368.96 |
| Gift Aid | | £0.00 | £406.13 |
| Hoskins Day current year | | £222.60 | £148.72 |
| Hoskins Day prior year | | £0.00 | £454.30 |
| Credit note against overpayment (2015) | | £132.05 | £0.00 |
| | Total Receipts | £3,836.00 | £10,212.76 |
| Payments | | | |
| Student Support & Harold Fox Award | | £3,500.00 | £1,500.00 |
| Hoskins Day current year | | £61.62 | £50.00 |
| Hoskins Day prior year | | £40.00 | £40.49 |
| Newsletter (2015) | | £333.77 | £318.18 |
| Subscription to BALH | | £65.00 | £65.00 |
| Spotlight 2016 | | £210.28 | £4,809.01 |
| Joint Conference | | £123.00 | £612.48 |
| Printing & Publications | | £72.00 | £355.19 |
| Stationery & postage | | £28.65 | £18.15 |
| Outing (Warwick 2015) | | £0.00 | £185.40 |
| Crockery & Cutlery | | £0.00 | £12.84 |
| Web page | | £56.40 | £56.00 |
| | Total Payments | £4,490.72 | £8,022.74 |
| Excess of income over expenditure | | -£654.72 | £2,190.02 |
| for the year | | | |
| Opening Funds at 1st October 2012 | | £29,710.35 | £27,520.33 |
| Excess of income over expenditure | | -£654.72 | £2,190.02 |
| Closing Funds at 30th September 2013 | | £29,055.63 | £29,710.35 |
| Comprising | | | |
| Bank Balances | | | |
| CAF Bank - Gold Account | | £1,534.59 | £1,239.01 |
| Natwest Bank | | £3,717.33 | £4,895.05 |
| NatWest Investment Account | | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Cambridge & Counties savings | | £15,344.76 | £15,117.34 |
| | | £20,596.68 | £21,251.40 |
| 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 |
| | | £29,055.63 | £29,710.35 |
| Market value of investments | | | |
| FP CAF UK Equity Fund B Income | | £6,155.32 | £5,583.23 |
| FP CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income | | £4,388.19 | £4,194.40 |
| | | £10,543.51 | £9,777.63 |

Obituaries

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

Roy Stuttard

Roy Stuttard died peacefully on Saturday 21 January 2017 aged 83. He was a historian, lecturer, Co-operator, socialist, and Honorary Alderman of the City of Leicester. Roy was a staunch supporter of the Friends, much loved for his erudite and witty contributions to the seminars.

Cynthia Thomas

Cynthia Thomas died on 20 December 2016. Cynthia's daughter tells us that her mother attended numerous Friends' events, some Friends' weekend visits, and was a regular at ELH seminars. She really enjoyed every moment of her time at ELH and with the Friends.

Ian Babington

We regret that Ian Babington's obituary in last year's Newsletter was titled incorrectly, and we apologise for any upset or confusion that this may have caused.

STUDENTS

MA Dissertations

Invisible Bonds: The ethnic sense of the English, as revealed in nineteenth century emigrants' letters home

P J Evans

My aim has been to study emigrants' letters to discern the ethnic sense of the English. I created my own collection of about 180 letters, largely from southern English rural labourers in the early part of the nineteenth century, but including a fair proportion of Scottish, Welsh and Irish, and also some middle-class emigrants. Their destinations include all the colonies plus the United States. My sources for the letters have been collections published between the 1830s and the present day, digitised letters from newspapers, and manuscripts from the Northamptonshire Record Office. My analysis was based on a qualitative study of the texts and I used the comparative method of analysis by studying letters from Scottish and Welsh emigrants as well as English.

The Scottish and Welsh emigrants demonstrated a desire to be with other

Scottish and Welsh people. The Scottish shared common values; the Welsh likewise, but in a more overt way, based on their native language and love of music.

The English middle classes expressed a sense of their English identity, but this was not so among the labouring class. There was much reference to England being a place of oppression and poverty. Although the middle classes were keen to preserve the class structure, the lower class rejoiced in their independence and freedom. Church and chapel were clearly a valued part of the heritage possessed by all the emigrants - religious tolerance among Protestants being evident alongside a unifying sense of anti-Catholicism.

Common modes of behaviour were noticeable firstly in the sense of politeness and anti-

materialism derived from the moral economy that was once the basis of the English social structure, and secondly in the sense of reserve – the lower class seeking the society of old friends and neighbours, but not English people in general.

The English rural labouring class seemed to continue their strong sense of local belonging when possible, and maintained a certain distance from their national ‘group’.

Leicester: The Metropolis of Dissent by 1848?

K Hanley

In 1848 a Leicester MP described the town as being the ‘metropolis of Nonconformity’. This phrase and variations including the ‘Metropolis of Dissent’ were perpetuated thereafter to describe Leicester’s growth and its impact from religious denominations, their churches and congregations. The purpose of this dissertation is to determine whether Leicester was justified in this claim.

A comparison between 1787 and 1848 shows there was a substantially disproportionate increase between Anglican churches and its nonconformist or dissenting chapels. We determine the main causes of this change, the leading individuals and their motivations and characteristics. This was a time of considerable economic upheaval and the ‘hungry 40s’ generated considerable stresses and strains affecting all aspects of community life: ‘What the hell do we care about reading, if we get nought to eat?’. This inequality is addressed through ministers’ interventions on the manufacturing environment dominated by the hosiery industry where insurance schemes and poor relief were inadequate to resolve the

economic hardships. This was fertile ground for Chartism and its reforms as demonstrations moved from peaceful protest to more confrontational demands. ‘Moral force’ moved towards a more ‘physical’ one as Chartism and Dissenters shared some common objectives. Contentious religious issues are examined. Church rates, a legal tax to maintain the parish church, were discontinued, the Liberation Society was established to separate the state from religion, and legalised compulsory education by the Established Church was prevented.

A variety of sources are used including the *1851 Census of Religious Worship*, locally written church histories, biographies, autobiographies, and newspaper articles. These are supported by more specific evidences such as baptism registers, church minutes and works from writers of the time and modern historians. An objective analysis of the evidence suggests that while Leicester’s claim is unproven its recognition as ‘a’ metropolis of dissent is justified.

An examination of the tripartite relationship between women, clothing and emancipation, during the period 1890 - 1920s: What factors influenced changes to female clothing and did this expedite female emancipation?

T Jones



The Bal Maidens by Emily Mary Osborn, c.1870

This research investigates the tripartite relationship between women, clothing and emancipation by looking specifically at women's entrance into the male domains of sport and employment during 1890-1920s. It assesses female sartorial designs in cycling and football attire and how modifications to traditional female dress facilitated greater bodily emancipation. Likewise, it evaluates costumes worn by women working in the munitions factories and on the land as part of the Women's Land Army during the First World War. The primary emphasis has been to establish how changes in women's lives impacted upon female clothing and to determine whether this in turn expedited female emancipation.

This study engages with current debates of women's history and offers an understanding as to what inhibited and enabled women's freedom of movement by examining female sartorial designs, and as such costume history and dress reform form a large section of this

research. The focus has been about subtle issues of power, gender ascription, sexual vulnerability, the 'male gaze', and female emancipation. The research explores whether or not clothing facilitated female emancipation, as well as what factors influenced changes to female clothing and whether this influenced female emancipation. The properties of female dress were scrutinised with a particular emphasis on the potentially emancipatory qualities of bifurcated garments such as bloomers, shorts, trousers and overalls. However, the findings of this study indicate that it was above all advances in women's undergarments and the demise of corsetry and crinolines that accelerated female bodily emancipation.

Tracey has been awarded a Research Scholarship at the University of Illinois, Springfield, after an internship at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and museum.

The LBSCR Drivers: A study of the engine drivers employed by the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway, 1850–1885

J Pullin

This dissertation examines the extent to which the professional and domestic lives of engine drivers employed in the 1870s by the London Brighton & South Coast Railway indicated their economic and social status among railwaymen and within the working class as a whole. It uses railway company records and data from censuses and other material to build a picture of who the engine drivers were, their origins, their families (parents, siblings, partners and children) and their working lives. It discusses the degree to which the data derived from individuals' lives

confirms or negates ideas about the existence of labour aristocracies. The MA dissertation was deliberately designed as a testbed for research methodologies and for data acquisition and analysis that will now be used in a broader PhD project at Leicester, starting from February 2017, that will look at this occupational group nationwide and that aims to highlight differences and similarities in employment practices between localities, regions and individual railway companies in the mid-Victorian period.

'Be Kindly affectioned to one another': love and parish politics in Stanton Lacy, Shropshire

E. Round

This dissertation discusses a case from the immediate post-Restoration period where the vicar of a small parish in south Shropshire was accused of adultery. He then went on to commit infanticide and was hung at Tyburn in 1679. The court papers, parish register and a penitential pamphlet written by the vicar are used here to discuss how love affected the 'politics of the parish'. This kind of politics is a seminal concept developed by Keith Wrightson, and following Wrightson, politics is defined here as concerning relationships between people, usually where power and resources of any kind are concerned. Love is discussed via a Greek taxonomy of *Philia*,

Storge, Eros and Agape and shows that as an emotion driving relationships within the parish, it had the potential to strongly affect parochial relationships, and to be impacted by politics in turn. Political areas explored within this dissertation include office holding, parochial hierarchy, courtship and marriage, neighbourliness and the interaction between the vicar and his parishioners. The dissertation ends by concluding that emotional relationships within a parish are as much a sphere of political action as any other areas outlined in previous historical work on the subject, and as such, deserve further investigation by historians.

