

Friends of the Centre for English Local History

# NEWSLETTER

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UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER NUMBER 31 OCTOBER 2018

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*Three Unknown Soldiers of the Great War*

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1073528**

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

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

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

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

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

***Three Unknown Soldiers of the Great War***

Provided by: Philip R French, Curator Leicester Museum

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# *EDITORIAL*

**Phil Batman**

Welcome to our 2018 Newsletter, with its customary mix of academic publications by staff and friends, student successes, reports on seminars and lectures, friends' continued good works long after they have left Leicester, and an added ingredient. Richard Jones' report picks out the twists and turns made by the Centre in the last year and forecast for the future, on the earth, in the offices of 5 Salisbury Road, in the ether, and even from the clouds. Exciting times. We have revealing and entertaining commentaries on life and letters by two relatively new members of staff, Angela Muir and Ismini Pells. There are summaries of last year's seminar programme, and a calendar of forthcoming Thursday afternoon seminars for 2017/18. As you would expect, the subjects are wide-ranging in time and place and cater for all historical tastes. Stuart Wrathmell gives us more insights in the annual Hoskins Lecture into one of the gems of English Local History, the deserted village of Wharram Percy. There are summaries of two academic conferences hosted by the friends, one on Population and Transport and the other on research topics currently being pursued by staff and students at the Centre. Friends enjoyed each other's convivial company with two days' historical visits reported in the Newsletter, one to our industrial heritage in the Potteries, and the other to two markedly contrasting rural villages nestling in the same parish. Pam Fisher tells us about ambitious projects undertaken by the VCH and the conclusion of the Charnwood Roots project. And then to top it all we have a glittering annual array of staff, friends' and students' publications, presentations, theses, dissertations and awards with local, national and international flavour and appeal.

And the added ingredient? Well, of course, it's Fun! It will not escape your attention that many of the people captured on camera in this Newsletter, of which there are quite a few, are having Fun. Some are actually laughing! Whether it be having your hand bitten off by a Monster, having a pint and a biscuit on some bean-bags, launching a Civil Wars petition, or even preparing for battle. I sometimes wonder whether we can fall on occasion into the trap of taking ourselves too seriously, but I don't think that accusation can be levelled at the Friends. We are here to enjoy the ride, in whatever form that fancy takes you – enjoy your Newsletter.

# THE CENTRE

## CENTRE REPORT

Richard Jones

What a year. The heatwave may now finally be over, but one suspects that we will all remember the summer of 2018. For those with an interest in the history of the English landscape, we watch with interest as the results of aerial surveys begin to be published, revealing lost house plans and garden features, prehistoric and Roman settlements, and forgotten field-systems. Lecture notes will have to be updated accordingly. For those of us working on flooding and water management, the sight of dried up river beds and reservoirs might suggest we may have exaggerated the contemporary value of our research! But beware what lies ahead. Nature has a way of rebalancing her resources.

2017-18 has been quite a twelve months for the Centre too. It ends the year looking and feeling very different from how it began. Keith Snell's decision to take early retirement, with immediate effect from the beginning of the academic year, left a gaping hole at the heart of the Centre. I can only thank my colleagues for rallying round so quickly, particularly Kevin Schürer who selflessly took on much of the MA teaching. Keith has retained a physical presence in the Centre, appearing at regular intervals, looking at total ease with the world, and regaling us with tales of long hours spent in the field, often in most unpleasant weather (remember the winter months), painting watercolours and flogging these to unsuspecting bystanders. We all wish him well, of course, and every success with his retirement projects.

We were delighted that the university agreed, against a background of tight budgetary

control which has ultimately resulted in the freezing of new posts, to finding a replacement for the irreplaceable. From a strong field of applicants, we are very excited to have been able to appoint Dr Angela Muir as Lecturer in British Social and Cultural History. Angela is an exciting young scholar who will bring much to the Centre. She comes to Leicester from the University of Cardiff where she was Lecturer in Welsh History. Here primary research interests focus on the early modern social and cultural history with particular emphasis on eighteenth-century England and Wales. Themes of particular interest include illegitimacy, childbirth and midwifery; gender, sex, and the body. For those who wish to find out more about Angela and her research, I would thoroughly recommend her excellent blog site (<https://deviantmaternity.wordpress.com>) and her academia.edu profile (<https://leicester.academia.edu/AngelaMuir>) where you will find her recently published article 'Courtship, sex and poverty: illegitimacy in eighteenth-century Wales' in the latest issue of *Social History*. Angela moved in on 13 August and I am sure that you will want to join me in welcoming Angela to the Centre.

We have also been joined by Dr Ismini Pells, Research Associate and Project Manager of the Civil War Petitions project. Their website and blog is well worth a visit (<https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/>). Ismini is rarely seen outside the company of Skippon her trusty hound whose presence has further vitalised daily life in the Centre. This does not exhaust the good news. I am delighted to

report that Andrew Hopper was promoted to Professor of English Local History as of 1 August 2018. This is rightful recognition of the enormous contribution that Andrew has made to English Civil War studies as well as to the academic life of the Centre and the wider School since his appointment back in 2006. The timing could not be better, coinciding as it does with his major AHRC-funded research project. His commitment to his own scholarship is only matched by his commitment to support the research of others, particularly his undergraduate and post-graduate cohort. The Centre is truly fortunate to have Andrew at its midst. I am pleased too, that as of September 2018, Andrew will be Director of the Centre while I am on study leave. The Centre will be in safe hands.

There is also good news of sorts on other fronts, albeit tempered in these instances with some sadness. Julie Attard, who did such sterling work coordinating the highly successful Charnwood Roots project with the VCH has left us to join The National Forest as the Charnwood Forest Development Manager. Susan Kilby, who has been associated with the Centre for many years now, as an MA and PhD student, working with the Charnwood Roots project, as Honorary Fellow, and most recently as a post-doctoral fellow on the 'Flood and Flow' project will be leaving the Centre for a new post in the Institute for Name Studies at the University of Nottingham. Both will be sorely missed. Suffice to say, we are already exploring ways to ensure their prompt return to ELH fold.

There is much to report with regard to our students. In September 2017 Dr Hannah Worthen was appointed to a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Hull. For two years in a row our students have won the Midland History Prize (Bethany Marsh for 2017; Nicola Blacklaws for 2018). And Stewart Beale won the Doctoral Training Partnership Cultural Award 2017 from the Midland 3 Cities consortium. Half a dozen of our PhD students also successfully completed

their theses this year. Congratulations go to them all.

The Centre is, of course and beyond everything else, defined by the coming together of talented scholars doing amazing research. But a further foundation has always been our commitment to teaching students of all ages and backgrounds. It has been of some concern to us, therefore, to watch the number of students recruited on to our MA degree slowly reduce in recent years. In many ways this reflects a wider malaise in Higher Education and this has prompted the University to review its post-graduate provision. It has been decided, therefore, that our MA programme will be embedded within a School-wide Master of Arts programme in which students will be able to follow a Local History pathway. We shall still continue to deliver ELH modules as part of this new degree and have the opportunity to introduce local historical methods into other parts of the curriculum. Nevertheless this clearly waters down the distinctiveness of our independent MA. It is for this reason that strides have been made over the last year to develop a package of bespoke Distance Learning Options that will form the basis of the Centre's principal postgraduate teaching from 2020-21. We will be able to offer, under the ELH banner, a Certificate, a Diploma, and a full MA through Distance Learning. Such a programme will offer greater flexibility to students who may wish simply to take a single module, allowing them to get a 'feel' for the Leicester approach before committing to further modules, or to those who able to devote more or less time (and money) to their studies. In taking this initiative, ELH is blazing a trail in History at Leicester and is aligning itself with the university-wide push to develop a 'digital campus'. The actual structure of this DL provision is yet to be decided; but we are keen to explore blended teaching options (part distance, part campus based), and potentially to make a week-long residential fieldcourse a central component of the teaching experience. Market research on

the viability of a Distance Learning MA has been carried out, and we are now beginning to develop the business case to put before the university.

As Higher Education changes rapidly, so the Centre must become agile and creative to adjust to the new landscape. Helping us chart a future course, the Centre has appointed an External Advisory Board of senior academics whose names will be very familiar to many: Brian Short, Samantha Williams, Tom Williamson, and Angus Winchester. As always, however, we value the input of the Friends and would welcome your thoughts on where you would like to see the Centre going in the next few years. One area that we have been able to develop over the year has been to

invest in new digital technology in order that we might have the best tools to conduct local historical and family research in the twenty-first century. For those working with manuscript sources we have bought (with a £9000 grant from the university) a sophisticated digital microscope which permits high-resolution imaging of manuscript sources and artefacts. Perhaps most excitingly of all, for those engaged in fieldwork, we have bought a Drone, allowing us to take aerial photographs such as the one below taken at Alrewas as part of the Flood and Flow project. If anyone wishes to borrow this equipment, or can see that it would be useful for their own research, then do get in touch with me.



Finally, and to look forward to the next academic year, I urge you to have a look at our new seminar programme. As always it is full of variety and interest and trust that you will be tempted many of the papers to be delivered. You will see that Angela has accepted our invitation to speak to the seminar on 13 December. This is the perfect

opportunity for you to come and meet her and learn about her research. If you needed further prompting to get this date in the diary early (and surely you don't) then there is the additional incentive that we will be holding the Centre's Christmas party after the seminar that day. Here's to 2018-19.

## HEAD TO HEAD

### In Conversation with Angela Muir ...



*When in Rome ...*

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

I was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and my fascination with British history started early. This had little to do with the school curriculum, which did not contain a separate provision for history (it was lumped into a vague subject called 'social studies'). Rather, my interest in history was fostered early by my highly erudite grandmother who held bachelors and masters degrees in English, Theology, and Speech Pathology, and who was one of the first women ordained in the United Church of Canada. She not only introduced me to the British literary canon, but also cleverly turned my childhood fancy for fairy-tale princes and princesses into academic curiosity in flesh and blood kings and queens. As I grew older and became more aware of, and interested in, social inequality and injustice my interests shifted away from the elite to the lives,

experiences and beliefs of the lower orders of society.

#### **Did you always want to be a Historian?**

Once I figured out that being a Historian was a viable career path, yes. I wasn't one of those young people who had a clear vision of what I wanted to be when I 'grew up'. I've always had a passion for the arts and for charity work so those were two fields I've pursued over the years as well. In the 3 years between my completing my MA and commencing my PhD I worked as a fundraising manager at a substance misuse charity in South Wales, and as a funding officer at the Big Lottery Fund of Wales, which reflects my continued passion for social welfare and social justice. Prior to moving to the UK to pursue my MA I worked for about 5 years as a performing arts event coordinator at a postsecondary institution in British Columbia, Canada. Outside of my professional pursuits, I also play keyboard and trumpet in a Cardiff-based indie band

called *The Echo and the Always*, although I'm a much better historian than I am musician! I'm an adequate musician, best playing in a band where I can hide. I also pursued a fleeting career as an actor – I have 'played' the part of a dead body, and my leg has appeared in a film. I did some commercials in Canada – for a board game called *Scene It!* and for The Dairy BC Association. Before studying History as an undergrad I did the first year of a theatre performance degree, but quickly decided that I enjoyed my History option module far more than I did playing a pirate in *Pirates of Penzance* or frolicking around a dance studio. I transferred out of Theatre and into History and the rest, as they say, is history.

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

The short answer about what brought me to Leicester is that they were hiring! More specifically, the Department and the Centre are home to several academics whose work has very much influenced my own, such as Keith Snell, Steve King and Elizabeth Hurren. I'm delighted to have been appointed to my new post as a lecturer in British Social and Cultural History. This is my first full-time, permanent academic post and I'm very much looking forward to settling into the Centre and getting to know the Friends. My pathway to getting here has involved periods of dedicated-full time study followed by a few years working outside academia, but from the time I started studying history I had every intention of making it a career.

Prior to coming to Leicester I was a part-time Lecturer at Cardiff University where I designed and taught a module on Gender, Sex and Bodies in early modern and industrialising Wales, which was largely based on my doctoral research. I completed my PhD at the University of Exeter in 2017 under the supervision of Sarah Toulalan and Alun Withy, with funding from the Wellcome Trust and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. My doctoral

research examined the prevalence, causes and consequences of illegitimacy across 36 Welsh parishes in the counties of Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire during the long eighteenth-century. Part of this research was published in an article in *Social History* titled 'Courtship, sex and poverty: illegitimacy in eighteenth-century Wales'. Prior to undertaking my doctoral studies I completed my MA in Early Modern History at Swansea University, and my BA (hons) at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada.

**What or who sparked your interest in history?**

As far back as I can remember I have been fascinated in history. I'm still in touch with my very first history lecturer (Glenn Wilkinson), and we've become quite good friends. His lecture style is incredibly energetic and engaging, and he presents content in a way that really forces students to think. During my undergraduate studies I also was fortunate enough to study with lecturers such as the late Ian Dyck, who was a close friend of Keith Snell and an expert on William Cobbett and rural popular culture, as well as a superb lecturer who I found immensely inspiring.

**What is your particular area of historical interest?**

My interest in Welsh history came about rather serendipitously. After completing my undergraduate studies I worked in an administrative post at a college in a suburb of Vancouver, and in 2009 I helped lead a study abroad programme to the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in Carmarthen. Prior to this I (shamefully) had little knowledge of Welsh history. This trip sparked my curiosity, and I soon discovered the historiography for Wales was rather lacking in the areas I was interested in. I decided to take a one-year leave of absence to pursue my MA at Swansea and attempt in a very small measure to address this gap. Needless to say, I never

returned to my former post. It was at Swansea that began researching illegitimacy, courtship, marriage, childbirth, midwifery, and the provision of care under the old poor law in Wales, which I then developed into my doctoral project.