Using manorial customs to explore the peasant experience in medieval England, c.1251 – c.1354

A Sutherland

The purpose of this paper is to take a new approach to medieval manorial customs and to investigate the extent to which these sources are useful for exploring the peasant experience in medieval England during the

period c.1251 to c.1354. To date most historians have tended to neglect them. It will be argued that despite being particularly contrived and problematic, and therefore placing some serious restrictions on the

conclusions that can be drawn from them, they are in fact useful for shedding light on many aspects of the peasant experience. It is shown that the quantitative analysis of these documents is a useful way to address them but historians need to think about them qualitatively too because this is considerably more effective for accessing the mentality of the peasantry and thus their experience of the world in which they lived. The study pays more attention to the subtleties that have been ignored by historians and through new approaches brings out fresh information that can contribute to a more nuanced

understanding of the medieval peasant experience. The study takes three themes of particular relevance to the study – land, services and tensions. It finds that the best way to enter their mentality is through the exploration of tensions, followed by services and finally land. All three however have something different to offer. The study draws on a multitude of customals from across much of England but also breaks new ground by drawing particular attention to the unique content of the by-law type of customal from Cockerham.

Recently Completed PhD Theses

Stories from the Edge: Creating an Identity in Early Medieval North-West Staffordshire Matthew Blake

This thesis takes as its research area the southern half of Pirehill Hundred, Staffordshire. Despite being in the Mercian heartland, it is an area that has remained on the periphery of discussions by scholars of the early medieval period. To bring this area into focus this study undertook both a multi-disciplinary and a multi-focused approach. Chapters discuss burial mounds, both in terms of survival and their cultural context and the lives of local saints. Both are viewed in terms of their historical context as well and through the lens of storytelling and the formation of identity as expressed in the landscape. The discussion pulls in wider themes concerning the power of the dead as expressed in the landscape.

The chapter on the stone sculpture of Staffordshire brings these monuments back into a Mercian context, seeing them as a continuation of this wider narrative as well as

bringing to the fore broader discussions around land ownership. This is later linked through a series of case studies to the propensity for early medieval manors to be found on the edge of watery landscapes. It is through these detailed case studies that evidence is provided for a series of ‘symptoms’ by which early medieval settlements can be discerned. The role of the powerful family Wulf is discussed in the final chapter, placing this family and their landholding firmly in a Staffordshire context.

What links this thesis is an understanding of ‘edgy-ness’, either in landscape terms with the desire for early medieval manors to seek out the edge, or how this region has remained on the edge of academic discussions. Above all else this thesis is a study of the landscape of the often overlooked rural landscape of early medieval Staffordshire.

Rutland: The Development of a County Community in the Modern Age. Hilary Crowden

This thesis aims to explore aspects of a largely intangible aspect of rural change: that of affiliation and affinity, to Rutland, a small

county within the English East Midlands. It aims at an evaluation and possible explanation of the position that Rutland held

as an iconic English rural community towards the end of the twentieth century. This thesis's originality and contribution to knowledge lays in its conceptual framework and its holistic methodology bringing together two themes and various approaches to the study.

Conceptually it uses the idea of the 'imagined community', originally used to explain forms of nationalism, along with the notion of a 'county community' developed to explain social cohesion within the county structure during the seventeenth century. It brings these two concepts together and translates them through to the modern age in the consideration of Rutland, famous for its tenacity in defending its county identity.

Differing aspects of administration, culture and representation are studied using a range of sources to provide evidence to argue that

concentrating on the dual elements of affiliation and participation, the county community concept can be extended from the seventeenth century and be a useful tool in studying modern rural society.

In a parallel emphasis the roles of different forms of representation are used to give credence to the argument that they were different imagined communities of Rutland dependent upon the point of view of the cultural agent involved as much as the position of the viewer, the consumer of the product. A common factor in the majority of these representations is the consideration of Rutland as part of the rural idyll of the English countryside. Conclusions are drawn as to the veracity of this mythology and its role in sustaining community spirit and reinforcing a perceived distinct county identity in the modern era.

The Changing Landscape and Economy of Wisbech Hundred 1250-1550 **Michael Gilbert**

There is the ever-present danger that the study of local history can be seen as parochial and of limited value in understanding the forces that shape the society and economy of a country. This thesis demonstrates the value of local research as a means of challenging established national social, demographic and economic models. By developing an understanding of regional variation it is possible to enhance our comprehension of the central themes in medieval English history.

The thesis uses a wetland region, Wisbech Hundred in Cambridgeshire, as a case study to illustrate the response to environmental and socio-economic change and to compare this with national behaviour. It is in part a study of the historic landscape of the region and in the tradition of landscape study it fundamentally explores the transformational interaction between people and their environment.

The study of wetland regions is particularly informative as they exemplify the struggle

between humanity and the landscape to establish viable settlements. These liminal communities living at the extremity of the region had many potential economic advantages that were attractive to the settler but this had to be balanced against the continuous threat of disaster. The case study shows how it was possible for the medieval inhabitants to progressively manage, modify and transform the region

This was achieved in the period 1250-1550 against the backdrop of great upheaval and profound change in the structure of society and economy in England. It covers the closing stages of the great period of high medieval growth followed by demographic crisis and finally stagnation in the recovery of both population and the economy. This study shows the complex nature of local behaviour that can be easily overlooked by the application of broad concepts that attempt to provide an all embracing explanation of the medieval world.

The experience of war widows in mid seventeenth-century England, with special reference to Kent and Sussex
Hannah Worthen

This thesis investigates the experience of war widows in mid seventeenth-century England by examining the county pension and sequestration schemes during the Civil Wars. It focuses on how these processes impacted the lives of women who lost their husbands in war, and how they negotiated their financial subsistence by presenting petitions. In order to demonstrate how the lives of ordinary women were changed by the wars it presents a local history of these processes, with special reference to Kent and Sussex. Additionally, the thesis considers the contemporary representations of widows in Civil-War print material and examines how this shaped the ways in which they fashioned themselves.

In doing so, it underlines the importance of county studies and local history to Civil War research. It broadens historians' understanding of the experience of women in the Civil Wars by illuminating how they lived through, and survived, the wars. Furthermore, it specifically analyses the significant role of widows in early modern society. Finally, this thesis demonstrates the impact of the petition as a tool of the needy in early modern society. It emphasises how the presentation of supplications to higher authorities, in the form of a written petition, became an essential tool of subsistence for war widows in this period.

The following publications arose from this thesis:

'Suplicants and guardians: the petitions of Royalist war widows during the Civil Wars and Interregnum, 1642-1660', *Women's History Review*, 26:4 (2017), pp. 528-40.

Forthcoming 2017/18

'Sequestration and the gentry in Kent during the Civil Wars and Interregnum', in Sean Cunningham, Anne Curry and Paul Dryburgh (eds.), *Status, Identity and Authority: Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Archives and Heraldry presented to Adrian Ailes* (Provisionally accepted, publication December 2017).

'The administration of war relief in civil-war Kent, 1642-1679', in David Appleby & Andrew Hopper (eds.), *Battle-Scarred: Mortality, Medical Care and Military Welfare in the British Civil Wars* (Manchester University Press, 2018).

Hannah Worthen also presented her work in the USA:

Report on the North American Conference for British Studies (11-13 November 2016, Washington DC)

This year the Friends of English Local History very generously awarded me a grant towards my costs for attending and presenting a paper at the North American Conference on British Studies. One panel that I especially enjoyed was under the theme 'Immigrants in England: 1350-1550' and included papers on the regulation of resident aliens in the later Middle Ages (Mark Ormrod) and the incidences of women who moved to northern England to Scotland in the mid fifteenth

century (Judith Bennett). It was fascinating to hear about the ways in which administrative archival material can be used to discover details about the lives of ordinary people as well as inform historians about broader societal patterns. For example, Dr Bennett explained that a large proportion of migrants from Scotland in the fifteenth century were women and that this group tended to travel further geographically than their male counterparts.

I gave my paper to the conference as part of a panel entitled 'The Wars of the Three Kingdoms and the Nature of Post-Conflict Welfare, 1640-1680' chaired by David Appleby. Two of my fellow postgraduate students also spoke in the panel: Bethany Marsh, a Midlands 3 Cities student at the University of Nottingham, and Stewart Beale, also a Midlands 3 Cities students based here at the Centre for English Local History. Bethany researches the reception of Irish Refugees in England after the 1641 rebellion and gave an excellent paper founded on her research at the London Metropolitan Archives on how Irish refugees were named in the parish records. Stewart presented on the experience of Royalist War Widows and the Restoration and this provided an interesting counterpoint to my paper on the petitions of Parliamentary War Widows during the Civil Wars and Interregnum. In my paper, I argued that Parliamentary War Widows crafted petitions with narratives of loss, poverty and desperation in order to be granted a county pension by the Justices of the Peace. I also

presented my research from the Kent and Sussex Record Offices to show that war widows were granted pensions within these counties during the 1640s and 1650s. It appears that the JPs were willing to grant relief to these women, even though maimed soldiers made up the majority of pensioners, and therefore that their petitions were met with some measure of success. Professor Jane Ohlmeyer from Trinity College Dublin rounded up our panel with some enlightening comments. For example, she suggested that we all turn to Irish material for further research and in particular the 1641 Depositions which are a fantastic resource and freely available online.