### **Who do you most admire as a historian?**

There's a long list of historians whose work I admire. I'd have to say Garthine Walker, who is a historian of crime and gender (or at least she was before leaving academia to become a psychotherapist), and Laura Gowing, who is a historian of gender and the body (amongst other things) probably top that list. Both are meticulous in their work, and my own research is heavily indebted to them.

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

Spending time immersed in the archives is one of my absolute favourite things, especially on extended archive trips where I'm in there every day. I also love teaching. I'd have to say that marking is the worst part of the job. You'd be hard pressed to find a lecturer who didn't say that!

### **Who do you most admire in other walks of life?**

I admire anyone who lives their life with compassion and who treads gently on the earth. I tend to be less impressed with traditional 'accomplishments' and more impressed with deeds that stem from principles. I have a lot of friends who work and volunteer in the third sector doing things like providing support to people recovering from addiction, volunteering in refugee kitchens in Calais, or starting up social enterprises to help communities become more sustainable. The work they do is infinitely more impactful and important for society than anything I'll do as a historian writing about the long eighteenth century.

### **Do you have any other passions outside history?**

I love music, both playing it and listening to it. My tastes are somewhat diverse, ranging from baroque to 80s pop to a genre called 'post rock'. Travelling is another thing I love to do in my spare time, and since moving to the UK I've become a pro at the weekend city break. I still can't get over how inexpensive it is to fly to the continent. Food is also a passion of mine, so it probably comes as no surprise that I've been to Italy three times this year. I'm also an animal lover (and vegetarian as a result) so I like to visit animal sanctuaries. There's a great monkey sanctuary near Swansea, and donkey sanctuary in Devon that I highly recommend.

### **What are your ambitions?**

Academically speaking, my main ambition is to publish my first monograph, which will likely be based on my doctoral thesis, if the publisher likes it. I've opted for a publisher who isn't based in Wales because one of my goals is to help put the history of Wales on the map. Wales is largely neglected by historians outside of Wales, which is a shame. My biggest personal ambition is to one day own a rickety old cottage that's so full of character it's virtually uninhabitable, near a quiet village nestled in a bucolic landscape, with enough land for a few rescue animals, and a separate building for a recording studio.

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

Highlights have included being appointed to my post at Leicester, having my first article published in a leading journal, and having the opportunity to attend conferences in places like Valencia (which has great food) and having several of my passions collide! The lowest point so far would definitely be my first rejection for PhD funding. As an international student there were very few funding opportunities for doctoral studies. In

2013 I was shortlisted and interviewed for international funding at Exeter, and I was convinced I had a good chance of getting it, but I wasn't successful. It took an agonising 6 weeks to find out too and I was absolutely devastated when the rejection letter came

through. I applied and interviewed again the next year with the same result, albeit the turnaround time was a lot quicker. That year I also applied for Wellcome Trust funding, which I did get!

### **... and Ismini Pells**



### ***... do as the Romans do!***

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

I went to Westbourne High School, my local comprehensive in Ipswich. It was the worst school in the county but I had a lot of fun. We had a brilliant music teacher and we went all round the country and Europe to play gigs. I had two very good history teachers at A Level, Ms Walter and Mr Bradley - the latter frequently decided that lessons were best run from the upstairs room of the Hogshead and that it best to learn by visiting historical sites. We had one particularly memorable trip with Mr Bradley learning about puritans by doing a church and pub crawl of Suffolk - entirely

without parental or school permission, of course!

#### **Did you always want to be a Historian?**

No. Apart from a small blip at the age of 3 when I wanted to be a bishop, my longest-standing ambition was to be an England cricketer. Unfortunately, bags of enthusiasm never made up for a complete lack of talent... I seriously wanted to be a vet for a long time, until I just couldn't face the thought of doing all three sciences and maths for A Level. History was always one of my favourite subjects at school though.

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

I did my BA at Cambridge and after that thought that I was far too cool for further study, so went off to work in television/film. I worked for a children's TV company and did some research for history documentaries and films. However, I missed researching in my depth and so after three years, I finally admitted that I wasn't as cool as I thought I was and went back to Cambridge to do my MPhil and PhD. Following that, I did a postdoc at Exeter for 18 months, before joining Leicester straight afterwards. I came to Leicester specifically to work on the Civil War Petitions project.

**What or who sparked your interest in history?**

Mainly visiting historical sites, especially castles, and watching re-enactments - jousting is my favourite! I liked watching history documentaries and historical films too.

**What is your particular area of historical interest?**

The seventeenth-century British Civil Wars, particularly the military and medical aspects, though I am interested in early modern history more generally. I did a lot of medieval history as an undergraduate and I still find that very interesting, whilst classical history always fascinates me too.

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

An England cricketer!

**Who do you most admire as a historian?**

The Civil War historian Blair Worden is probably the most judicious historian I have read. As an historian, it is too easy to become judgemental about one's subjects but he always manages to see the human side to those he writes about and everyone is given a fair account. I enjoy reading anything by Christopher Hill and Mark Kishlansky, two other Civil War historians, poles apart

politically but both brilliantly entertaining writers. I also admire anyone who can communicate their research to a public audience in an engaging way but without losing the complexity of their subject.

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

Going into archives and doing original research is my favourite part of my job. You mustn't tell anyone but I particularly like looking at garrison financial accounts and campaign maps that show troop movements with arrows. I am not sure that I can admit to which part of my job I least enjoy - Andy Hopper might be reading this!

**Who do you most admire in other walks of life?**

Anyone who is kind, especially people who face daily challenges but just get on with it - the sort of people you never hear about.

**Do you have any other passions outside history?**

Football - I support Ipswich Town for my sins and regularly attend matches. Cricket - I steward at Lord's for the major matches every summer and used to be a tour guide there. Walking in the countryside and being outdoors (I hate being cooped up inside). Real Ale. Marmite.

**What are your ambitions?**

I would like to learn how to juggle. If anyone can teach me, I would like to hear from them!

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

This is going to sound very cheesy but genuinely it is coming to work on the Civil War Petitions project at the Centre. I had been to the Centre a few times before I started to work here and had really loved the warm and friendly atmosphere, and it is lovely to now be a part of that. The project fits so closely with my own research interests and I feel very lucky to be a part of that. I also feel

lucky to work with a super group of historians. Getting my first job at Exeter was pretty exciting too, as the low point of my career was definitely the 18 months between finishing my PhD and getting the job there - I

had nearly given up hope of getting a job in academia. I had some great colleagues there and they also let me loose on teaching my own class, which was a lot of fun.

## **Research Seminar Programme 2016-17**

### **Migration to London in the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the development of the north-south divide.**

*5 October 2017: Prof. Kevin Schürer*

*Professor of English Local History, Leicester*

‘Censuses can tell you an awful lot of things. They can tell you *where* people were, but not *why* they were there.’

Prof Schürer began his talk with a quotation from Arthur Young of 1771 bemoaning travel to London, posing the question: ‘Why would anyone want to!?’ He also referred to Wrigley and Schofield’s back-projection of population estimates in early modern England (but not quite as far back as the year 911, as Richard Jones was deft at pointing to the typo in his opening slide!).

His seminar paper used the newly-available I-CeM (integrated census microdata) to examine migration to London in the period 1851 to 1911. The I-CeM database, which was created from ‘findmypast’ website by Prof Schürer with funding support from the ESRC, contains complete count individual level census data for the censuses of England and Wales and Scotland for 1851-1911 - some 225 million person records in all - being one of the largest collections of historical data in the world. Very few census data are missing from the record. It enables birthplaces to be located at the level of county and parishes. There are some difficulties in the interpretation of place of birth, particularly with migrants from overseas and with abbreviations. Birthplaces have been

standardised for this project, and 90% of birthplaces have been identifiable.

Between 1881 and 1901, London grew by 1 million people a decade, its largest absolute growth. By the Victorian age, London was the largest urban conglomerate on the planet. Tony Wrigley has estimated that one in six people had lived in London at some time of their life between 1650 and 1750. Having now geo-referenced some 7 million unique birthplace ‘strings’ recorded in these censuses it is possible to study migration over time, using ‘lifetime’ migration – the difference between an individual’s place of birth and place of enumeration in the census – as a proxy for migration. This illustrates a number of basic things: that the mean distance travelled by those from England and Wales to London was 126 km for females and 132 km for males in 1851 and declined over time, especially in the early twentieth century; there were different patterns of migration from the major cities, such as Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester, and London had the widest catchment area; that London pro rata attracted migrants from further afield than all other major cities in England and

Wales (although Liverpool came close); that migration out of London was important for those aged 30 and over, but less so over time and more so in the case of females; there was a tendency for migration into London before the age of 30; and there were relatively few areas where males moving to London outnumbered females, and less so over time. In the Victorian age, the population of London was international, although the majority of London immigrants came from England and Wales.

Conventionally, most historical studies of migration, from the classic work of E. G. Ravenstein onwards, have tended to view and measure migration from the point of view of the place to which migration occurs. Prof Schürer argues that this approach is the wrong way round, and it is more informative to look at locations and analyse where migrants moved to - in other words, not to look at the

place of entry, but at the place of exit. Because the I-CeM database includes all surviving census records, it is possible to examine where people go to *from* any single place. We can study migration to London for the first time from the perspective of the place of birth – and ask what proportion of people born in Leicester, for example, were living in London. Undertaking such an exercise reveals that there is clear evidence of a north-south divide, running approximately from the Fens to Bristol in the mid-nineteenth century. The majority of the population north of London did not migrate to London - northerners tended not to migrate to London. By the early twentieth century this had become exceedingly well defined and accentuated. In other words, the North/South divide began in Victorian times, a split which Prof Schürer thinks was as much cultural as economic.

### **Further Reading**

D.B. Grigg, 'E.G. Ravenstein and the Laws of Migration', in M. Drake (ed.), *Time, Family and Community. Perspectives on Family and Community History* (Oxford, 1994), p. 147.

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## **Seditious Memories of the British wars and revolutions: The local legacies of conflict after the Restoration**

*19 October 2017: Dr. Edward Legon*

*Research Manager at Historic Royal Palaces*

The divisions of civil war and revolution were not remedied by the restoration of monarchy in 1660. On the contrary, the wounds of conflict remained raw throughout the reign of Charles II, and even into that of his brother, James II. This paper explored one aspect of the continuing divide: the espousal of enduring allegiances to parliament and the

republic, and claims that the events of the 1640s and 1650s could and would recur, particularly insofar as these referred to local figures and events. By attending to these opinions, which are identifiable in allegations of seditious and even treasonable speeches and writings, we find that the mnemonic landscape after the Restoration was more

diverse than has been portrayed heretofore. While certainly dominant, the royalists' interpretation of the 'rebellion' against, and 'usurpation' of, the Stuarts by 'fanatics' was not unrivalled. Moreover, by acknowledging the social context within which these 'seditious memories' were expressed – one in which authority derived to an unprecedented extent from a censorious account of the recent past and the effective censorship of alternatives – it becomes possible to account for how these opinions were meaningful to those who uttered them. Rather than synonymising seditious memories with treasonable intent, this paper suggested that, within local communities, sympathetic and restorative references to parliamentarianism denote the active contestation of royalist censure, identification against aspects of the Restoration settlements, and the subversive use of the claims from which its supporters derived authority.

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We could summarize this paper as being an account of how the Royalists' tendency to gloat kept alive the very seditious feelings that they were afraid of. The feelings aroused by the conflict of the 1640s and 1650s most definitely did not die at the Restoration. The Sedition Act of 1661 sought to forestall any opposition to the crown. It became treasonous not only to act against the King, but also to express opposition in writing, printing, preaching or expressing dislike of Charles II or his government.

Despite legislation, however, there is abundant evidence that seditious memories persisted in many local communities. The memories took two forms: there was an enduring puritanism and republicanism, but also a belief that there was unfinished business, and that the conflict of the civil wars would return. Specific seditious views maintained that the Long Parliament could not be dissolved without agreement, and that

the Solemn League and Covenant still bound those who had taken it.

Although the stakes were high, and holding or expressing these views carried some risk of punishment, Edward Legon has found several examples, from around the country, of the persistence of these seditious views. They lasted throughout the reign of Charles and into James's. The atmosphere of Restoration England was such that how people remembered the past became a signifier of where they stood at that moment. Oliver Cromwell could be spoken off in terms of veneration, while there was an enduring antipathy towards slaughtering and marauding cavaliers. There were dubious claims of having participated in national events, and as far away as Wales and Northumberland men claimed to have had a hand in the late King's death. Such memories could give rise to verbal and physical abuse, and heated disputes about the past. A man might be beaten up because he was a 'cavalier rogue'.

Legon also gave examples of how the behaviour of erstwhile Royalists could encourage the very opposition that they were trying to suppress. Celebrations of the anniversary of the restoration, and commemorations of the regicide tended against the possibilities of reconciliation. A continued Royalist desire to 'drag up the past' actually empowered those who had fought on the other side, or at least supported the parliamentary cause.

Legon didn't argue that there was a real and imminent danger of civil war breaking out again, but rather that there was a lasting sentiment that looked back on the Commonwealth favourably, and resented the reinterpretation of past events that accompanied the Restoration. To fail to recognise the existence of these seditious feelings is to oversimplify the after effects of the English Civil Wars.

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McCall, Fiona, *Baal's Priests: The Loyalist Clergy and the English Revolution* (Farnham: Routledge, 2013).

Neufeld, Matthew, *The Civil Wars after 1660: Public Remembering in Late Stuart England* (Woodbridge: Boydell, 2013).