The conference came to a close after Andrew Hopper chaired a session on 'Nostalgia and Memory of the English Civil Wars'. These papers presented an interesting perspective on the ways in which nostalgia and memory of the wars can be drawn out of material such as Printed Almanacs and Post-Restoration Royalist material.



Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Washington DC

Farming community and identity in Lower Wharfedale, Yorkshire, 1914-1951 **Jane Rowling**

The terms 'community' and 'local' carry with them a host of preconceived ideas and positive connotations which are often taken as self-evident. This study re-examines the two ideas in the context of a farming community in Yorkshire in the early part of the twentieth century, using original oral testimony

obtained through the author's preexisting connections with the locality. A key component of this investigation is the use of classic works on community, ethnography, sociology, ontology, philosophy and critical theory to provide a foundation on which to build an understanding of the oral evidence.

By exploring themes of space and place, gender and embodiment, and social and cultural boundaries, it is possible to trace the threads upon which community is based as they continued through the large-scale changes which characterised the period 1914 to 1951, and even into the twenty-first century. The evidence for this continuity among Lower Wharfedale's farming community suggests that the idea of the decline of rural communities during the twentieth century is flawed. While quantitative decline is evident, what emerges



from this study is a picture of a community which ensures its own survival by adapting and changing to suit the context in which it finds itself, relying on trust, shared knowledge and experience, and a sense of shared identity and 'togetherness' in order to survive. The study concludes that 'community' is a performance given through the activities of everyday life, a possession to be protected or given as a gift by its members, and a passport granting entry to other communities which overlap in terms of membership or values.

PhDs in Progress

A comparison of kinship family survival in York and Swaledale in the nineteenth century

PhD Student: [PhD Student](#)

This study looks at the structure of kinship families and the factors that influenced their survival or decline in two widely contrasting regions of England, namely some districts of York and rural Swaledale throughout the nineteenth century. The century witnessed two mass migrations into York, the arrival of the railway workforces and people fleeing the potato famine in Ireland. Swaledale was ravaged extensively at the beginning of the nineteenth century, but the land-owning gentry suffered a prolonged depression because of foreign competition and exhaustion of the mines. The mines were finally abandoned in 1914 following a mine collapse.

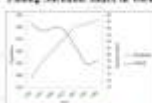



Swaledale valley and the former extent of the mines

Summary Index


Kinship families are those families in a community with several households headed by a relative with the same surname. We identify them in this study and follow them over time with a 'surname index', defined as the number of surnames divided by the number of people. Kinship in this group of 12 surnames that there are 7 relatives called Alderson, Crofters, sons, cousins, etc. and 5 called Fensholt, in 2 kinship families: 50-1112. Imagine now that all 12 have a different surname (in no kinship families: 50-1212). A lower 51 (2-12) implies there are more or larger kinship families in the group. A rising index over time implies migration of kinship families out of the population and a falling index implies migration of kinship families into the population.

Using Surname Index in York





A falling 51 in some railway and Irish streets of York, and a rising 51 in the mining districts of Swaledale, suggests that kinship families may have needed to migrate into York and out of Swaledale in preference to lone families.

Using Surname Index in Swaledale



Kinship families flourished in the working-class terraces of the railway district of York (left), and York kinship family arrivals peaked in the stone terraces of the city in 1851-61. Kinship family trajectories varied in the districts of Swaledale. The Alderson family in Malton district, for example, started one family at their number 661 and the local mine collapsed.

The experiences of war widows during the British Civil Wars

Stewart Baskin

Introduction

On 24 October 1642, Parliament confirmed that married parliamentary soldiers and war widows would be entitled to receive a pension. The ordinance was hugely significant. For the first time in its history, the British Parliament publicly assumed responsibility for the provision of war widows.

By the end of the civil wars in 1651 an estimated 160,000 soldiers and civilians had died in England and Wales as a result of the civil wars, whilst a further 50,000 men had returned to their communities wounded. Parliament's promise was about to be put to the test.

Research Questions

This study examines the experiences of war widows during the mid-seventeenth century. It examines parliamentary records, State Papers, and the archives of county quarter sessions to assess the extent of relief available to female war widows during this period, how successful women were in accessing that relief, and the adequacy of such provisions in maintaining women and their families. Utilising petitions submitted by and on behalf of war widows to various authorities, it also considers how these women sought to fashion themselves as worthy of relief. The role of status is considered throughout the study, whilst the comparative experiences of parliamentarian and royalist widows is also addressed.



Elizabeth Capel, a royalist war widow, petitioned for revenge against her husband's bloodstained alter the Restoration. (Source: National Portrait Gallery)

War Widows and Revenge

Not all widows sought relief. The Restoration in 1660 was welcomed by some royalist women as an opportunity to exact revenge against their wartime adversaries. In 1649 Arthur, Lord Capel was executed by Parliament for his participation in the Second Civil War. In 1695, his widow Elizabeth petitioned Parliament demanding that the men who had sentenced her husband be punished. She requested that:

all those who have had a hand in the notorious wickedness may for the glory of God, the honour of the English nation, and for better to all such wicked men, be brought to condign punishment.



Catherine Russell, a parliamentarian who petitioned for insurance after her husband's death in 1645. (Source: National Portrait Gallery)

Beyond the Civil Wars

In 1670 the Parliament legislation allowing widows to receive state pensions expired. It was not re-enacted for another 200 years. The mid-seventeenth century might therefore be viewed as a unique epoch in the history of early modern England, in which war widows were briefly considered part of the political nation.

The Twentieth-Century Poor Law in the Midlands and Wales 1900-1930

@nic_blacklaws Nicola Blacklaws nicb273@le.ac.uk

The final thirty years of the poor law, from 1900 to the system's abolition in 1930, have received relatively little attention from historians. This project attempts to uncover how the poor law operated during this period in three places across the Midlands and Wales.

Key research questions

- How did the levels of indoor and outdoor relief change over time?
- Who received relief during this period?
- What forms did outdoor relief take?
- How much did the poor law change in its operation and extent at the 'point of access' over the course of the early twentieth century?
- How did perceptions and provisions of poor relief compare across the Midlands region, between Wales and England, and between individual poor law unions?
- To what extent was the poor law able to adapt to changes in central government provision of the early twentieth century?

Why the Midlands? Why Wales?

An influential conception of regional welfare cultures, outlined by Steve King, suggests that attitudes towards and experiences of poor relief in northern and western England were different to those in the south and east of the country. Concentrating the research on the Midlands allows me to compare these two welfare 'zones', and include poor law unions from both within my study.

Wales has been almost entirely neglected by poor law historians, with very few studies focusing on how the system had changed in that country. This is despite the fact that, as both Swales and I have argued, the experience of Welsh poor law unions differed substantially from very many English unions, by including Welsh unions in the project, I can start filling certain historiographical gaps.

Chosen unions

I am taking a 'bottom-up' approach to this project, seeking to understand poor law unions from across the region which will then be studied in depth. These are:

- Stoke, Leicestershire
- Stafford, Staffordshire
- Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire
- Spalding, Leicestershire
- Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire
- Wrexham, Montgomeryshire
- Newtown & Usk, Montgomeryshire

This project is rooted in documents produced by local poor law administrators. These include outdoor relief lists and any other surviving records of relieving officers, such as application and report books and relief order books; poor law guardians' minute books and minutes of board sub-committees, such as the Boarding Out Committee, and workhouse admission and discharge registers. Official records of outdoor relief.

Midlands|Wales|OUP
Regional Studies Programme

The culture of Anglican church redundancy: Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, 1945-1995

Dorcas Swainson-Anderson

Why this is important

Redundant Anglican churches are not a new feature of the English landscape, but since the introduction of formal processes to deal with them (inspired from the private sector), it is clear that there was a high rate of redundancy because of the accelerated pace of abandonment since the Second World War. However, there are underlying motivations behind such redundancy that reflect local attitudes to community and belonging. The failure of most redundant churches to maintain the national attitudes towards heritage of that time (between 1960 and 1995 over 1500 churches were closed, redundant, 20% were preserved in the Redundant Churches Fund (now the Church of England), 27% were demolished and 11% were converted into homes. These varying uses found a range of alternative uses. There is a paucity of historical literature that explore the culture of church redundancy or explore the reasons for church closure. The main aim of this thesis is to test the assumptions, generalisations, and statements made about church redundancy using heretofore unexplored regional registers.

Research questions

- What makes a church redundant and what does this process designate a church?
- How and why are churches closed and what does one look for?
- What specific factors held in the sense of necessity of closure?
- To what degree has the Westminster perspective become so predominant that it is used to shape the decision-making process?
- How have local communities and congregations coped with the loss of their church?
- What sort of alternatives are there?
- To what extent are they provided by heritage bodies?