Peters, Erin, *Commemoration and Oblivion in Royal Print Culture, 1658-1667* (London: Palgrave, 2017).

Stoyle, Mark 'Memories of the Maimed: The Testimony of Charles I's Former Soldiers, 1660–1730', *History* 88:290 (2003), pp. 204-226.

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## **Understanding neighbourliness: a parish perspective from early modern Scotland**

*2 November 2017: Dr. Chris R. Langley*

*Senior Lecturer in Early Modern British History, Newman University,  
Birmingham*



This paper focused on the often-neglected world of domestic poor relief in seventeenth-century Scotland. Instead of looking at *official* payments, though, the paper addressed those important acts of charity that occurred on the doorstep or in domestic settings. Using the hundreds of untapped (and often digitised) parish records, Dr Langley explored the rich variety of charitable acts around child care that all occurred beyond the scope of ‘official’ charity.

The Scottish system of poor relief centred on the local church court (the kirk session). The contention of this paper was that the money provided by these official donations was not enough alone to support the needs of the most needy parishioners, though. In their seminal work on food prices in early-modern Scotland, Gibson and Smout estimated that a family of two adults and four children would require around twenty-five to thirty shillings per week to obtain a minimum daily calorific intake of just under seven and a half thousand

calories combined. Taken individually this would mean that a single man would require just under seven shillings per week and a woman just over six shillings per week to purchase the minimum nutritional requirements in most parts of Scotland. Sessions did not make payments of this size with any sort of regularity. Such handouts were rarely intended to be the only form of subsistence and were always supplementary to other sources of income such as wage labour or informal assistance.

Those in need relied, in the first instance, on wider networks of family and kin. The range of individuals involved in the care of a dying child, for example, was wide and encompassed the nuclear family, including servants, and trusted friends. Most revealing of all is that, once mobilised, authorities did little to intervene in these networks. Church authorities were part of a much wider system that put informal, voluntary, care at the heart of a nexus of local relationships.

### **Further Reading**

R. A. Houston, *Bride Ales and Penny Weddings: Recreations, Reciprocity, and Regions in Britain from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries* (Oxford, 2014).

C. R. Langley, ‘Lying sick to die: Dying, informal care and authority in Scotland, c.1600-1660’, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 48: 1 (2017).

*Cultures of Care: Domestic Welfare and the Church of Scotland, c.1600-1689* (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming, 2019).

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*Worship, Civil War and Community, 1638-1660* (London: Routledge, 2015).

## Religion and the Rise of Sport in Victorian England

*16 November 2017: Dr Hugh McLeod*

*Emeritus Professor of Church History, Birmingham*



The years 1860-1914 saw the beginnings of the modern sporting world. Initially the upper middle class dominated sporting events. In the 1870s, the working class also became involved in sport, notably in factories which closed for Saturday afternoon fixtures. By the end of the century, women were also involved. World sports also originated in Britain.

Prof McLeod argued (1) that churches and chapels, religiously-motivated employers and teachers, and ideologists of 'Muscular Christianity' played a major role in the sports boom – both positively by promoting 'good sports' and a 'healthy' sporting ethos, and negatively by trying to discredit 'bad' sports. And (2) that the role of these religious actors

was often proactive – they were not merely trying to jump on a bandwagon already in motion.

The 1850s was a decade of change. Anglican writers wrote of sport as part of a full life, ie 'Muscular Christianity'. Life was enhanced by fitness, with both moral and physical strength. There were pioneering local initiatives in the form of clubs and institutes. The role of the public schools grew in training the clergy and politicians with alliance between Christianity and sport; the mind, body and spirit all needed to be educated. These initiatives occurred in the 1850s following a social crisis in the 1830s, with lack of recreational opportunities. Cricket was seen as having magical healing

powers, when different classes could play together. There was a rise of a broad church liberal wing which attacked puritanism; the clergy should live amongst the people. And finally there was growing concern about the feminisation of the church. Sport was seen as a way of strengthening the church for men.

From the 1870s there was a rapid growth in the number of church-based sports clubs. The Anglicans led the way, but the Nonconformists, Catholics and YMCA soon joined in. A study of Lancashire cotton towns in the 1920s found that churches and chapels had a major role in the men's sports of football and cricket, the women's sport of rounders, and in sports played by both sexes including tennis, table tennis and hockey. Formerly religion and sports was at a low ebb, as sport was thought to be violent, cruel, and encouraging of gambling and disorder. Evangelism at its peak in the early 1800s doubted that there could be any good recreation, and some sects took to preaching against sporting events.

In the 1880s the Nonconformists debated sport. It was seen as part of social reform. There was less debate amongst the Catholics, but by the late 1870s Catholic football teams were formed. By the end of the nineteenth century, all denominations were involved in sport. By the 1920s most cricket and football was Nonconformist.

While almost every book on Victorian sport includes a page or two on 'Muscular Christianity', they often ignore the diversity

of the movement and the many contradictory agendas to which it could be harnessed. It has been linked to imperialism or seen as a tool of social control, but its advocates also included political radicals. It is often seen as arising from fears about masculinity. But the arguments used to promote men's sport in the 1850s and '60s could also by the 1880s and '90s be used to promote women's sport. Dominic Erdozain rightly argues that it was above all a religious movement and part of the shift from the Evangelicalism dominant in the early nineteenth century to late Victorian social Christianity.

Why did churches/chapels build teams? There was no stereotyped pattern, and they happened for different reasons. They were seen as alternatives to pubs. Young men wanted to play sport with friends from their church or chapel, for example Aston Villa football team. They were seen as a way of keeping Sunday school children within the Church ambit and Sunday school leagues were formed. Also sport was seen as part of the good life and was reported in parish magazines. It was also a tool of sectarian competition, for example Catholic Liverpool leagues.

By the early twentieth century professional sport was an increasingly important part of life and presented sports enthusiasts with new role-models and new sporting values. But only in the 1960s and '70s could one say that 'Muscular Christianity' was finally a thing of the past.

## Further Reading

Hugh McLeod, 'Sport and Religion in England, c. 1790-1914,' in Nick J. Watson and Andrew Parker (eds.), *Sports and Christianity* (Routledge 2013), pp. 112-130.

Hugh McLeod, "'Thews and Sinews': Nonconformity and Sport,' in David Bebbington and Timothy Larsen (eds.), *Modern Christianity and Cultural Aspirations* (Sheffield Academic Press 2003), pp. 28-46.

Dominic Erdozain, *The Problem of Pleasure: Sport, Recreation and the Crisis of Victorian Religion* (Boydell & Brewer 2010).

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## **‘The Tide of Historical Thinking’ – A Conceptual Genealogy of William G. Hoskins’s Perception of Early Medieval Landscapes**

*30 November 2017: Dr Nicolas Schroeder*

*Université Libre de Bruxelles*

William G. Hoskins (1908-1992) is a key figure in the development of landscape history in Britain. His scientific activity was crucial for the emergence of ‘landscape studies’ as an academic subfield. Moreover, *The Making of the English Landscape* (1955) and the BBC series *Landscapes of England* were extremely successful with the general public. Recent research has explored the imagery that structures Hoskins’s approach of past landscapes. This talk explored two dimensions of his intellectual background that have not received much attention yet.

Firstly, Hoskins’s perception of landscapes and their history has been treated as a coherent set of ideas, that did not evolve much over time. However, it is possible to show that Hoskins changed his mind about the interpretation of early medieval landscapes between the 1950s and the 1960s. In *The Making*, Hoskins argued that most of England was still a wilderness in the late Roman period. Native Britons and the Romans had only occupied small amounts of the land and most of their settlements were abandoned in the late Roman period. As a result, the incoming Anglo-Saxons discovered a land covered in woods. In publications that came out in the second half of the 1960s, Hoskins contradicted this model: he now argued that Prehistoric and Roman societies modified the landscapes of England and that

rural life was partly continuous throughout the Late Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods.

In order to frame the evolution of Hoskins’s ideas about early medieval landscapes, it is necessary to explore another undervalued dimension of his thinking. The figure of Hoskins is generally treated within the British intellectual landscape, without taking into account foreign historiographies and international debates. While it is true that Hoskins did not pay much attention to publications and scientific activities outside of Britain, it is necessary to frame his ideas about early medieval landscapes within a broader, European, context in order to understand why they changed over a decade.

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Nicolas sketched a biography of Hoskins, who gained BSc and MSc degrees in economics at the University College of South West England at Exeter. He moved via Bradford to University College, Leicester in 1931, still as an economist, where he remained until 1941. He returned to Leicester in 1946, this time as a historian allied with Jack Simmons. In 1952 he moved to Oxford University where he remained as reader in economic history until 1965. Despite his distaste for Oxford and the exclusion of local history from the syllabus, this was a period when his most influential contributions to local history were made, and in particular *The*

*Making of the English Landscape* in 1955. In 1965 he became Hatton professor of English history at Leicester from where he retired in 1968.

Nicholas suggests that Hoskins was intellectually rooted in anti-modern conservatism and patriotism. He favoured direct contact with the landscape (“muddy boots”) and had an emotional, aesthetic and poetic attachment to the landscape. The Teutonic School postulated a break between Roman and Anglo-Saxon Britain. In *The Making* Hoskins confined his view to the last 1500 years, seeing the Anglo Saxons as moving into a wilderness with almost everything left to be done. He saw village development as being confined to the period from 450 to 1066. Again in *The Making*, Hoskins saw the Anglo-Saxon conquest as wiping the slate clean as discussed in *Transformation of the Moorland*.

Hoskins mentioned a number of methods appropriate to the study of landscape history: observations of existing settlements and landscapes; interpretation of maps; (settlement/morphology); place names (functional/historical processes/ethno linguistics). Historically in the mid-nineteenth century this methodology was developed in an international debate between “Germanists” John Mitchell Kemble (1807–1857) and George Ludwig von Maurer (1790–1872) versus “Romanesque” Frederick Seebohm (1833–1912). Seebohm traced the structure and thus the origin of the manor, back to the villas of the Roman period and

beyond, while Kemble and Maurer advocated the rupture of post-Roman societies before the Anglo-Saxon invasion.

August Meitzen (1822–1910) argued that the type of settlement defines its origin, while Frederick Maitland (1850–1906) defined nucleated villages with open field systems as Germanic, but hamlets and scattered ‘steads’ as Celtic. Cyril Fox and also Collingwood argued that geography determined the course of Anglo-Saxon settlement.

Having reviewed the arguments, Nicolas returned to Hoskins “tide of historical thinking” and discussed how his view developed over his working life. *The Making* in 1955 assumed a rupture in societies in the early mediaeval period. Ten years later Hoskins argued for continuity between Roman and Anglo-Saxon societies.

In the second half of the nineteenth century debates at international level led to an ethnic reading of early mediaeval landscapes and settlements. This implied that there were ruptures in settlement patterns and that the landscape reverted to wilderness. Criticism of this approach emerged on the European scene in the 1930s, yet in the 1950s Hoskins, who relied essentially on English literature, endorsed the model of the “Teutonic School”.

He changed his mind in the 1960s and contributed to the development of models that emphasise continuity in the functional adaptation to environmental conditions rather than ruptures and ethnicity.

## Further Reading

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M.W. Beresford and J.G. Hurst, *Deserted medieval villages : studies* (Woking, 1971).

W.G. Hoskins, *The making of the English landscape* (London, 1955).

J. Thirsk, 'Hoskins, William George (1908–1992), historian of the English landscape.' in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004).

W.G. Hoskins, 'The Highland Zone in Domesday Book' in *Provincial England* (London, 1963).

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## Scandinavian Identities and English Place-Names

*25 January 2018: Dr Jayne Carroll*

*Associate Professor of the History of English, Nottingham University*

Dr Carroll explained, with many specific examples, how place names can be interpreted as texts which demonstrate people's interaction with the landscape. One key thing she stressed was that the existence of a Scandinavian place name does not mean that it was necessarily a Scandinavian settlement.

An area she dealt with in detail was the differentiation between Danish and Norwegian place names, as typified by place names such as Denby and Normanby. She stressed that, to the English, the *Dene* and the *Norðmenn* were interchangeable terms, but that an analysis of the grammatical case of the noun from which the place name was derived could indicate the likelihood when the place was named by the Scandinavians themselves, and was therefore a form of self-labelling.

Dr Carroll also examined possible other derivations of place names which, on first sight, may look as though they were named after the population; so, for example, the Old English *denu* (valley) can be confused with

*Dene* (Danes), and topography can assist in including or excluding such places from the possible ethnic derivations. She then went on to give similar examples with names derived from *Iras* (Irish), again adding the complication that the names may, in some cases, have their origin in the Old Norse personal name *Iri*, or possibly from the Old English personal name *Ira*, e.g. Ireton.

In conclusion, Dr Carroll suggested that the place names indicate a keen awareness of ethnic identity during the period of the Danelaw, and that while there may be an appearance of unity between the Scandinavian settlements, place names can be seen as expressions of self-identity, as well as descriptive labels given by the surrounding population or functional names given by English administrators.

The whole paper was supported by numerous distribution maps, and the Norse vocabulary used in the talk tripped off Dr Carroll's tongue as easily as the rest of the paper.

### Further Reading

J. Carroll, S. Harrison and G. Williams, *The Vikings in Britain and Ireland* (British Museum, 2014).

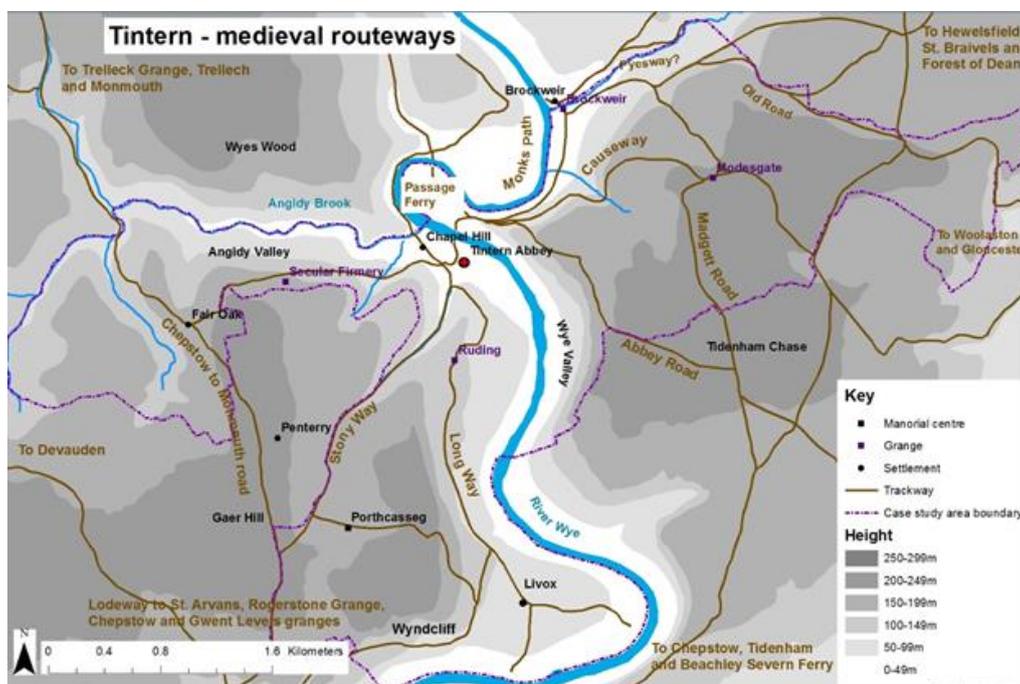
J. Carroll and D. N. Parsons, eds., *Perceptions of Place: twenty-first-century interpretations of English place-name studies* (English Place-Name Society, 2013).

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## The path to the monastery: communication networks linking monastic estates in the southern Welsh Marches

8 February 2018: Eddie Procter

PhD Student, University of Exeter



*Map of the medieval routeways associated with Tintern Abbey*

This paper presented evidence, still often observable in the field, of a coherent and managed network of roads and tracks in the orbit of medieval monasteries and their estates; a component of a wider PhD research project examining to what extent elements of medieval monastic topography can be discerned within the historic landscape of the southern Welsh Marches, both in terms of physical features and also how these

landscapes have been perceived and experienced.

The landscapes associated with three case studies in the area (the Cistercian abbeys of Llantarnam and Tintern, and the Augustinian priory of Llanthony) provide the examples drawn on in this paper. Three routeways in particular, one from each house, were described: connecting threads studied through walking; part of a wider traversing of the

study areas deploying approaches more commonly associated with cultural geography, combined with the tools of conventional landscape history and archaeology to provide a comprehensive analysis – a deep topography – of the perceptions and realities of these complex landscapes.

The popular view, if there is such a thing, of medieval roads and routeways is that they were much like medieval life: nasty, brutish and short. Poorly maintained, difficult to progress along and generally only used for localised traffic and travel. But was it really always that bad? This paper presented examples to suggest that medieval abbeys and priories, powerful corporations of their time, were using and improving communication networks across their landed possessions in a more sustained and systematic way.

The postulated monastic trods and track-ways discussed – routes used for trade, for pilgrimage, for travelers to and from the monastery – help to challenge received wisdom that pre-modern roads were uniformly primitive, difficult and very much non-permanent. In fact, a transition of routes

from general directions of travel into defined, maintained roads and paths can be heralded as one of the main topographical legacies of the monastic period.

Photos taken on the walks, together with maps were, used to illustrate some of the findings from the case studies. The Llanthony priory case study included the discovery of a lost trackway which had become a holloway and was now occupied by a stream. Procter also gave an example of how a Welsh placename had been misinterpreted when Anglicised. There were two routes running from Tintern to the same destination; it is suggested that the Stony Way was quicker but the Long Way was better for heavy loads and in inclement weather. Llantarnam was a gathering point for pilgrims visiting the shrine of St Mary and the holy well at Penrhys in the Rhondda. The remains of cobbled and stone surfaces and a possible medieval bridge were found — evidence of planned and maintained networks rather than *ad hoc* developments. Procter's work challenges the view that pre-modern routes were primitive but he does consider that there was a dark-age of neglect and forgetting after the Dissolution.

## Further Reading

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Fleming, A., 'The making of a medieval road: the Monks' Trod routeway, mid Wales', *Landscapes*, 10 (2009), pp. 77-100.

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Morriss, R., *Roads: Archaeology and Architecture* (Stroud, 2005).

Taylor, C., *Roads and Tracks of Britain* (London, 1979).

<http://landscapism.blogspot.co.uk/> and <http://exploringlandscape.blogspot.co.uk/>

# Mobility, transport and community: evidence from life writing

8 March 2018: Colin Pooley

*Emeritus Professor of Social and Historical Geography, Lancaster University*

Everyday mobility is a significant but neglected aspect of social and community life. It allows social and economic interactions to occur, but at the same time transport links can create barriers and lack of access to mobility may lead to social exclusion. Many everyday journeys are not systematically recorded in any records but I have been using life writing (diaries, letters and life histories) to recreate mobility patterns and experiences in the past.

The research reveals the ways in which transport change was not linear: as new transport forms (trains, trams, bikes, cars for instance) were developed older forms of transport (especially walking) persisted alongside, and often integrated with, the new. The experience of travelling varied considerably from place to place and from person to person. Opportunities for and experiences of mobility differed between urban and rural areas, with those in the countryside having fewer transport options.

Mobility options could also be different for men and women and for different social classes. The research shows that although female mobility differed from that of men, most women did travel extensively both alone and with companions. Likewise, although the rich usually had access to faster and more comfortable transport than the poor, especially in urban areas the classes often shared the same public transport spaces. Travellers engaged easily with new forms of transport and had little difficulty negotiating well-integrated urban transport systems. Significant delays and inconveniences were relatively rare, though in the early days of motoring cars could be very unreliable.

In summary, the research demonstrates the utility of life writing for examining mobility and transport, shows that mobility was frequent and relatively easy for most people, and that such mobility played a vital role in connecting families and communities.

## Further Reading

Pooley, C. (2017) *Mobility, Migration and Transport: Historical Perspectives* (London: Palgrave Pivot).

Pooley, C. (2017) 'Travelling through the city: using life writing to explore individual experiences of urban travel c1840-1940', *Mobilities*, 12(4), 598-609.

Pooley, C. (2017) 'Connecting historical studies of transport, mobility and migration', *Journal of Transport History* 38:2, 251-259.

Pooley, C. (2017) 'Cities, spaces and movement: everyday experiences of urban travel in England c1840-1940', *Urban History* 44(1), 91-109.

Pooley, C. (2016) 'Mobility, transport and social inclusion: lessons from history', *Social Inclusion* 4 (3), 100-109.

Pooley, C. and Pooley, M. (2015) 'Mrs Harvey came home from Norwich ... her pocket picked at the station and all her money stolen': using life writing to recover the experience of travel in the past', *Journal of Migration History* 1 (1) 54-74.

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## **Seeing and performing the State in English local communities,**

**c. 1485-1640**

***22 March 2018: Jonathan Healey***

***Associate Professor in Social History at the University of Oxford***

In 1604, in the parish church of Cartmel, Lancashire, a group of Catholics acted out a disorderly, carnivalesque, transvestite wedding using the Book of Common Prayer. Intended as a satirical joke, it landed the organisers in trouble with the court of Star Chamber. This talk looks in close detail at the case, working through the minutiae of the Star Chamber records, and reconstructing the nature and meaning of the disturbance. It finds that Cartmel's Catholics were using the

local tradition of 'rushbearing' to mock Lancashire's Protestants, and particularly the recent campaign against traditional festivities led by local Puritans. Rushbearings became a focus both for Catholic resistance in the reign of James, but also for traditionalist resistance to Puritan Sabbatarian campaigns. Indeed, it was after seeing a rushbearing at Houghton Tower in 1617 that James I issued his famous 'Declaration of Sports'.

### **Further Reading**

Healey J, *The First Century of Welfare: Poverty and Poor Relief in Lancashire, 1620-1730* (Boydell, 2014).

## 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.**

Thursday 11 October	Philip Slavin	University of Stirling	The impact of scab panzootics on sheep farming and wool industry in England c. 1270-1320
Thursday 25 October	Charmian Mansell	University of Exeter	Beyond the parish: everyday travel and community in England, 1550-1650
Thursday 8 November	Paul O'Leary	University of Aberystwyth	'"Active Imperialism": Empire Day in Wales, 1904-14.'
Thursday 22 November	Diana Whaley	University of Newcastle	'Hence the Name': Ordnance Surveyors in Northumberland, c. 1860, in their own words'
Thursday 13 December	Angela Muir	University of Leicester	'Not just poor, thwarted lovers: reassessing the relationships and identities of single parents in Wales, c. 1700-1800 '
Thursday 31 January	Alexandra McClain	University of York	Archaeologies of the Norman Conquest: new directions in material culture research in the 11th and 12th centuries?
Thursday 14 February	Liz Round	University of Leicester	'Being seduced by the temptations of the devill and your own filthy lusts': the sexual crimes of clergymen in late seventeenth-century Herefordshire
Thursday 28 February	Karen Sayer	Leeds Trinity University	Vermin landscapes: Suffolk, England shaped by plague, rat and flea 1906-1920'
Thursday 14 March	Leona Skelton	Northumbria University	'Socio-estuarine entanglement: Three centuries of negotiation between the Tyne, its River Court and its people, 1529-1834'.
Thursday 28 March	Imogen Peck	University of Warwick	'A City Assaulted by Man but saved by God': The Commemoration of the Siege of Gloucester'

## Hoskins Lecture 23 June 2018

### *Wharram Percy and its Landscape Contexts*

**Dr Stuart Wrathmell**

*Former director of the Wharram Percy post-excavation analysis and publication project*



Dr Wrathmell opened his talk by explaining that the Wharram project had focused primarily on the forty-year programme of archaeological excavations at the deserted medieval village of Wharram Percy. Post-excavation and publication work was centred on the hundred trenches and areas excavated across the settlement, and on the 300,000 objects recovered from them. Preparation of the thirteenth and final volume of excavation reports, however, demanded some consideration of Wharram's wider landscape contexts, and it would be this aspect which would be explored during the talk.

When the Wharram Percy field project began, in 1950, exploration of the deserted medieval village's 'landscape context' – its position on the Yorkshire Wolds, close to the northern

scarp of the chalk plateau and the Vale of Pickering beyond – did not figure prominently in the work programme. The project's initial aims were focused on site-specific questions such as the date of the village's depopulation, and the material conditions of its peasant farmers. By the end of excavations in 1990, some wider studies had been carried out, notably David Hall's recording of the physical remains open fields in the Wharram area and beyond, but these were additional pieces of work, not part of the core project. A parish survey, covering Wharram Percy and the four other townships within its medieval ecclesiastical parish, was begun by Maurice Beresford and Colin Hayfield, but by the end of the excavations this had generated only one publication

volume, covering the parish in Iron Age and Roman times.

Preparation of the last of the thirteen definitive volumes on the Wharram project therefore provided an opportunity to rethink Wharram's 'landscape context'. It might have been feasible to revive the parish survey, but David Roffe's assessment of Wharram's earliest records had suggested that this ecclesiastical unit had been created relatively late in the process of parish formation, pulling together townships which, though contiguous, were not the remnants of an earlier, single territorial unit. Indeed, there seemed no reason to try to accommodate all aspects of Wharram's history within any one territorial entity, whether ecclesiastical, tenurial or administrative. Instead, varying landscape contexts were explored to understand the significance of marked changes in the settlement's history.

For example, the location of a Roman period farmstead, possibly a villa, within the area subsequently occupied by the medieval North Manor was at one time seen, when considering the site alone, as an indicator of 'high-status continuity' in settlement. The wider context, however, suggested something very different. In the 3rd-century AD, high status Roman farmsteads were established in close proximity across this part of the Wolds, indicating a change in land use which was probably linked to a need for new sources of grain to feed the Roman army. The site at Wharram was one of three in the immediate area, all sited beside tracks which led between the main routeways across the Wolds. The track at Wharram continued in use into medieval times, and it was probably this aspect of 'continuity' – the continued use of the trackway – that led the medieval lords of Wharram to erect their manorial homestead on the site of the Roman farmstead. Both were attracted to the edge of the chalk plateau above the beck and close to the trackway which crossed the stream; but the relationship of the medieval and Roman farmsteads was indirect rather than direct.

A much wider context was created to understand the significance of Wharram's Middle Saxon settlement, which took the form of a group of conjoined curvilinear enclosures, accompanied by *Grubenhäuser*, which we identified as a 'Butterwick-type' settlement. Such settlements had previously been recognised at about half a dozen other locations on the Wolds, and so that particular landscape context was clearly relevant. But a more fundamental question then arose: were Butterwick-type settlements peculiar to the Wolds, perhaps a product of the relatively late occupation of the chalk plateaux by permanent farming communities? To answer this question, our landscape context had to be extended to include lowland areas around the Wolds, where settled communities are likely to have been established earlier in the Anglo-Saxon period. The result was that here, too, Butterwick-type settlements could be found, including the excavated Middle Saxon settlement enclosures at West Heslerton, just below the Wolds scarp.