Heritage

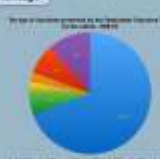
The Redundant Churches Fund (RCF) was established in 1968. It is a charity that provides grants to help churches that are redundant to be preserved. The RCF has a list of churches that are redundant and are being preserved. The RCF has a list of churches that are redundant and are being preserved. The RCF has a list of churches that are redundant and are being preserved.

Study area

Leicestershire is an excellent region to study because of its high number of redundant churches. The Lincoln Diocese contains the highest number of redundant churches in the country. The Lincoln Diocese contains the highest number of redundant churches in the country. The Lincoln Diocese contains the highest number of redundant churches in the country.

Preliminary Findings - Leicestershire and Lincolnshire

Parishes: Too many churches were built for a population that declined rapidly in the twentieth century. Some churches were built in very remote areas where there were very small congregations which were unlikely to grow. The changing social structure of some villages affected the sense of belonging and attachment to a church. Many parishes in rural areas (MFL) were churchless without congregations > 4000. The Lincoln Diocese contains the highest number of redundant churches in the country. The Lincoln Diocese contains the highest number of redundant churches in the country. The Lincoln Diocese contains the highest number of redundant churches in the country.



The Leicestershire gentry, c.1460-1560: Identity, locality, and landscape

Kate Bridger • Centre for English Local History • kb333@le.ac.uk • @KateBridger

This study explores the relationship between the Leicestershire gentry and their diverse landscape, comparing both the natural and built environment. It uses an interdisciplinary approach to investigate the impact of the landscape on the gentry and vice versa. It challenges the perception that this relationship was a simple matter of absentee possession void of affinity or influence. It pays particular attention to the gentry's creation, consolidation and expansion of identity during a period of political, religious and economic change.

- Research is undertaken with these key research questions in mind, using the approaches outlined below:
- How did the expression of gentry identity manifest in the landscape?
 - What role did the county landscape play in the formation of gentry identity?
 - To what extent did the local social network facilitate or restrict self-expression?
 - What was the most common incentive for land accumulation?
 - What do the findings reveal about gentry self-perception?



The litigation and landed interests recorded in documentary evidence are mapped digitally using GIS to reveal geographical clusters of gentry interest, which are then examined. Possible explanations include ideal topography for agriculture, proximity to trade routes, land value, landed affinity and the influence of the local social network. Case studies are taken from the courts of equity and common law, supplemented by land consequence records and subsidy rolls.

Attention is given to the impact of space and place as gentry interaction and the symbolic influence of gentry agents and powers. The landscape was used by the gentry for profit, recreation, and travel, which could cement or aggravate local allegiances and rivalries. Methods of land management such as enclosure or enclosure were particularly provocative. Manorial estates and parks, the king's highway and the royal forest at Leicester are amongst the case studies used here.

The role of architecture in gentry self-expression is particularly revealing. This approach uses both surviving and documented evidence from the archaeological and antiquarian record. Manor houses and their chapels, parish churches and religious houses are used to explore themes of architectural style and the influence of fashion, the impact of the Reformation, the significance of physical gentry interaction with these forms, such as removal or sale post-Dissolution, is also analysed.

This approach argues for the importance and significance of physical location in gentry self-expression and self-perception post-Dissolution. Predominantly using wills, it demonstrates that the location of a tomb or monument in a parish church, and the location of that church in the county can reveal more about the person than the objects themselves in terms of religious or familial affinity. Gentry interaction with these forms, such as removal or sale post-Dissolution, is also analysed.

By viewing the gentry in location from the landscape, historical enquiry is at risk of contextual displacement and limitation. In the realm of both gentry and landscape studies this relationship should not be ignored. The economic value of land to the gentry is clear, but the extent to which the landscape influenced gentry identity was intimate, profound and enduring, which was the subtext? It is hoped that this investigation illustrates the merits of this approach, in turn making this branch of society – and their local landscape – better understood.



Survival as a parish priest in seventeenth-century Dorset

Background

This study investigates how the clergy of Dorset survived during the seventeenth century, a period of major social, political and religious change. The landscape of Dorset, on the south coast of England, comprises areas of chalk downs, clay vales, coastal ridges and heathland (Fig. 1). Following the Dissolution, a central focus is on the impact of the landscape on clergymen's survival strategies, in terms both of agricultural income from glebe and tithes, and of topographical location.



Fig. 1 Geological regions of Dorset

Methodology

Data on individuals' family backgrounds, situation, heritages, parochial and non-parochial activities, tax payments, wills and inventories have been gathered for around 1,500 clergy known to have been active in the 200 parochial livings of Dorset from 1600 to 1700. Together with parish-level data on topography, geology, agriculture, valuations of livings and churchwardens' accounts and presentations, these are being analysed to examine economic, geographical, social, political and religious opportunities and risks to clergymen's survival.

Preliminary Findings

In the poorest parishes, incumbents might increase their incomes by serving more than one cure, while those in richer livings were more able to supplement their income with preferments to higher Church appointments. Many incumbents were absent during the civil wars and Interregnum, especially in West and South Dorset (Fig. 2), perhaps because of their proximity to local garrisons, but military and overseas postings offered alternative avenues for employment.



Fig. 2 Distribution of clergy by landscape type



Fig. 3 Chalk downland, Dorset Down

Evidence from inventories indicates that incumbents of downland parishes (Fig. 3) tended to have influential patrons or wealthy family, enabling them to invest in property and other activities. A dearth of glebe land meant that most did not engage directly in farming.



Fig. 4 Heathland landscape, Dorset

The survival of a larger number of wills and inventories from the Badonvay Vale (Fig. 4) suggests that many incumbents in the region were sufficiently wealthy to have property to bequeath. Self-sufficiency was perhaps easier in this region, given the enclosed nature of the glebe land.



Fig. 5 Heathland, Dorset

Incumbents of heathland parishes (Fig. 5) derived little income from the land, and either lived in relative poverty or turned to alternative ways of earning a living, such as writing poetry.



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Windsor – a Forgotten English Civil War Supply Depot

Flis Kyprianou

Windsor Castle has been a key military stronghold ever since the medieval period. The castle controlled the western entrance approach to London which was key both for trade and supplies coming in and out of the city. In October 1642 the Parliamentary army took control of Windsor Castle and its environs. It was occupied by Colonel John Vane and his newly formed regiment. Its strategic location was recognised by Prince Rupert who tried unsuccessfully to retake the castle for the King.

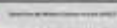


New research into Windsor Castle and its position has shown that for the first time Windsor was a major depot supplying artillery, powder, horses and other supplies. This was brought down from London, the main manufacturing centre for the Parliamentary army.



The newly discovered personal accounts for Windsor Castle, together with sources such as the journals of the House of Lords and the House of Commons and evidence from accounts give a great insight as to how Windsor was used as a supply depot not only for the castle and town but for the middle Thames Valley, south-west England and the west Midlands.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| December 1642 | Colonel John Vane's personal accounts showing the castle's role as a supply depot. |
| March 1643 | A journal of Colonel John Vane's personal accounts showing the castle's role as a supply depot. |
| October 1643 | A journal of Colonel John Vane's personal accounts showing the castle's role as a supply depot. |
| April 1644 | A journal of Colonel John Vane's personal accounts showing the castle's role as a supply depot. |



Bodmin Moor - a cultural and genetic study

Bodmin Moor is a rough open landscape in south Cornwall, measuring 80 square miles with only 100 houses in total. It was inhabited by Bronze Age people but since that no one has lived there in the area due to its inhospitable environment for growing food crops, although it has been continuously used for rough grazing and the mining of mineral resources. Up until the 1850s there were no formal roads of any kind on the moor and the weather, often poor visibility, and dangerous terrain made it very difficult to visit. But people have lived and lived on the moor since medieval times and many of the original families who still live there today.

Y chromosomes are useful in ancestry studies because they inherit the type of markers that pass down almost completely from father to son and can therefore show relationships between men. Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) are a type of genetic marker which helps to trace distant ancestry, while Short Tandem Repeats (STRs) are useful for tracing recent ancestry. We study both of 25 Y-chromosome STRs and 10 Y-chromosome SNPs to establish the genetic relationships between the 100 families who still live on the moor today.

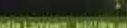
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Roger of Hereford's *Liber de arte astronomice iudicandi*: England's first astrology textbook?

Chris Mitchell

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Roger of Hereford appears to have been a member of the Bishop of Hereford's household in the late 12th century, where he taught at the school at Hereford Cathedral. He wrote on the subject of "computus", the technique needed to calculate when Easter would fall each year, and which involved understanding the lunar cycles used in the Jewish calendar. This had been a contentious issue since the early days of Christianity, and was an obscure topic for a churchman to study. He also wrote a text on astrology in the form of an astrology manual or textbook. The techniques described in it are of Arabic origin, and he wrote it at a time when many scientific, medical and astrological texts were being translated from Arabic into Latin. Roger states that these techniques are available in many places, but that he is compiling them into a single volume: *Liber de arte astronomice iudicandi*.