To take a much later example, documentary evidence indicates that Wharram Percy was finally depopulated in the 1520s, to make way for sheep farming – a classic example of the kind of village desertion identified by Maurice Beresford in the 1940s, and one that brought him to Wharram in the first place. The high, dry pastures of the Wolds seem eminently suitable for conversion from arable to sheep farming in a period when market conditions favoured wool over corn. In one sense, the landscape context for late medieval depopulation for sheep farming is as wide as the 'champion' regions of England. But a key question, not asked at Wharram until the preparation of the final volume, is whether the experience of Wharram Percy was replicated elsewhere on the northern Yorkshire Wolds. The rather surprising answer, drawing heavily on Susan Neave's analysis of rural settlement contraction in the East Riding during the 17th and 18th centuries, is that it was not. Most village communities continued to plough their open

fields until the late 17th and 18th centuries; Wharram's experience was unusual, if not unique.

The Wharram project (unlike its successor in Whittlewood) was not a 'landscape' project; there was no attempt at the outset to define the excavation's landscape context. Though its failure to do so, and its subsequent failure to complete a parish survey would today be regarded as methodological weaknesses, it also meant that the final volume was not constrained by fixed landscape boundaries: topics could be discussed within whatever landscape contexts seemed to offer the best understanding of the significance of changes in settlement and farming at Wharram itself. Flexibility, resulting from a lack of prior planning and definition, was in some ways a strength as well as a weakness.

Dr Wrathmell concluded his Hoskins Lecture with some thoughts on his more recent landscape research which had its origins in the Wharram project. This involved an attempt to reconstruct the territories of rural communities, founded broadly between the

7th and 9th centuries, and identify the impact upon them of Scandinavian settlement during the 10th and 11th centuries. He has been using township boundaries mapped systematically in the mid-19th century to identify 'disruption' in the pattern of Middle Saxon township areas, disruption often signified by detached portions of one township set in the territory of another.

Significant disruption could be identified in the Vale of Pickering, most notably in the extremely intermixed parcels of Thornton Dale and Farmanby townships, to the east of Pickering, and also in evidence for the insertion of Aislaby township between Middleton and Wrelton townships, to the west. On the adjacent Wolds, there is far less evidence of disruption, probably because the Wolds plateaux had not been fully divided into townships by the time of the Scandinavian settlement – the new communities, signified by place-names ending in *-by*, taking up two large blocks of land. He will be exploring these differences in detail over the next few years.



### Further Reading

- M. Beresford and J.G. Hurst, *Wharram Percy: Deserted Medieval Village*, English Heritage (London, 1990).
- S. Wrathmell (ed.), *A History of Wharram Percy and its Neighbours. Wharram: A Study of Settlement on the Yorkshire Wolds*, 13. York University Archaeological Publications, 15 (York, 2012).

## Civil War Petitions Database

This online tool will be a marvellous resource to tell the stories of those affected by the civil war and for genealogy buffs.

[www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk](http://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk)



Project Manager Dr Ismini Pells, PI Prof Andy Hopper and Prof Richard Jones at the launch of the Civil War Petitions database. The launch took place at NCWC Newark Museum.

The Waddington Military wives choir sang songs from WWI and those that told of the futility of war.

# *FRIENDS*

## CONFERENCES

**Local Population Studies Society conference, in association with the Friends of the Centre for English Local History**

**Population and Transport  
11 November 2017**

The Local Population Studies Society held its autumn 2017 conference on 11<sup>th</sup> November at the University of Leicester; the conference was jointly sponsored by the Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester. The conference was introduced and chaired by its organisers, Kevin Schurer and Lyn Boothman.

## Session 1: Transport routes, nodes and speeds in England and Wales 1670-1911

This session consisted of four presentations, all by members of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure (Campop).

First up was Leigh Shaw-Taylor, Group Director. His presentation was entitled **Introduction to the Transport, Urbanisation and Economic Development England and Wales c1670-1911 project at the Cambridge Group**. Leigh began by placing the project in the context of the Cambridge Group's wide Occupational Structure project and showing some interesting maps of the proportion of the population employed in the secondary and tertiary sectors at different times. He noted, for example, that the transition from primary to secondary sector employment had commenced well before the beginnings of the industrial revolution and that, by 1911, 12% of the working population was employed in transport or related sectors, employment growth in the immediately preceding decades having been rivalled only by that of mining industry.

The transport project has mapped all railways, waterways, turnpike and coastal shipping routes using GIS (Geographical Information Systems). This had been combined with work on towns and markets, which had created and mapped a database of 1700 different places which, depending on the criteria used, might be considered as towns. Criteria included possessing a market or achieving particular population size. The urban area of each at different times had also been incorporated from Ordnance Survey maps.

The result was a very flexible database which could be interrogated in many ways to facilitate research into the interaction of transport and economic and social change. It was intended to make access to the database widely available, provided only that the intended use did not overlap with the Cambridge group's own research plans.

Leigh was followed by Max Satchell, a research associate in the Group, who spoke on **Identifying the trunk road of early modern England and Wales**. Max began by introducing the audience to John Ogilby's *Britannia* (1675) which had mapped 85 roads to a scale of 1:63360 on one hundred copper plates. Over 7,500 miles was covered. Max had set out to discover whether Ogilby had included all the main roads of the time or whether there were major exclusions. In particular, Ogilby had at one time intended the book to have 200 plates, possibly implying an original plan to cover 15,000 miles of roads.

Mapping Ogilby's roads on GIS shows a preponderance of roads oriented towards London or between other old-established towns, with the newer, growing centres neglected. Also, accounts of many contemporary coaching routes do not always accord with Ogilby. One way to address the problem was to map other data such as bed and billeting surveys, stabling numbers, other route books and known postal routes and look for consistency or otherwise with Ogilby. Max in particular focussed on stabling data; how many stables were available for travellers in each place. He found that Ogilby routes had a much higher density of stables, over 11 per mile compares with only one to three on other routes.

The work brought up some interesting anomalies. One was Fosters Booth on the London-Holyhead road (Watling Street). Insignificant today, in Ogilby's time it had stabling for 126 horses yet was only 2.5 miles from Towcester which has space for nearly 250. Closer examination of Ogilby, however, shows a crossing of a non-Ogilby road, which was an important ridgeway from the Cotswolds. Ogilby is largely an atlas of the main routes to London, with far fewer cross roads, however it has thousands of intersections with their destinations marked, which helps identify probable missing routes. Much more work needs to be done; for example applying a metric of

average number of stables per mile for each sector, an idea Max had come up with on the train to Leicester today!

The third presentation was by Oliver Dunn, another research associate with the Group, on the topic of **Coastal Shipping and ports in England and Wales 1650-1911**. Oliver started by showing us a number of artists' depictions of coastal shipping, but his presentation emphasised that relatively little detail is known about coastal shipping, compared to transport by road or rail. He had been mapping coastal maritime trading routes onto the Group's GIS along with associated data such as the time taken to travel the routes, the cost, and connections to inland transport networks. Links were also made with the Group's population and towns databases.

As an example, Oliver outlined the Newcastle coal trade. Coal was shipped down the east coast of England, predominantly to London but also to smaller ports. In some cases, ships were even beached to make very localised deliveries. In the early part of the period, piracy and war were threats to the trade but this diminished once Britain's maritime dominance was achieved.

Oliver had focussed particularly on 1690, 1830 and 1911. The middle year marked the advent of steam ships and the latter the final demise of sail. Coastal shipping routes were rarely recorded contemporaneously, so he had estimated them knowing captains' preferences with regard to depth and distance from shore. Initially 800 ports were mapped. Contemporary evidence from actual voyages was found in port customs books, which cover 1565 to 1790 (35,000 voyages analysed), and crew lists of 1830-45 (4,500 voyages). From this data, certain key indicators had been derived, including port-to-port time, customs waiting time and waiting times to unload and to sail (these last could be particularly long when waiting for propitious conditions to leave London and sail down channel). Miles covered per daylight day in different months in the year and the percentage of departures from London in different months of the year are other measures that he has been able to develop.

The end result enables maritime travel to be considered as well as inland travel in a wide range of the Group's, and others', future investigations.

The final presentation was by Xueshen You, another research associate, and Eduard Alvares, of the Cambridge Group and of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. They spoke on **Passenger and freight journeys around England and Wales c1680-1830**. Xuesheng began by describing the mapping of railways. Core work had been done in Spain, as part of a European transport network project, by digitally mapping Cobbs Railway Atlas. The Cambridge Group had corrected and enhanced this work, including adding minor line and the London underground and improving the topology (e.g. so that the directional sense of junctions was clear).

The state of development of the network can now be seen in any year, For example, in 1838 London, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester were first linked and by the mid-1840s a national network existed. Twenty-five years later, there was no obvious gap in coverage anywhere in England and Wales. Statistical analysis showed the railway's influence on localised population growth.

Eduard started by reading an account of uncomfortable experience of an outside passenger of a stage coach. This was a good lead in to an examination of the changing times of travel from place to place. For example, Leicester to Northampton would have taken 26 hours in 1680, including an overnight stay. By 1830, with road improvements, this had fallen to 4.5 hours and in 1911 the train took just one hour. Average cost per passenger, and per ton of freight, also fell dramatically. The Cambridge Group are working on a 'Journey Planner' to be launched in 2018. Average travel

times for many types of journey, by road, water, rail have been digitised by the Cambridge Group and lie behind the journey planner which can be used to determine the travel time, by land or water, between a great variety of places in the three years mentioned above. Cost could be related to distance; this revealed a generally linear relationship by 1830 but showed a much less logically structured pricing policy in 1680.

## **Session 2: Places, people and industries**

After morning sessions about large-scale research and ideas, the first three afternoon presentations were about more detailed research on various aspects of developments in transport. Ken Sneath (University of Cambridge) began the afternoon with '**Godmanchester on the Move**', a study of the way transport networks and technologies have affected one place. Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire, neighbouring Huntingdon, was the site of an important Roman road junction where 3 routes met; Ermine Street crossed the river Ouse here. A fort was built, a mansion followed, and the settlement gradually developed into a small town. The population was probably 250-500. As was typical, the main roads met in the middle of the fortified area. The post-Roman period saw a decline but in the early 10<sup>th</sup> century the town was developed and remodelled, with the main roads diverted around the outside of the walls. By Domesday the town's population was somewhere between 500-800, and it was growing; by the Hundred Roll of 1279 it was around 2,000, a total that later fell. Medieval manorial court records survive, and provide the usual evidence of the care which was or was not given to the maintenance of the road system over the next several hundred years. There are frequent references to roads being impassable, and to obstructions on the King's Highway.

Godmanchester became a borough in 1604 and at the same time received a grant for a horse and cattle fair, which annually brought more traffic and business to the town. In 1663 an act of Parliament gave powers to the local justices to erect toll gates on the Great North Road, a route which passed close to Godmanchester. At this period the Hearth Tax suggests a population of around 1,000. In the eighteenth century three turnpike acts directly affected the town and although it was not on the Great North Road it was near enough to benefit as this route improved. The eighteenth century saw national improvements in coaches, as the roads allowed faster movement, which benefitted the gentry and the middling sort across the country, as well as the improvement movement of freight by road and by improved navigation on the nearby River Ouse. At the height of stagecoach services the town had four or five stagecoaches a day to London, as well as the mail coach.

A four mile stretch of railway from Godmanchester to St Ives opened in 1847, it had problems but was linked to the east coast main line in 1851, when the population was 2,337. By 1891 five per cent of adult males in Godmanchester were working on the railway, most of whom were born outside the immediate area. The introduction of the car not only revolutionised transport but also provided local jobs in a firm which made car bodies for Rolls Royce; another local company was making seaplanes. The town had its own bus service in the 1920s and was also affected by the growth of coach travel. Daily coaches from Godmanchester to London were introduced in 1935.

The next two presentations focused on the railways. John Pullin (University of Leicester) spoke about '**Nineteenth-century engine drivers, a case-study in occupational and residential mobility**'. His researches to date have focused on driver mobility in a number of ways: where they came from, mobility between railway companies and mobility on the job within the same company. This is a group of people who were essential to their industry, who were quite well paid, had a specific skill set, who had a lot of occupational autonomy (no immediate management in their daily

work), who were ‘top of the pecking order’ in their working group and who some historians think of as amongst the ‘labour aristocracy’. John’s research focuses on the period 1850-85. At the start of this period there were around 2,500 engine drivers, by 1873 around 7,500 and by 1900 around 20,000. The major issues which later led to industrial disputes were long hours, pay and overtime.

Detailed information about railway staff, especially non-office based workers, survives from only a few railway companies. John used the records of the London, Brighton and South Coast railway (LBSCR), for whom surveys of all employees survive from 1871, 1877 and 1881. These provide data about name, occupation, age and pay. Linking the 1871 survey with that year’s census, John has been able to identify 197 of the 204 drivers employed by LBSCR in that year. He then traced as many as possible in earlier and later censuses. He found that in 1871 46 per cent of drivers had been born in areas served by the company and another 24.3 per cent were from northern England. The remainder were from the Midlands, East Anglia, the South West and other parts of southern England. The northern drivers were on average older than those born elsewhere. There is evidence that when railways began they specifically tried to recruit people with experience with steam engines, who were mostly working in the north. Later recruits were likely to be more local.

Once the railways were established a typical ‘driver career’ developed: working as an engine cleaner from around age 15, becoming a fireman (stoker) from around 21 and moving into a job as a driver from around age 27. This pattern favoured local recruitment. There is little evidence of movement of drivers into non-manual work. Most companies whose railway covered long distances had lodging houses for staff away from home, or for young staff whose parents had moved elsewhere on the company’s network. John has used the censuses and the three LBSCR surveys to look at movement within the job. He has found examples of people moving around the network of one company, sometimes for promotion to busier routes, sometimes to quieter areas. He has also used discipline books for the South Eastern Railway, which show that drivers could be reprimanded for ‘virtually anything’.