Why Arabic Astrology had Hellenistic roots and had been widely taught in the Roman Empire and the emperor Justinian banned its teaching in 529, when scholars of astrology were banished to the coast of Rhodes (Iliou Pelos). After the rise of Islam in the 7th century, astrological knowledge from the Roman Empire, Persia and India was disseminated across the Islamic world including centres of Islamic learning in Spain, such as Cordoba and Toledo. Toledo was captured by the Christians in 1085, making Arabic texts available to Christian scholars, and resulting in the 12th century "Translation movement", of which Roger seems to have been part.



METHODOLOGY

- Transcribing and translating the available manuscripts
- Identifying the Arabic provenance of each technique
- Identifying unique ideas and techniques in Roger's work
- Roger's library: existing works available to him
- Looking at the context of the medieval curriculum
- Identifying the transmission of Roger's work subsequently

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What was the attitude of the Church towards astrology?
- Why was astrology an important topic to teach in a school?
- Where Roger's sources likely translations, or did he read Arabic?
- Did Roger study in Toledo (as Hereford Cathedral evidence)?
- Did Roger innovate, or just use existing material?
- Did Roger help to develop a unique English astrology?

An Emotional Geography of a Post-Industrial Coalfield

HEATHER COOPER

Introduction—
This study explores the relational geographies of emotion, cultural memory and space in the former coalfield area of Nottinghamshire and how these concepts have impacted on ways of belonging, identity and place attachment.

What I want to achieve...
It is hoped that the study will contribute to the development of both academic interests in the area of Human Geography and writing class studies and, also, to policy debates surrounding effective regeneration strategies. To these aims I want to appreciate and interpret the complexity of the emotional geography within the study area. The study aims to interpret the strategies which the people of the Nottinghamshire coalfield employ to cope with traumatic and contested pasts. The study will outline the roles in which remembering and forgetting of the shared histories are playing in the formation of locally contested collective identities, belonging and sense of place. There will contribute towards historic geographies to regeneration of the area.



Why the study is important...
Areas that have experienced mining reclamation tend to have high levels of social disadvantage and socio-economic inequalities. These are particularly felt in the former coalfield areas. Academics working in reclamation studies often stress the importance of history, public memory and place. Such action their communication, and to our understanding of them in addition. Problems associated with the re-emergence of traditional geographies have argued that remembering is an emotional and spatial process. It is within these frameworks of emotion, memory and space that this project aims to develop regeneration strategies that engage with collective senses of identity, belonging and place in the Nottinghamshire coalfield.

What I need to consider...
The Nottinghamshire coalfield has a complex history. Many settlements are relatively young, the area has experienced high levels of internal migration and social deprivation has been ongoing. If specific importance is the underlying emotional and counteractive which arise from the later miners' work (PMA's). These issues require both qualitative and quantitative data. Hence the context of belonging to the place changes that followed. Due to the use of psycho-geographic techniques and participant observation, an ethical assessment of the historical contexts is critical. However, these "traumatic pasts" need to be studied in order to overcome the problems facing the area.



How I aim to do this...

- Psycho-geographic interviews** with key informants and residents to explore the emotional and spatial processes of remembering and 'being' in the subject area. Participant observation of community events and everyday social interactions to interpret the ways in which interactions are embedded and performed.
- Archival Research** of documents to analyse the changing emotional geography and social relations in the coalfield.
- Auto-ethnographic methods** to explore my own personal, emotional relationship with the history and contemporary experience with the Nottinghamshire coalfield, as I grew up in the area and how these connections to it.
- Critical Analysis** of the artistic and visual representations of the coalfield's heritage in order to assess how the historical discourse has been narrated by different groups and individuals.

The Old Poor Law, Enclosure, and Social Change in Leicestershire and Rutland, 1700 - 1834



Kimberley Jayne Pullen



This study looks at the Old Poor Law in rural society from 1700 to its reform in 1834, focusing on its relationship to enclosure and social change. Leicestershire and Rutland form an excellent region for this topic, since they were heavily rural during this period and so were significantly affected by enclosure and other changes in rural society, particularly the expansion of framework knitting. Moreover, enclosure in this region was accompanied by the conversion of land from arable to pastoral agriculture. This resulted in a fall in the demand for labour, so that enclosures could lead to poverty and out-ward migration, as surplus labourers moved to towns and to those villages where industry was expanding as an alternative occupation to agriculture.

The village of Rothley exemplifies the findings of my research. It was enclosed in 1781, at which point there was a significant rise in poor relief. This occurred despite the presence of framework knitting, which should have been able to absorb the surplus labourers. This highlights the importance of enclosure in the history of poverty and welfare, contributing to increases in poor relief that resulted in the reform of the Old Poor Law in 1834.



An 18th-Century Stocking Frame



This study will contribute to our understanding of a diverse range of topics. In particular, it will enhance our knowledge of socio-economic change on the eve of the industrial revolution, as it will cover agricultural development, migration, and the expansion of industry. In addition, it will look at the effects of enclosure on the position of women, which is currently a much understudied topic. Finally, it will have implications for our knowledge of the physical landscape of villages, this being significantly affected by enclosure.

With thanks to my supervisors, Professors Keith Sillit and Tracy Street

THE LOCOMOTIVE DRIVERS

The working and domestic lives of the men who drove the trains, 1850-1885
John Pullin, University of Leicester, jlp27@le.ac.uk

ORIGINS

Between 1850 and 1885, expansion of UK railway networks and services demanded a 30-fold increase in numbers of engine drivers. Early railway practice of recruiting from mining and other industries was no longer sustainable. So who were the new recruits for this new occupation? Where did they come from? What were their family backgrounds? What did do they possess?

CAREERS

Railway companies were tough employers and strict disciplinarians. With railway employment, engine drivers were an elite, got the job was dangerous and the hours long, and transgressions could be punished with demotion or summary dismissal. What were the working lives of drivers? What training or benefits did they receive? Was this really a career with potential to progress?

COMMUNITY

Railways resisted unions, parliamentary regulation, and health and safety legislation. Unlike factory workers, locomotive workers in small teams, dispersed across networks. Did drivers develop an occupational community? Were they geographically or culturally? Were all companies the same to work for or were there local variations in terms and conditions?

FAMILIES

Victorian engine drivers were of men, mostly married with children. Who were the families of the engine drivers and what were their living conditions? Did they live close to the engine sheds or in pleasant and distant suburbs? Was accommodation provided by railway companies or were families constantly moving houses? Did children follow fathers on the railways? Did wives have jobs?

IDENTITY

Because of relatively high pay and apparent job security, Victorian engine drivers have often been casually categorised as part of a 'labour aristocracy'. How far is this a true reflection of their circumstances? How did they view their job security? Did their skills fit them for other jobs? Did they retire to a life of ease or to penury? Were their children upwardly mobile in terms of class?

This research PhD started only in February 2017 and currently there are many more questions than answers. Research is constrained by a shortage of surviving and reliable records of both railway companies and the individuals they employed. Potential outputs of the research are the creation of a database of engine drivers and the development of a methodology that will facilitate future study of other occupational groupings.

Peasant Seals and Sealing Practices, c.1200-c.1500

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Introduction

My project seeks to socially and culturally contextualise the use of medieval seals that belonged to rural English peasants from c.1200 to c.1500.

Research questions

- How can medieval peasant seals be used to explore peasant identity in England?
- How and why did peasants use seals to express occupations, familial relationships and connections, social and economic aspirations and divisions, party and factional, and local and regional belonging?
- What do medieval peasant seals tell us about access to literacy by the lower social classes in the later Middle Ages and what was its social and cultural application?
- How and why did peasants use the written word?
- What was the significance of the seal in peasant use of the written word?

My approach

I will take an interdisciplinary approach that combines both documentary (the seals) and archaeological evidence (the seals – matrices, wax impressions and casts) in a way that is sensitive to the theoretical approaches of material culture studies and I will treat the seals as agents within the culture that produced them.

I hope to implement a piloted approach of developing Portable Antiquities Scheme data, Daily of Leicester data and local expert data from regional record offices. Thus, three matrices, one in a PWS area, one in a DLI area and one in an overlap of DLI and PWS data will be studied. The eastern English counties of Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex have been identified as research areas owing to their abundance of secure material.

Figure 1. Wax seal impression



Source: N. 2012/0100

Figure 2. Fourteenth-century copper alloy seal matrix



Source: <https://www.britainfromrobert.com/leicester/14th-century-seal-matrix/>

What I wish to achieve

I hope to situate peasant seals firmly within the historiography of the medieval period and demonstrate the importance and utility of applying theoretical approaches that illuminate the social and cultural significance of seals in the lives of both individuals and groups.

Why is this research important?

Seals are unique objects for the study of medieval peasants because they combined both text and image, were usually the result of choices made by their owners, and survive in their thousands across almost all of England. It is estimated that four fifths of all personal seals belonged to non-elite individuals. Consequently, low-status seals possess enormous potential for insights into peasant life and mentalities. However, until recently, historians and archaeologists have ignored them, despite occasional calls for them to be explored in depth. Research has remained on the study of the minority of seals that belonged to members of the upper classes, as well as governmental, spiritual and urban institutions. By comparison, low status seals have been confined to small book catalogues and the depths of archival store rooms.