Mobility between companies is more difficult to track, particularly given the lack of company records, but John had found evidence of drivers dismissed from one railway because of an industrial dispute being recruited by another company even though there was a ‘blacklist’ circulated by the company with the dispute. This presentation was based on research that John undertook for his Masters; he has recently started a PhD so there will be more to come!

Hannah Reeves (University of Keele and the National Railway Museum) spoke about a very different aspect of railway employment, ‘**One Big Happy Family? Exploring the idea of the ‘railway family’ in Gloucester, 1900-48**’. This research centres on the women’s trade union auxiliary organisations, of which two existed in Gloucester: the ASRS/NUR Railway Women’s Guild and the ASLEF Women’s Society. Gloucester had two competing railway companies; workers from both firms were concentrated in an area of the town near the stations and yards. Hannah has detailed records of members of the Railway Women’s Guild and minutes of their meetings, along with issues of magazines and newspapers. The idea of ‘the railway family’ appears to have been promoted by both the companies and the unions, although the term was more commonly used by the companies than the unions; the companies wanted to ensure the loyalty of railwaymen to their company, create a non-militant workforce and draw the families of their workers into the industry. Both companies in Gloucester set up social and educational facilities for their employees and their families. The NUR’s focus was on ensuring the loyalty of railwaymen through the interests of their wives and children, and their publicity used emotive language to encourage loyalty and support the union.

The Railway Women's Guild was founded in Gloucester in 1902; it offered practical financial and/or moral support to members in difficult times, it supported the union in times of labour unrest or industrial action and raised money for the NUR Orphans Fund and their own Widow's Fund. The Gloucester branch also became involved in local and national politics, supporting causes that affected 'the railway family' and local women and children. The ASLEF Women's Society was introduced in Gloucester in 1925 and was primarily concerned with fundraising for the union and organising social events, but also supported other campaigns which concerned the 'railway family'.

The Railway Women's Guild approached the wives and adult children of new recruits to the union, but sometimes recruited women whose neighbours or friends were members even if their husbands or fathers were not yet NUR members. This issue doesn't appear to have caused any problems in Gloucester but elsewhere did lead to disputes. The minutes of the Guild show that members of a family or people living in one area often joined at a very similar time. The Guild could offer support when families moved to new parts of the country, they organised sick visitors, provided practical care and advice, including nourishing food such as an egg or milk to the ill; they also supported baby clinics for children under school age and worked closely with the Women's Co-operative Guild. Teas and concerts were arranged to raise funds for the railway orphans, and as social occasions in themselves. There was advice and support in the NUR newsletter which included information on national or international campaigns on maternal and infant welfare.

Our final speaker, Colin Pooley (University of Lancaster), took us away from mechanical transport as he spoke about '**Pedestrian stories: the changing role of walking in urban mobility**'. Walking has always been one of the most common forms of mobility, and in many parts of the world still is. However in this country and others in the 'developed' world, pedestrians have been pushed to the margins. Looking at the journeys people make to work, in the 1890s nearly 60 per cent were made on foot, compared to just below 8 per cent a century later. For journeys of any sort, of over a mile, the National Travel Surveys show that in both the mid 1970s and mid 1980s walking was the main travel mode for over a third of journeys (34.8 per cent). In the most recent survey (2016) the figure was 25.5 per cent. Walking has always, at least in the last century or so, been more common in cities than in rural areas.

Against this background, Colin and colleagues have been analysing qualitative data sources which record when people walked, for how long, for what purposes and how far. They are analysing narrative life histories, diaries and statements made during criminal cases at the Old Bailey in the nineteenth century (here they are analysing walks recorded by victims and witnesses, not the accused). Colin spent some time considering the problems of these sources, which include recall, survival, reliability, representativeness and legibility. The key factors which have been examined are: transport mode choice, perceptions of normality, time pressures and perceptions of risk, of which the last three he feels to be the key aspects. One of the issues with qualitative sources is that most walking trips are mundane, and thus much less likely to be recorded. Experiences which were normal eighty years ago and thus rarely recorded might be seen as unusual now. However there is plenty of evidence in the Old Bailey records of, for example, women walking regularly, and walking long distances. Another change has been the idea of going for a walk as a leisure activity; for many parts of society this did not emerge until the second half of the twentieth century. We were shown examples of references to walking (mainly non-leisure walking), dating from the early twentieth century 'when walking was normal' to 2010 when pedestrians were saying that they often felt unusual walking, or felt 'second class citizens'. The change comes somewhere in the 1960s and 70s when car ownership spread rapidly. Colin criticised the idea that we are busier now than people used to be, so do not have the time to walk – diaries from earlier periods can show extremely busy lives. However the issue that he highlighted as having changed most is that of perceptions of safety

or risk. Within the lives of those living, and of some in the audience, the understanding of what is risky on the streets, and how you can deal with it, has changed dramatically, amongst both men and women. If more people are to walk regularly it is these perceptions which must be changed, so the policy implications relate to making people feel comfortable and safe on the streets, and to making short journeys by car seem more difficult, more anti-social.

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## **‘Spotlight on the Centre’**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**Living with water: past, present and future**

**Richard Jones**

Flooding has been identified as the greatest environmental challenge currently facing the UK. Models seeking to identify future flood risk are currently based on short runs of scientific data (rarely earlier than the eighteenth century) insufficient to predict major events with 1 in 100 year or 1 in 1000 year return frequencies. There is a pressing need, then, to compile a record of flooding and river behaviour that extends much further back in time.

This paper, based on on-going interdisciplinary research based here in the Centre in collaboration with colleagues in Nottingham, Southampton, and Aberystwyth, presented new information about rivers and flooding in the early medieval period. Tapping into a hitherto overlooked source of environmental information—place-names—and combining this with new paleoenvironmental evidence derived from close dating of the flood sediments, the paper argued that rapid climate change in the period c. 700-1000 led to significant flooding events. The dangers of local flooding were encoded by speakers of Old English in place-names. These offered a principal means of communicating vital ecological knowledge allowing people to live sustainably and resiliently at the water’s edge. Modern floods rarely affect early medieval settlement cores although their reach takes them close to these historic centres. This indicates two things: that the Anglo-Saxons were masters at reading the landscape; and that modern rivers are now once again behaving as they did when riparian settlements were established on the edge of their floodplains.

Not only might we drawn lessons from the early medieval period about where and where not to build near rivers, other environmental information—such as tree-names for instance—might offer exciting prospects for slowing the flow using natural flood management techniques and thus reduce our reliance on technological and engineering solutions.

**Guarding against the storm: the manorial court and the commission of sewers**

**Michael Gilbert**

The medieval Fenlands of the Wash were under constant threat from the sea and from the many rivers running through the region. Floods such as that of 1236 and 1438 drowned people and animals leaving the survivors homeless and destitute. How did people living in wetland landscapes protect themselves from the ever-present risk of flooding whilst reclaiming valuable farmland from the marshes that encircled the area?

From the tenth to the fourteenth century an elaborate system of interlinked flood defenses and drainage was constructed. This took place against the backdrop of prolonged demographic and

economic growth when demand for new farm land was high in order to feed the rapidly increasing population. With the crisis of the fourteenth century the demand for land diminished but unlike other marginal regions the valuable Fenlands were not allowed to revert to marsh and fen.

To maintain such an elaborate manmade landscape required a sophisticated approach to managing the defenses. At the local level this was carried out through the manorial courts and the appointment of 'dykereeves' or 'fenreeves' responsible for inspecting banks and ditches and enforcing the will of the manor court. The local response was supported by the Commissions of Sewers that typically covered larger areas (the Haltoft Commission of 1438 covered three counties), were appointed by the King and had extensive powers to direct repairs and the construction of new works.

The study of wetland regions is particularly informative as they exemplify the struggle between humanity and a potentially hostile landscape to establish viable settlements. Such Fenland communities had many potential economic advantages but this had to be balanced against the continuous threat of disaster. This presentation shows how it was possible for the medieval inhabitants of the region to mitigate the risks and to progressively transform the region.

### **Non-armigerous seals in north-east Lincolnshire**

#### **Alister Sutherland**

The personal seals of the non-armigerous classes constitute the overwhelming majority of all surviving seals from medieval England and Wales. Yet, they have not received systematic study by historians up until quite recently. Historians have instead focused on studying the seals of monarchs and various royal departments, the nobility and ecclesiastics, and institutions such as monasteries and boroughs. Our understanding of the seals and sealing practices of the ordinary man and woman, the peasant and the smallholder, the craftsman and the merchant, lags behind that of the armigerous classes.

This paper explored what these seals can tell us about individual and group identities of the tenants on the coastal manor of Saltfleetby, north-east Lincolnshire, where there are over 250 surviving seals from the late-twelfth to the early-fourteenth centuries.

It was shown that simply by owning and using a seal, the tenants were identifying themselves with the wider documentary and sealing culture of the time. Most chose their motifs from a stock collection of designs, for example, stylised lilies and radial motifs that were probably appropriate to their humble position. However, the remarkable variation in the form of these motifs enabled tenants to set themselves apart from one another, perhaps intentionally. Numerous tenants used the same motif on their seal repeatedly while others changed their motifs. Almost none chose a motif that reflected their name and when it did occur it was in occupational terms. Furthermore, most names on the seals corresponded with the names in the document with only the occasional deviation. Overall, it was concluded that the way, and the extent to which, the identities were expressed at Saltfleetby was variable and fluid. The act of sealing – the performance – was often more important in the context of authenticating a document than any self-expression.

## **‘The said town for many years has been called Sodom’: the position of Thomas Fox, Vicar of Bromyard**

**Liz Round**

This PhD research is focused primarily on consistory court records from Herefordshire – recent work has involved the construction of case studies based on these court records. Bromyard is a small market town in north-eastern Herefordshire; it began life as a minster town in the early medieval period, perched on a small promontory above the river Frome. One 1685 case involving the vicar there, Thomas Fox, involved an accusation that he had tried to stab someone, a catchpole by the name of Thomas Bissell. Fox’s response in the documents was that he had merely tried to defend himself but the reason for the quarrel was not immediately apparent. It was another cause, another set of documents, that suggested that perhaps the reason for the quarrel was to do with Fox’s order to remove the recently installed gravestones of several children, gravestones that had been installed without his permission. Quite why this should have caused such an issue is unknown – but the resulting argument and physical fight was all too clear to see in the court archives. Further examination of the Parish Book for the town showed that the chief inhabitants of the town must have agreed that matters were not quite handled right. That document listed the names of all those chosen as parish officers and included the installation of Bissell as Officer of the Highways in 1686. This timing seems rather co-incidental and he was never again chosen as an officer so there is the suggestion that this may have been some kind of bribe. However, in the long run this, and other conflicts in the town seem to have done Fox’s reputation no harm – a decade later he was chosen to be Archdeacon of Hereford, and he continued as vicar of Bromyard until his death in 1728.

## **Children, violence and trauma in the English Civil Wars**

**Ismi Pells**

Child soldiers are defined in modern parlance as individuals (both boys and girls) under the age of eighteen who are used for any military purpose, both in a combat capacity and supporting roles. During the seventeenth-century English Civil Wars, such ‘child soldiers’ were commonly to be found in the armies on both sides.

The age separating childhood and adulthood in the early modern period was contestable and many youngsters argued with their parents to be allowed to join Civil War armies or simply ran away to war. Especially amongst the gentry/nobility, military activities were actively encouraged as a vital part of a child’s education. Portraiture might highlight the power and wealth that boys employed as pages represented but they were no safer from the dangers of war than the combatants they served. The latter was also true for the other roles fulfilled by children in Civil War armies, included post-boys, trumpeter’s boys, ‘boy drummers’, boy spies, builders’ assistants who worked on garrisons and surgeons’ mates.

Many children accompanied Civil War armies as the family dependents of enlisted soldiers and these were subject to military laws and discipline. These children played a key role in the economy of the ‘campaign community’ through pillaging and foraging for supplies. This supports research elsewhere that early modern children were regarded as commodities with value who were expected to be useful to their parents. However, more research is needed in how far the status of children in armies differed from the rest of society and the relationship between the types of roles they fulfilled and gender.

Children were caught in crossfire, besieged strongholds or the innocent victims of marauding armies. Contemporaries were aware of the propaganda value of reports of atrocities against children and children were sometime used as pawns in military negotiations. The psychological impact of this can only be guessed at but although many appear to have been adversely effected, others demonstrated a range of coping mechanisms and extraordinary resilience.

### **Some Victorian migrations: kinship families on the move**

#### **Phil Batman**

Phil Batman presented the pathways taken by kinship families caught up in two urban immigrations and a rural emigration, namely railway workers into the Holgate area of York during the railway mania, Irish immigrants into the Walmgate area of York during the potato famine, and the emigration of lead miners from Swaledale during the collapse of their industry.

A pioneer of migration dynamics was Ernst Georg Ravenstein, who wrote some laws of migration which can be applied to the movement of individual families. Ten kinship families moved into working class terraces in Holgate, and the movements of one of these families, Thomas Malthouse and his two sons, is charted. They moved from the agricultural community of Ripon where they were successful agricultural implement makers in the rural exodus and became engine drivers, a publican, and owners of a shoe shop. Their impetus to migrate was economic, as indeed was the driving force behind all the kinship families moving into Holgate. The impetus to leave Swaledale was also economic. The fortunes of the Alderson family are charted, as the family moved into farming from mining during the second half of the nineteenth century. Swaledale families migrated to other mining and industrial areas of England, and also to Iowa in North America.