Sources

Seals survive in three distinct forms that form the source-base of my researches:

- Impressions made by individuals pressing a wax matrix into wax that was attached to contemporary documents, particularly deeds (Figure 1).
- Metal alloy matrices unearthed during archaeological excavations or recovered by amateur metal detectors (Figure 2).
- Casts of impressions taken by antiquarians.

'Me Grandad worra pit mon': The South Derbyshire Mining Community, 1945-2016

Community
Community has been the focus of considerable academic attention. This project aims to explore community in the context of the former South Derbyshire coalfield. While mining communities have been an important topic of research, South Derbyshire is rarely the focus of such research. This project fills that gap, drawing upon South Derbyshire's unique experience and history to explore what loss, closure and transformation does to community built on and around coal mining.

Relations within the Mines
It is important to look at the intricate relationships built by miners whilst working in the pits. Many researchers describe it as an experience unlike any other, largely concerning it to the jobs they had once the pits closed. My husband, Abraham, and the ultimate reason he was pushed to their safety created a unique atmosphere which many never left. This is an important topic as the relationships formed in this working environment created bonds which resonated beyond the pits.

Community outside of the pits
A major majority of study and (and some research) in the South Derbyshire and the surrounding area, the coalfield had a visible physical impact but also led to a community of miners' wives and children who interacted and lived together. Besides this there were mining pubs where families in the area gathered and bonds like the Derbyshire Colliery Brass Band. It is vital to consider how far the links from within the mines have extended beyond and the impact this can be said to have had on community in the area.

The impact of the 1984-85 strike and pit closures
Although the mines in the South Derbyshire area have not as well documented in the media as those in Yorkshire, they did have huge local importance. The South Derbyshire area was one that faced a near split in union membership between the NMB and UDM. This is something which is likely to have impacted on community relations, with passionate reasons behind individual choices. Unsurprisingly in the years following the strike, the area's pits began to close and the mining community was no longer needed in the actual occupation of mining, changing the elements of relations in the area.

Community since the Closure of the Mines
All of the mines in the South Derbyshire coalfield have been closed for over 25 years, yet people in the area still very much identify with the pits which once dominated the landscape. Many people who have family in the area are linked to the mines, including myself. Mines still congregate to reunions in Sandiacott, a place which is still trying to recover from the loss of the pits. Some of the sense of community is still visible but this research aims to investigate what is left of the once thriving mining community.

By Rachel Thorpe

The Microhistory of a Lincolnshire Parish: Humberston, 1750-1850

The century after 1750 has traditionally been seen as a period of great change, characterised by a so-called 'revolution' in agriculture, industrial and urban growth, economic crises, social dislocation, and political unrest.

But changes, when aggregated across a broad area, may appear more pervasive and more significant than when considered from the perspective of a single place, where daily life was much less eventful and dramatic.



In the small, coastal village of Humberston in Lincolnshire, the heavy, undrained soils held back agricultural innovation. Poor communications hindered economic development. The landlord and tenant farmers exercised a tight control over housing, jobs and poor relief and imposed their moral code on the village. In many senses, this was a rural backwater.

Yet landlord and agent invested in the improvement of the land and the farm buildings. Farmers prospered in the good years and struggled through the bad. Farmworkers mostly had secure jobs and were relatively well paid. Cottagers kept a cow and a pig, had access to pasture, and thus enjoyed a measure of economic independence. The poor were, by the standards of the time, treated sympathetically. Social relationships were sometimes fractious and divisive but seldom violent. There was an attachment to church and chapel and a toleration of both.

The intensive historical investigation and analysis of a single place, such as Humberston, can help to reveal something of the complexity and reality of everyday life and thus can enrich and elaborate, confirm or challenge, the 'grand narrative' of conventional history.

Martin Watkinson, Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester

101 old theses written by former students over the years can be seen at: <https://elhleics.omeka.net>

Prizes and Awards

The John Nicolls Prize was awarded to Liz Round.

The Margaret Spufford Prize for best overall MA performance was awarded to Liz Round.

The McKinley best dissertation prize was awarded to Alister Sutherland.

Bethany Marsh (PhD student) has been awarded the *Midland History* Prize for her article ‘Lodging the Irish’: an exploratory study of refugee activity and local charity in Nottinghamshire, 1641-1651.

Stewart Beale (PhD student) has won a Midlands Three Cities Doctoral Training Partnership Impact Award for his 3 month internship at the National Civil War Centre.

*

The John Nichols Prize

The Centre administers an essay competition for the annual John Nichols Prize, an award of £100 for the best work of up to 20,000 words on a local history topic.

The Phil Batman Family History Prize

The Professor Phil Batman Family History Prize of £1000 is awarded for outstanding work on any aspect of the history of the family undertaken during each academic year at the University of Leicester.

PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

Centre Staff

Keith Snell

(Professor of Rural and Cultural History)

Publications

K.D.M. Snell, *Spirits of Community: English Senses of Belonging and Loss, 1750-2000* (Bloomsbury Academic, h-b. 2016, p-b. from Oct. 2017), 345 pp. An online book version is at <https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/book/spirits-of-community-english-senses-of-belonging-and-loss-1750-2000/>

K.D.M. Snell, ‘Modern loneliness in historical perspective’, in Ami Rokach (ed.), *The Correlates of Loneliness* (Bentham Science, 2016), pp. 3-33.

K.D.M. Snell, ‘The rise of living alone and loneliness in history’, *Social History*, 42:1 (2017). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03071022.2017.1256093> .

K.D.M. Snell ‘Agendas for the Historical Study of Loneliness and Lone Living’, *The Open Psychology Journal*, 2015, 8, (Suppl. 2-M2) pp. 61-70.

Co-editor

Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture, 27:1 (April, 2016), 127 pp.

Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture, 27:2 (October, 2016), 114 pp.

Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture, 28:1 (April, 2017).

Kevin Schürer
(Professor of English Local History)

Presentations

‘Digital Humanities and History and Computing: past, present and future’. Invited plenary paper to Russian Association for History and Computing (October, Moscow, 2016).

‘The Geography of the Fertility Decline in England and Wales’, European Society for Historical Demography Conference, Leuven, September 2016 (with A. Reid & H. Jaadla, Cambridge and E. Garrett, Essex).

‘Marriage patterns in Victorian England and Wales: an analysis based on registration sub-district data, 1851-1911’. European Society for Historical Demography Conference, Leuven, September 2016 (with A. Reid & H. Jaadla, Cambridge and E. Garrett, Essex).

‘The importance of London, 1851-1911: using the individual-level census data to reconstruct lifetime migration paths’. European Society for Historical Demography Conference, Leuven, September 2016 (with J. Day, Cambridge).

‘The Geography of the Fertility Decline in England and Wales’. British Society for Population Studies, Winchester, September 2016 (with A. Reid & H. Jaadla, Cambridge and E. Garrett, Essex).

‘Marriage patterns in Victorian England and Wales: an analysis based on registration sub-district data, 1851-1911’. British Society for Population Studies, Winchester, September 2016 (with A. Reid & H. Jaadla, Cambridge and E. Garrett, Essex).

‘The importance of London, 1851-1911: using the individual-level census data to reconstruct lifetime migration paths’, British Society for Population Studies, Winchester, September 2016 (with J. Day, Cambridge).

‘How forensic statistics nailed the identification of King Richard III’. Royal Statistical Society, East Midlands Branch, March 2017.

‘How forensic statistics nailed the identification of King Richard III’. Richard III week, Gloucester City Council, May 2017.

Andrew Hopper
(Senior Lecturer in English Local History)

Publications

E. Gruber von Arni and A. Hopper, ‘Welfare for the Wounded’, *History Today*, 66:7 (2016), pp. 17-23.

E. Gruber von Arni and A. Hopper, ‘Battle-Scarred: Surgery, Medicine and Military Welfare during the British Civil Wars’, *Exhibition Brochure: National Civil War Centre / University of Leicester* (2016), 24pp.

A. Hopper, ‘William Cavendish as a Military Commander’, in P. Edwards and E. Graham (eds), *Authority, Authorship and Aristocratic Identity in Seventeenth-Century England: William Cavendish 1st Duke of Newcastle, and his Political, Social and Cultural Circle, Rulers & Elites*, vol. 9 (Leiden: Brill, 2016), pp. 216-236.

A. Hopper, ‘At the Town’s Gate: On Hull’s Importance to the English Civil War’, in R. Bean, *Production Programme: The Hypocrite* (Royal Shakespeare Company and Hull Truck Theatre, 2017), pp. 4-9.

Publications in press

A. Hopper, ‘“The Great Blow” and the politics of popular royalism in Civil-War Norwich’, *English Historical Review*, 133 (2018).

A. Hopper, ‘“To condole with me on the Commonwealth’s loss”: the widows and orphans of Parliament’s military commanders’, in D.J. Appleby and A. Hopper (eds), *Battle-Scarred: Mortality, Medical Care and Military Welfare in the British Civil Wars* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2018).

Presentations

Respondent to panel entitled ‘Nostalgia and Memory of the English Civil Wars’, North American Conference of British Studies, Washington DC, 10-14 November 2016.

‘Katherine Greville, Lady Brooke: A Radical Aristocratic Widow in the English Civil War’, Warwickshire Local History Society, AGM, Warwick, 21 March 2017.

‘The Death of Cromwell and the Restoration of the Monarchy’, Gordon’s School, Surrey, 3 May 2017.

‘The Human Cost of Civil War in Comparative Perspective’, Battlefields Trust, AGM, National Civil War Centre, 17 June 2017.

‘Battle-Scarred’: The Military Welfare Exhibition, Rushcliffe Probus Club, Nottinghamshire, 20 June 2017.

‘Studying History at University’, Solihull Sixth Form College, 29 June 2017.

‘The Human Costs of Civil War: War Victims and their Stories’, Plenary, British Commission for Military History Conference, National Civil War Centre, 8 July 2017.

‘The Hothams, Governors of Hull and the Civil War’, City of Culture Celebrations, Hull History Centre, 11 July 2017.

Richard Jones

(Associate Professor in Landscape History)

Publications

R. Jones, ‘Responding to modern flooding: Old English place-names as a repository of Traditional Ecological Knowledge’, *Journal of Ecological Anthropology* 18 (2016).

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5038/2162-4593.18.1.9>

R. Jones and C. Dyer (eds), *Farmers, Innovators, Consumers: the World of Joan Thirsk* (Hatfield: University of Hertfordshire Press, 2017).

R. Jones, R. Gregory, S. Kilby and B. Pears, ‘Living with a trespasser: riparian names and medieval settlement on the River Trent floodplain’, *Journal of Post-Classical Archaeologies*, 7 (2017), 61-92.

Publications in press

R. Jones, ‘Gerard’s *Herball* and the treatment of the war-wounded and diseased during the English Civil War’, in D. Appleby and A. Hopper (eds), *Battle-Scarred: Mortality, Medical Care and Military Welfare in the British Civil Wars* (Manchester: Manchester University Press).

R. Jones and S. Kilby, ‘Mitigating riverine flood risk in medieval England’, in P. Brown *et al.* (eds), *Waiting for the End of the World: Perceptions of Disaster and Risk in Medieval Europe*, Society of Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series.

R. Jones, ‘Vers une compréhension du fumier et de la fumure médiévale: quelques enseignements d’Angleterre’, in *Fumiers et Ordures dans l’Europe Médiévale et Moderne*, Actes des Journées Internationales d’histoire de l’Abbaye de Flaran, 38.

Presentations

‘Flood and flow: evaluating the physical legacy of riverine landscape around watery place-names’, Department of Geography, University of Southampton, 11 November 2016.

‘Flooding and water management through the evidence of place names’, *Waiting for the End of the World: perceptions of disaster and risk in medieval Europe*, University of Oxford, 3 December 2016.

‘Waterstrife: living with water past, present, future’, Market Harborough Historical Society, 8 February 2017.

‘Flood and Flow, Llif a Llifogydd: place-names and the changing hydrology of river systems’, Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, University of Wales, 14 February 2017.

‘Dealing with the modern flood threat: an historical perspective’, Environmental Action Society, University of Leicester, 17 February 2017.

‘Early medieval water consciousness and the threat of modern flooding’, School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester, 22 February 2017.

‘Hidden in plain [floodplain] sight: place-names as a NFM resource’, Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership Working with Natural Processes Knowledge Sharing Event, Penrith, 22 March 2017.

‘Southwell and the Greet: Anglo-Saxon approaches to the modern flood threat’, Southwell Flood Forum, Bramley Centre, Southwell, 10 May 2017.

Medieval and early modern water and water-management, round table discussion, Datini Economic History Conference, Prato, Italy, 17 May 2017.

‘Interpreting ceramic manure scatters’, *Funde in der Landschaft –Neue Perspektiven und Ergebnisse archäologischer Prospektionen*, Köln, Germany, 12-13 June 2017.

‘Shit happens: manure and the mitigation of risk in early medieval agriculture’, *Agrarian Production and Peasant Strategies of Risk-Avoidance*, University of Oxford, 6 July 2017.

Susan Kilby

(Leverhulme Trust-funded Research Fellow)

Publications in press

M. Gardiner and S. Kilby, ‘Perceptions of medieval settlement’ in C. Gerrard and A Gutiérrez (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Later Medieval Archaeology in Britain* (Oxford, 2018)

R. Jones, R. Gregory, S. Kilby and B. Pears, ‘Living with a trespasser: riparian names and medieval settlement on the River Trent floodplain’, *Journal of Post-Classical Archaeologies*, 7 (2017), 61-92.

Presentations

‘Spreading the <medieval> word: palaeographical evangelism in Charnwood Forest’, Leicestershire VCH Trust, University of Leicester, 19 November 2016.

‘Flooding and water-management through the evidence of place-names’, Society for Medieval Archaeology Annual Conference, University of Oxford (alongside Richard Jones (Leicester) and Ben Pears (Southampton)), 3 December 2016.

‘What have the Normans (and the Plantagenets) ever done for us? A brief look at the medieval documents of Charnwood Forest’, Charnwood Roots Heritage Festival, Beaumanor Hall, Leicestershire, 21 May 2017.

Ismini Pells

(AHRC-Funded Research Fellow)

Publications

I. Pells (ed.), *New Approaches to the Military History of the English Civil War: Proceedings of the First Helion And Company 'Century of the Soldier' Conference, 2015* (Solihull: Helion and Company, 2016).

I. Pells, 'Book Review: *Reconstructing the New Model Army, Volume 1: Regimental Lists April 1645 to May 1649*', by M. Wanklyn, *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, 94:380 (2016), pp. 348-50.

I. Pells, 'Scriptural truths? Calvinist internationalism and military professionalism in the bible of Philip Skippon', in R. F. W. Smith and G. Watson (eds), *Writing the Lives of People and Things, AD 500-1700* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2016), pp. 187-202.

Christopher Dyer

(Emeritus Professor of Regional and Local History)

Edited volumes

C. Dyer and R. Jones, *Farmers, Consumers, Innovators. The World of Joan Thirsk* (Hatfield, 2016), pp.1-8.

C. Dyer and D. Hadley, *The Archaeology of the 11th Century: Continuities and Transformations. Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph*, 38, 2017.

Articles in edited volumes

C. Dyer 'Landscape, farming and society in an English region: the Inquisitions Post Mortem for the West Midlands, 1250-1509', in M. Hicks (ed.), *The Later Medieval Inquisitions Post Mortem. Mapping the Medieval Countryside and Rural Society* (Woodbridge, 2016), pp. 59-83.

C. Dyer, 'Joan Thirsk at Leicester', in R. Jones and C. Dyer (eds), *Farmers, Consumers, Innovators. The World of Joan Thirsk* (Hatfield, 2016), pp.1-8.

C. Dyer, 'Richard Hugh Britnell 1944-2013', *Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the British Academy*, XV (2016), pp. 2-21

C. Dyer and D. Hadley, 'Introduction', in D. Hadley and C. Dyer (eds), *Archaeology of the 11th Century* (Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph, 38, 2017, pp.1-13.

Articles in journals

C. Dyer, 'The midland economy and society, 1314-1348: insights from changes in the landscape', *Midland History*, 42 (2017), pp.36-57.

Book reviews

P. Spoerry and R. Atkins, *A Late Saxon Village and Medieval Manor : Excavations at Botolph Bridge*, in *Medieval Archaeology*, 60 (2016), p. 194-5

A. Brown, *Rural Society and Economic Change in County Durham*, in *Rural History*, 27 (2016), pp. 240-1

F. Willmoth and S. Ooisthuizen (eds), *The Ely Coucher Book*, in *Medieval Settlement Research*, 31 (2015), p.82.

P. Lageras, *Environment, Society and the Black Death* in *Medieval Archaeology*, 60 (2016), p.426

A. Buxton, *Domestic Culture in Early Modern England*, in *Vernacular Architecture*, 47 (2016), pp. 121-2.

D. Cox, *The Church and the Vale of Evesham*, in *Midland History*, 41 (2016), p. 240

A. Simms and H. Clarke (ed.), *Lords and Towns in Medieval Europe*, in *Journal of Historical Geography*, 54 (2016), p.108