The third area of immigration, Long Close Lane and Hope Street in the slum area of York, attracted Irish immigrants. The Calpin family was a large kinship family of several interrelated households descending from two immigrants. One of the children received a caning of such severity to be reported in the York Herald, but his integration into the host population was subsequent successful. Ten Irish young men of the Calpin family volunteered to serve in the First World War, and act of such patriotism that it received congratulations in letters from the Lord Mayor of York and the King reported in the Daily Mail.

A surname index is plotted for the household heads from the streets of Holgate and Walmgate. This index, the ratio of the number of surnames related to the number of people, gives an indication of the density of kinship families. This index fell as the population grew, suggesting that kinship families were more likely to migrate into York than non-kin.

### **Detention over Sundays: vagrancy policy in Central Wales, c. 1900-1930**

#### **Nicola Blacklaws**

This presentation focused on how three poor law unions in central Wales dealt with the problem of vagrancy. Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Local Government Board and from 1919 the Ministry of Health issued several orders and directives aimed at controlling vagrant levels in England and Wales, attempting to strike the tricky balance between providing adequate relief to those deemed 'genuine' travellers looking for work and deterring the more 'undeserving' vagabonds. However, such directives never achieved any long-term impact on numbers of vagrants and this was blamed on the fact that there was too much variation in levels of compliance with their regulations both between regions and between individual poor law unions. Although this ignores the socio-economic factors that could generate larger numbers of itinerant

poor, central government were right in the sense that there was significant variety among poor law unions in their approach to vagrancy.

This was just as much the case in Wales as in England, as demonstrated by the three poor law unions featuring in this presentation: Llanfyllin, Machynlleth, and Newtown and Llanidloes. All three of these unions found vagrancy to be a problem, but their strategies to handle it differed, including the implementation of way-ticket systems, length of detention for vagrants, detention over Sundays and participation in regional co-ordination efforts such as through the North Wales Joint Vagrancy Committee.

However, these differences did not mean that individual unions were entirely uninterested in what each other were doing. Boards of guardians were in almost constantly communication about each other's vagrancy policies, sometimes making explicit references to how the practices of one union were impacting on another. Indeed, there is evidence to suggest that unions formed their vagrancy policy explicitly in response to the practices of other unions. We can therefore see a kind of regional policy network at work, in which unions did pursue a kind of conformity - they needed their vagrancy policy and the policies of their neighbours to be complementary, so that the casual poor were not disproportionately attracted to one workhouse. The uniformity they often arrived at just wasn't always the kind that the central authorities had in mind.

## **EVENTS**

### **A Visit to Staffordshire**

**Saturday 23 September 2017**

The principal aims of this visit were to visit the Gladstone Pottery Museum and the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery in Stoke on Trent. The former has unique collection of Bottle Kilns and illustrates the production of domestic ceramic ware before the days of complete mechanisation while the Museum and Art Gallery has a good collection of artefacts from the Staffordshire Hoard, featuring many finds from a field in South Staffordshire relating to the Saxon period probably of around 600 AD.

The Gladstone Museum is housed in the original pottery factory with, as usual, the former offices on the front street with buildings dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and this is certainly the feeling you have as you climb the creaking stairs to the restaurant and meeting room. After coffee (what else?) we met Paul Niblett, who has been a volunteer at the museum for almost 40 years and who

proved to be an excellent guide who gave us an excellent introduction to the whole process of pottery production.

In the cobbled yard we had our first close up view of the kilns or ovens as they are known in the Potteries. These structures, again mainly built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century have a most graceful bottle shape that illustrates the skill of craftsmen of the time. What one sees from the outside is known as the 'hovel' while the real kiln, in which the firing process takes place, is covered by the hovel and is a complicated domed structure with perhaps six or seven fire mouths, or small furnaces, which provide the heat. In addition there are under floor flues and vents to release the heat at the end of the process.

Around the yard are the various workshops where the clay is prepared, the pottery, or ware, is 'thrown' or made into the appropriate

shape and size for cups, plates, basins or whatever else is needed. The clay is prepared by mixing it with suitable additions of finely ground flint and/or bone (i.e. to produce 'bone china'). One of the buildings is the sagger producing unit; these are circular containers made of heavy clay in which the ware is placed and then taken to the kiln for firing. We were amazed at the weight of an empty sagger and found it difficult to imagine how it could be manhandled when full of pottery. Inside a kiln we were shown how the saggars were placed on top of each in stacks up to a height of perhaps 18 feet (5.2 m) carried up a ladder, known as a horse, by the 'placer' who carried the container on his head. The strain on the head, neck and shoulders is unimaginable!

As part of the museum there are still workshops producing various articles which are sold in the on-site shop and we were given demonstrations of flower making and hand throwing of jugs. The flower making (in white clay) was particularly awe inspiring and made to look so easy as delicate, and decorative, foliage and petals were made in a few seconds. Other items were thrown by hand on wheels and in moulds.

This part of our visit was completed with an excellent buffet lunch before boarding our transport to the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery. Our transport for this occasion was two eight seater mini buses and guess what – there were just sixteen people in our group!

The Saxon treasure at this museum is only a portion of the whole find with other parts

being in Museums in Birmingham and Lichfield Cathedral. Once again we were fortunate in having an excellent guide, Sarah, who explained everything in such an informative interesting manner that the background, manufacture and significance of the Hoard really came to life. The find was made in 2009 close to the A5, an important Roman highway still in use in Saxon times and indeed today. In all 3,500 items of gold and silver were found totalling 6.5kg (12.5 lbs) mostly associated with weapons such as sword and knife handles but also some decorative objects and some with religious meaning. Many of the artefacts on view were decorated with slivers of garnets which probably originated in India illustrating the wide trading connections of the time. The workmanship was of a high order which contrasts perhaps with our view of the marauding German tribes who would turn to the blacksmith rather than the jeweller.

In addition to this fascinating array of excellence there are galleries of art displaying works by world famous artists; a really stunning collection of ceramics of every type from utilitarian table ware to beautifully crafted high-quality china and even the odd chunk of decorated clay from a Neolithic urn and not least the Spitfire gallery. The Spitfire gallery contains an original WW11 aircraft presented to the museum in honour of R J Mitchell, the inventor, who was born and educated in the area.

Frank Galbraith.

## Buckminster and Sewstern Visit

Saturday 15 September 2018



A group of Friends of the Centre spent the day in the parish of Buckminster and Sewstern for a guided tour of both villages with Pam Fisher.

We met on a beautiful September day of breezy sunshine for coffee and biscuits in Buckminster Village Hall, then spent the morning around the typical estate village which the Manners family has owned since 1763. We saw the area cleared to create a green space around the Hall, church and vicarage and the cottages provided for their workers. There was a succession of estate-provided housing for tenants from an eighteenth-century terrace to an attractive semi-detached crescent and back to terraces in 1935 and 1948. We saw the attractive vicarage and heard of the friction between William Manners and his vicars. The land in 1607 at the time of enclosure consisted mainly of large farms but is now farmed entirely by the estate. Former large agricultural workshops have been converted into commercial offices, rented to small businesses.

The thirteenth/fourteenth-century church, dedicated to St John the Baptist, built of limestone has examples externally, of decorative intricate carved stonework of pinnacles, niches and a very interesting gargoyle on the south side. The interior holds several distinctive features, the tower being built over the south aisle, rather than at the west end; the stonework of a probable belfry stair survives, and this is possibly the only church in the country to have a fireplace with chimney in the tower, provided at a time when it was used as a watchtower in 1625. An interesting village, neat, orderly, organised and clearly nurtured as an asset to its owner.

After a pleasant lunch break at the Tollemache Arms, the group moved a mile or so to Sewstern, calling to look at the village school on the way. At this point, mid-way between the two villages, there was evidence of former ironstone quarrying, with land either side of the road having been mined out and left several feet lower than the surrounding road and buildings. Health and safety concerns seem to have been of little significance when it was agreed that the

quarry should come no closer to the school building than 50 feet – no footballs at playtime.

Entering the main street of Sewstern the difference between the two villages was marked, with each house different, gardens with paddocks for horses, sheep grazing in a field alongside the road. The village in this part of the parish at the time of enclosure was made up of smallholdings, privately owned. The main street abuts onto the ancient prehistoric trackway known as the Drift, once used by the Romans and now called Sewstern Lane. The traffic along this road was a source of commerce for the village with craftsmen and traders of every type providing their services to travellers.

The medieval church known to have been at Sewstern and dedicated to St Edmund was built in the thirteenth century as a chantry chapel to Buckminster but has now

disappeared. There was no burial ground and when Nicholls was writing his History of Leicestershire he says that the chapel had already gone. Discussion as to its possible former site between the relative claims of one old house with part-stone gable, or a field with signs of earthworks was inconclusive. A modern church, Holy Trinity was built in 1842. An 'ordinary' village then, but not ordinary, in its individuality and lack of reliance on the big house up the road. Together they constitute both images of the open independent village and the closed tightly controlled estate village bound closely together by being within the same parish.

It was a good day, we learned a lot and met up with friends. Our thanks to Pam for giving her time to organise this enjoyable visit and be our guide, sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm.

Delia Richards

## **News from Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust**

Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust has had another busy and very rewarding year. October 2017 saw the launch of our paperback history of *Buckminster and Sewstern*, written by Pam Fisher, following research by Pam and a small team of volunteers. The village hall was flatteringly crowded, and an impressive number of books were sold. The book has been well reviewed, and any doubts we might have had about this parish history being of little interest to people beyond the parish boundary were conclusively demolished in July, when over 50 people booked for a guided walk around the two villages as part of our offering for archaeology fortnight.

The year also saw the conclusion of our Charnwood Roots project. Over 650 volunteers have taken part in this project over a four-year period, and have donated 20,000 hours of time. They dug test pits in three

villages, went fieldwalking, contributed 6,175 pieces of documentary research to our project databank, surveyed landscapes and buildings, made oral history recordings and helped to plan and put together a heritage festival attended by 2,000 people. We hope to release our database of research entries to the public very soon. We have bid farewell to project manager Julie Attard, who is now working for the National Forest, and have welcomed Emma Compson, who is going to help us to raise the money we need to be able to employ an experienced historian to turn the research data into our first 'big red book' of 180,000 words, covering the history of Loughborough and half a dozen surrounding parishes.

Meanwhile, Pam Fisher has been working on two other parish histories, both funded by external grants. The first of these, due for publication as a paperback in 2020, will be about Ibstock. This is a fascinating and

complex parish, which totally changed its character in the 19th century, as a result of the expansion of the Leicestershire coalfield. Then in 2021 we aim to launch our paperback history of Lutterworth, written by Pam Fisher and Andrew Watkins. This will be the first history of a market town to be published by Leicestershire VCH since 1964, and we shall be revealing lots of new findings about medieval Lutterworth and its development, as well as its later history.

A vital and enjoyable part of our work is engaging with local communities, and we

have also staged two exhibitions in Ibstock to mark the 200th anniversary of the foundation of Ibstock National School, and taken stands at exhibitions hosted by other groups, including Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, Ibstock Historical Society and Lutterworth Fieldworkers.

We wish to record our thanks to all our volunteers and funders, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Pam Fisher

## **Friends Publications and Contributions**

### **Phil Batman**

#### **Publications**

P. Batman, 'Surname Indices: The effects of parliamentary enclosure of the fields on kinship families during the nineteenth century' *Family and Community History*, 20 (2017), p. 102.

#### **Presentations**

'Some Victorian migrations: kinship families on the move' presented to Spotlight Meeting of the Friends of the Centre for English Local History on 24 February 2018.

'Potato famine immigrants in Victorian Walmgate: Did they like their new neighbours?' presented to York Family History Society on 4 April 2018.

'Potato famine immigrants in Victorian Walmgate: Did they like their new neighbours?' presented to South Ainsty Archaeological Society on 10 April 2018.

'Some Victorian migrations: Kinship families on the move' presented to Leicester Postgraduate Community on 27 April 2018.

'The Fate of Irish Potato Famine Immigrants in a York parish', presented to Sixteenth Warwick Symposium on Parish Research, University of Warwick, on 12 May 2018

## Philip French

### *From the Trenches to the Twenties*



*Leicester's permanent war memorial*

*Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and unveiled on 4 July 1925*

For the last four years much of my time as History curator for Leicester City Museums has been taken up in working on the 'Leicester Remembers' Project. The project is heritage Lottery Funded and working in conjunction with The Royal Tigers Association we have organised many family events and talks by a variety of speakers, attended history fairs and will have produced three gallery exhibitions with touring versions available for community venues. The last of the three exhibitions will launch in September 2018 and is called 'From the Trenches to the Twenties'. The focus will be on the final year of the war with its vital campaigns beginning with the repulse of the German Spring Offensive and ending with the breaking of the Hindenburg line and armistice in November 1918. History does not come in neat chronological packages and the impact of the

war was felt for many years to come and attitudes towards the conflict were in a constant state of flux.

We have also explored several other topics which do not usually get covered in conventional regimental exhibitions about the war. The impact of Spanish flu is discussed and the social impact of the war is also highlighted. One of the most interesting stories to emerge related to the policy of trying to give priority to new housing to ex-serviceman. The first of Leicester's post war 'council houses' on Coleman road was allocated to former Leicestershire Regiment soldier Mr L Shenton. Such was the rush to move people in that the access roads had not been completed and the Leicester Daily Mercury reported that the furniture van floundered in the Flanders like mud!

The exhibition gives an insight into the social history of the immediate post war period and acts as a memorial to those who sacrificed so much in the Great War.