M. Hicks (ed.), *English Inland Trade, 1430-1550*, in *Urban History*, 43 (2016), pp. 493-4.

B. Campbell, *The Great Transition*, in *Economic History Review*, 70 (2017), pp.672-3.

Papers presented at seminars and conferences

- 'On first looking into volume 13 of the Gloucestershire Victoria County History', Marc Fitch Lecture, launching vol. 13 of the Glos VCH, Wallsworth Hall, Gloucestershire, September 2016
- 'Social mobility in medieval England', symposium on *La Mobilita Sociale*, Rome, September 2016
- 'Gloucestershire peasants in the later middle ages', Gotherington Local History Society, October 2016
- 'Social mobility in medieval England', University of Cambridge Economic History Seminar, November 2016
- 'Food security in medieval England', Diet Group seminar on food security, Oxford, November 2016
- 'Recovering from catastrophe: how medieval society coped with disasters', Society for Medieval Archaeology conference on 'Perceptions of disaster and risk', Oxford, December 2016
- 'New towns in medieval Warwickshire: the mystery of Bretford', Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society, December 2016
- 'Origins and early development of the MSRSG', Medieval Settlement Research Group winter seminar celebrating 30 years of the MSRSG, Leicester, December 2016
- 'Pinbury in Duntisbourne Rouse (Gloucestershire): when is a medieval village not a village?', Gloucestershire Archaeology, Gloucester, February 2017
- 'Medieval disasters, resilience and recovery', in a day school 'The four horsemen of the fourteenth century', Rewley House, Oxford, March 2017
- 'Town and country 900-1540: how a society was transformed', Gloucestershire Historical Association, Gloucester, March 2017
- 'Using manorial documents: recovery from the Black Death', launch of the Manorial Documents Register, Worcestershire Archives, April 2017
- 'Every village has a history. The Victoria County History and Charnwood Roots', Heritage Festival at Beaumanor, Leicestershire, May 2017
- 'Local societies on the move: migration and social mobility in the middle ages', British Association for Local History, Local History Day, June 2017
- 'Advantages and problems of combining disciplines', Scientific Approaches to the Study of the Past, CHASE course, University of Kent at Canterbury, June 2017
- 'Tithes, peasants and landscapes, in the west midlands in the fifteenth century', Tithes through the ages, Canterbury Christ Church University, June 2017
- 'Parish and community in the fifteenth century at Hartlebury, Worcestershire', The late medieval and early Reformation church, Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, Stratford-upon-Avon, June 2017
- 'How did the English peasantry avoid starvation, 1086-1200?', Agrarian production and peasant strategies of risk avoidance, St Cross College, Oxford, July 2017

Honorary Visiting Fellows

Pam Fisher

Publications

M.J. Lee and P.J. Fisher, *Victoria History of Leicestershire: Castle Donington* (Institute of Historical Research, London, 2016), viii + 133pp (e-book also available for Kindle via Amazon).

P.J. Fisher, *Victoria History of Leicestershire: Buckminster and Sewstern* (Institute of Historical Research, London, forthcoming, 2017), viii + 126pp (will also be available for Kindle).

P.J. Fisher, 'Supporting King and Constitution: Expressions of Loyalism in Leicestershire, 1792—3', *East Midlands History and Heritage*, 4 (2017), pp. 11-13.

Presentations

- 'Buckminster and Sewstern in the Middle Ages', Buckminster Village Hall, 14 September 2016.
'The Creation of a Model Village; Buckminster, 1793-1935', Leicestershire VCH Trust, University of Leicester, 19 November 2016.
'Castle Donington', Donington Hall, 22 March 2017.
'The Development of Castle Donington Church, 1086-2017', St Edward's Church, Castle Donington, 19 & 26 July 2017.

Exhibition

- 'Tensions and Turbulence: Castle Donington, 1300-1600', at Castle Donington Museum, April-Sept 2017.

Eric Gruber von Arni

Publications

- E. Gruber von Arni and A. Hopper, 'Welfare for the Wounded', *History Today*, 66:7 (2016), pp. 17-23.
E. Gruber von Arni and A. Hopper, 'Battle-Scarred: Surgery, Medicine and Military Welfare during the British Civil Wars', *Exhibition Brochure: National Civil War Centre / University of Leicester* (2016), 24pp.

Maureen Harris

Publications

- M. Harris, 'The captain of Oliver's army and the Wixford Catholics', *Warwickshire History*, 16:4 (2016).
Contributed articles to the 'Our Warwickshire' website:
'The Roads Beautifying Association: "Roads of Safety and Pathways of Pleasantness"', October 2016.
'Warwickshire's First Female Car Accident Victim, 1899', buried at Radway, March 2017.

Presentations

- 'Church quarrels in the Wixford and Bidford area, 1660-1720' for Bidford and District History Society, 16 September 2016.
'Scandalous clergy versus parishioners in and around Stratford' for Stratford PROBUS, 4 May 2017.
"'Weapons of the Strong": Reinforcing Complaints against the Clergy in post-Restoration Warwickshire, 1660-1720' for 'Complaints and Grievances, 1500-1750', University of Reading Early Modern Studies Conference, 10/11 July 2017.
'The "debauched" parson and the "wit-already-expired rogue": Warwickshire parish politics in and around Kenilworth, 1660-1720' for Kenilworth Family History Society, 12 July 2017.
'Clergy and parishioners in conflict in Warwickshire: Alcester, Coughton and Wixford', for Alcester and District Local History Society, 9 August 2017.
'"Debauched" clergy versus "witless" parishioners: Warwickshire church court disputes, 1660-1720' for Coventry Family History Society, 11 September 2017.

Mark Page

Publications

M. Page, 'Chalgrove', 'Great Haseley', 'Nettlebed', 'Nuffield', 'Swyncombe', and 'Warpsgrove', in Simon Townley (ed.), *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire volume XVIII* (Woodbridge 2016), pp. 122-57, 235-74, 275-302, 342-67, 368-92, 422-32.

Sylvia Pinches

Publications

S. Pinches, 'The Scallenge', *Newsletter of the Friends of the Centre for English Local History* (University of Leicester, 2016), pp. 20-21.

S. Pinches, Contributor to K. Andrew, *A Thousand Years of High Sheriffs in Herefordshire* (Hereford, 2017).

Editor

Newsletter of the Friends of the Centre for English Local History (University of Leicester, 2016), 44 pp.

Warwickshire History XVI/6, Winter 2016-17, Warwickshire Local History Society, 46 pp.

Warwickshire History XVII/1, Summer 2017, Warwickshire Local History Society.

Julian Pooley

Publications

J. Pooley. 'A Copious Collection of Newspapers': John Nichols and his Collection of Newspapers, Pamphlets and News Sheets, 1760-1865.'

http://www.gale.com/binaries/content/assets/gale-us-en/primary-sources/newsvault/gps_17th_18thcenturynicholsnewspaper-collection_essay_julian-pooley.pdf

J. Pooley. 'Printers, Antiquaries and Collectors: The Nichols family and their press, 1777-1873'

<http://www.bl.uk/picturing-places/articles/the-nichols-family-and-their-press>

J. Pooley. 'The Nichols Archive Project'

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/centres/elh/research/project/nichols/the-nichols-archive-project>

<http://www.bibsoc.org.uk/content/nichols-archive-project>

Presentations

' "Minutely Attentive to Every Circumstance". John Nichols and the Culture of Genealogy in the late Eighteenth Century.' A paper for the conference 'Genealogy and Social Status in the Enlightenment: Rationalité généalogique et statut social au temps des Lumières ' at the Maison Française d'Oxford, 12-13 January 2017.

'*The Gentleman's Magazine: A Panorama of Georgian Life for Family and Local Historians.*' This was given to Harrow and Wealdstone Historical Society on 5 October 2016 and to the Southwark branch of the East Surrey Family History Society on 13 February 2017.

'Artists, Antiquaries and Collectors: Illustrations of Surrey collected by Robert Barclay of Bury Hill, Dorking, c.1800.' This was given to Send and Ripley History Society on 18 October 2016 and to Merton Historical Society on 11 March 2017.

' "Dry, thorny and barbarous paths?" The Nicholsons, their press and the Society of Antiquaries, 1777-1873'. Given to the Institutions of Literature conference at the Society of Antiquaries of London on 13 July 2017.

Kate Tiller

Publications

'Priests and people: changing relationships in south Oxfordshire, 1780-1920' , in *People, Places and Context. Essays in honour of Joan Dils*, Berkshire Local History Association (2016), 27-42.

'Local History in England' and 'Local History in Ireland' in C. Kammen and A .H. Wilson (eds), *Encyclopaedia of Local History* (Second edition, Alta Mira Press, US, 2016).

'Patterns of Dissent: the social and religious geography of nonconformity in three counties' [Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire], in *International Journal of Regional and Local History* (forthcoming 2018).

Reviews and review articles have been published in *Family and Community History*, *The Local Historian* and *Chapels Society Newsletter*.

Presentations

The First Christopher Stell Memorial Lecture, organised by the Chapels Society, on 'How to Read a Chapel' (July 2017), which will be published in 2018.

Presentations included 'Chapel, family and community: the profile of a community of dissent' to the FACHRS conference at Leicester University (May 2017). Local talks included Capel Curig, Bicester and Oxford.

Mat Tompkins

Publications

M. Tompkins, 'The structure of the milling industry, 1427-37' , in M. Hicks (ed.), *The Later Medieval Inquisitions Post Mortem: Mapping the Medieval Countryside and Rural Society* (Woodbridge, 2016).

M. Tompkins (ed.), *The Court Rolls of the Manor of Romsley, 1279 - 1643*, Worcestershire Historical Society (2017).

Andrew Watkins

Publications

A. Watkins, 'Humphrey Ryddell and the Swan at Coleshill: a sixteenth-century innkeeper and his inn', *The Local Historian*, 46 (2016), pp. 284-301.

Presentations

'The Other Digby Family', Tilton on the Hill and District History Group, 10 November 2016.

CONTACTS

Any correspondence for the Friends of English Local History may be addressed to:

committee@englishlocalhistory.org

or for the attention of offices on the committee:

Chairman Noel Tornbohm

Secretary/IT Coordinator Andrew Wager

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Robert Mee

Newsletter Editor: Phil Batman

Programme Secretary: Frank Galbraith