The display runs from September 2018 to

## **Hubertus Drobner**

### **Publications**

H.R. Drobner, "Ich glaube – was glaubst Du denn?" Die Entstehung unseres Glaubensbekenntnisses im Spannungsfeld von Individuum, Gemeinschaft und Abgrenzung ["I believe - what do you believe?" The origins of the Creed in the contexts of individuum, community and dissociation], in: Berthold Wald (Hg.), Wahrheit des Glaubens. Das CREDO als Bekenntnis und Herausforderung, Paderborn 2017, pp. 161-179.

H.R. Drobner, Caesarius von Arles, Sermo 230: "Bei einer Bischofsweihe". Einleitung, Übersetzung, augustinische Quellen [Caesarius of Arles, Sermon 230: "At a bishop's ordination". Introduction, German translation, Augustinian sources], in: In verbo autem tuo, Domine – Auf dein Wort hin, Herr. Festschrift für Erzbischof Hans-Josef Becker zur Vollendung seines 70. Lebensjahres, herausgegeben von Rüdiger Althaus im Auftrag der Theologischen Fakultät Paderborn (= Paderborner Theologische Studien 58), Paderborn 2018, pp. 33-50.

## **Marion Hardy**

### **Presentation**

'Inter-parish, transhumant and transient migration in Devon', presented to Sixteenth Warwick Symposium on Parish Research, University of Warwick, on 12 May 2018.

## **Paula Aucott**

### **Publications**

H. Southall, P. Aucott, C. Fleet, T. Pert, & M. Stoner (2017) '*GB1900: Engaging the Public in Very Large Scale Gazetteer Construction from the Ordnance Survey "County Series" 1:10,560 Mapping of Great Britain*' in *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries*. 13, 1, pp 7-28.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15420353.2017.1307305>

D. Phillips, C. Osmond, H. Southall, P. Aucott, A. Jones & S. Holgate (2018) '*Evaluating the long-term consequences of air pollution in early life: geographical correlations between coal consumption in 1951/1952 and current mortality in England and Wales*' in *BMJ Open*, 8, 4. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/8/4/e018231>

### **Presentations**

'Ecclesiastical wealth and place in medieval East Anglia' at the Ecclesiastical History Society Postgraduate Colloquium (Newman University, Birmingham), March 2018

February 2019 at Newarke Houses Museum and Gardens (incorporating the Museum of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment) and is supported by a programme of events and talks.

'Outputs and findings from the GB1900 Project' at the GB1900 Historical Gazetteer: a celebration and launch Event (Institute of Historical Research, London) July 2018

P. Aucott & H. Southall 'Crowd-sourcing "Big Data" from old maps: Outcomes from the GB1900 Project' at the 17th International Conference of Historical Geographers 2018 (University of Warsaw, Poland), July 2018.

Poster: H. Southall & P. Aucott 'GB1900: Extracting benchmark datasets from historic maps' at the University Research and Innovation conference (University of Portsmouth), September 2018.

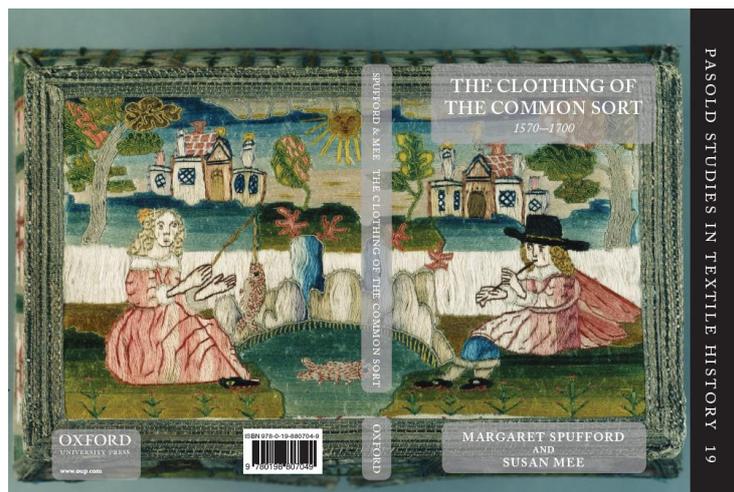
## Ruth Barbour

### Publications

R. Barbour, 'Pinpointing Catholics in Eighteenth-Century Warwickshire', *Midland Catholic History*, No 24: 2017, pp 24 – 42.

## Margaret Spufford

*The Clothing of the Common Sort, 1570-1700*, by The Late Margaret Spufford and Susan Mee



## Stewart Fergusson

### Publications

S. Fergusson, '"By a true account of things to undeceive the abused': Ralph Hope Coventry's Government Correspondent, 1666 to 1672', *Warwickshire History. The Journal of the Warwickshire Local History Society*, volume XVII, Number 2, Winter 2017/18.

### Presentations

' "The factious citie of Coventry" A Story of Crisis and Change in the 17th Century.' at the Warwickshire Local History Society.

**Anne Pegg**

**Publication**

Anne Pegg, *Barton Seagrave: Village, Church and People* (2017).

**Annual General Meeting and Accounts**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends, held on Thursday 16 November 2017 at 12.30pm at 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester.

**Present:** Noel Tornbohm (Chairman), Robert Mee, Ann Schmidt, Andrew Wager, Phil Batman, Frank Galbraith, Sylvia Pinches, John Parker, Beryl Tracey, Freda Raphael, Pam Fisher, John Goodacre, Mary Bryceland, Chris Dyer, Michael Gilbert, Margaret Hawkins, Delia Richards, Paul Shipman, Alan Fox

**1. Apologies for absence:** Kate Tiller, Anne Pegg, Mandy de Belin, Heather Flack, Katy Bridger

**2. Minutes of the AGM held on 23 November 2016:** The minutes were agreed (proposed by Robert Mee, Seconded by Alan Fox).

**3. Matters arising:** No items raised

**4. Chairman's Report:** Noel Tornbohm delivered the report, the text of which is appended below.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was circulated, discussed briefly and adopted (proposed by Ann Schmidt, seconded by Beryl Tracey).

**6. Election of Officers and Committee:** The Secretary 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/I.T. Coordinator Andrew Wager

Treasurer/Membership Secretary Robert Mee

Newsletter Editor Phil Batman

Programme Secretary

Committee Members: Ann Schmidt

Mandy de Belin

Mary Bryceland

Beryl Tracey

John Parker is the one student representative.

Kevin Schürer becomes the Centre's representative.

*[Post Meeting Note: Lin Mawer joins the Committee as a student representative and Michael Gilbert has offered himself for co-option]*

**7. Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Dr Pam Fisher was re-appointed as Independent Examiner (proposed by Frank Galbraith, seconded by Noel Tornbohm)

**8. Newsletter Title:** Phil Batman made a plea for suggestions for the title of the 'Newsletter'

**9. Any other Business:**

**Books of the late Roy Studdard:** Roy's widow, Pat has written offering his books to members of the Friends. Noel Tornbohm has details. The Friends do not have anywhere to store any more

books so that is not an option. Freda Raphael suggested that some of the books currently in store could be put in the common room with an honesty box. Frank Galbraith suggested holding the Hoskins Day book sale in the foyer of Ken Edwards building.

### **Chairman's Report - 16th November 2017**

I am pleased to report another successful year of activities and practical assistance to students and the Centre.

Our first event was the Spring Study Weekend at Lincoln. Though not particularly well attended, (perhaps because many thought they already knew the venue), it was both informative and enjoyable. The accommodation marked a departure from recent, more spartan fixtures, in that we were housed in hotel comfort. The whole trip, including a visit to the fascinating Gainsborough Old Hall was most ably organised by Frank Galbraith.

Next came Hoskins Day, rated a great success by all concerned. Our speaker was Professor Dawn Hadley, Head of Archaeology at Sheffield University. Her lecture was entitled 'From Tents to Townhouses: the Viking great Army and the Origins of the Borough of Yorksey'. This was followed by the usual tea and book sale, which were well supported. The actual results are in the treasurer's Report.

Thirdly, we went on a day visit to Stoke-on-Trent and two contrasting Industrial museums. Although I was abroad on holiday, all reports were good.

All the above is in some contrast to happenings in the Centre. None of us like change but in September we had to face up to the loss of No. 1 Salisbury Road. We have yet to digest all its implications but for the Friends, we shall sorely miss the facility offered by the large seminar room in particular. Secondly came the somewhat unexpected retirement, (at least in its timing) of Prof. Keith Snell at the end of October. This is not the place for eulogies but Keith has always been a keen and consistent supporter of the Friends and we are most

grateful for his encouragement and friendship, which I am sure will continue, albeit somewhat diluted as he enjoys his well-earned rest. Finally, I extend my thanks to the Committee members for their hard work and enthusiastic support. All have to travel, sometimes considerable distances, both for meetings and events and I take my hat off to them. Robert is here for every seminar to do the teas and generally rally round; Andrew too is generally here and both work behind the scenes as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Phil Batman has transposed seamlessly from Programme to Newsletter Editor; Ann Schmidt from Treasurer to Catering Manager — it's really impressive. While dishing out thanks, I must not forget Past Chairman Dr Pam Fisher, who for several years has kept us on the straight and narrow as Examiner of the accounts.

But now I come to the goodbyes. This is difficult: Frank Galbraith has served for around 15 years, in almost every capacity. As Chairman, he was a firm and inspired leader, combining thoroughness and enthusiasm with Yorkshire grit. True, we had to put up with his shaggy-dog stories, without which no event was complete. He will be sadly missed but remembered with respect and affection.

Also leaving us is Sarah Gilpin, most remembered for her excellent Spring Study Weekend in Sale but also, a real stalwart; and Beryl Tracey, who, in the relatively short time she has been with us, has really got stuck in - and also stimulated, with her critical view of the various scenarios we have faced.

So to the future, something of a challenge, for so long as we are under-manned. we shall no doubt have to cut our cloth according to the workers available — but will do our best!

*Noel Tornbohm*

## **Treasurer's Report**

The past year has been rather busy, with a change of treasurer at the last AGM. As if learning the ropes wasn't enough, our bankers (Nat West) did everything they could to make life as difficult as possible, losing our paperwork not once but twice!

The full annual accounts are available at the AGM. I am grateful to our Independent Examiner, Pam Fisher, for her work in going through them, and for the advice she has given, which will hopefully make it easier next year.

The current total assets of the Friends stand at £28,449, down from £31,140 last year.

Without a doubt, this has been the most expensive year in relation to student support for some time, with over £6,300 being paid out (though over £1,000 of this was subsequently refunded). But that is what we are here for. This figure also includes the 2016 Harold Fox Award. It has been decided, for the time being, not to continue with this award due to the small number of applicants.

This year we made a £1000, one-off contribution to the publication of the East Midlands History and Heritage Magazine, as being a fine vehicle for promoting the study

of local history across the board, which fits in with our charity objectives. This action also resulted in some good publicity for us, and our logo continues to appear on the back cover of the magazine, which is free and not profit-making.

During the course of the year, we have introduced a system for allocating small grants (under £100) to students to help with specific issues rather than funding tuition fees. Access to these grants is through a much simpler application form.

Our trips, to Castor, Lincoln, and Stoke on Trent, were successful, and between them made a small profit. The numbers attending weren't large though, and we would seek feedback from members as to what would be more popular. I will always aim that our events do not make a loss, as that would take money away from our primary objectives.

Our investments are pretty flat, though better than in recent years. It will be a long time before our investments and bank interest will reach the stage where this pays for student support. We must continue to look for new ways of raising money, and, more importantly, of gaining new members, particularly making sure that those who have recently graduated from the Centre continue as members for the years to come.

<u>Friends of the Centre for English Local History</u>			
(Registered Charity no.1073528)			
<u>Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30 September 2017</u>			
		<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>Receipts</b>			
	Subscriptions and donations	£2,380.00	£1,614.00
	Trip Income	£3,910.00	£210.00
	Book Sales	£0.00	£50.00
	Conference Income	£0.00	£1,021.07
	Publications	£0.00	£63.28
	Refunds on Student Support	£1,095.83	£0.00
	Dividends/Interest (C&C, CAF)	£478.60	£523.00
	Gift Aid	£259.12	£0.00
	Hoskins Day	£369.59	£222.60
	Credit note re overpaid printing	£0.00	£132.05
	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£8,493.14</b>	<b>£3,836.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
	Student Support & Harold Fox Award	£6,416.75	£3,500.00
	Hoskins Day current year	£71.25	£101.62
	Newsletter	£333.77	£333.77
	East Midlands History and Heritage	£1,000.00	£0.00
	Conference Expenditure	£0.00	£333.28
	Trip Expenditure	£3,618.80	£0.00
	Printing & Publications	£0.00	£72.00
	Administrative Costs	£199.04	£150.05
	AGM Expenses	£71.25	£0.00
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£11,710.86</b>	<b>£4,490.72</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>			
		<b>-£3,217.72</b>	<b>-£654.72</b>
<b>Excess of expenditure over income</b>			
		<b>-£3,217.72</b>	<b>-£654.72</b>
Opening Funds at 1st October 2016		£29,055.63	£29,710.35
Deficit/surplus		<b>-£3,217.72</b>	<b>-£654.72</b>
Closing Funds at 30th September 2017		<b>£25,837.91</b>	£29,055.63
<b>Comprising</b>			
<b>Bank Balances</b>			
	CAF Bank - Gold Account	£1,835.55	£1,534.59
	Natwest Bank	£2,266.01	£3,717.33
	NatWest Investment Account	£0.00	£0.00
	Cambridge & Counties savings	£13,522.40	£15,344.76
		£17,623.96	£20,596.68
	Less: Unpresented cheques	<b>-£245.00</b>	
<b>Investment Assets at cost</b>			
	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
		<b>£25,837.91</b>	£29,055.63
<b>Market value of investments</b>			
	FP CAF UK Equity Fund B Income	£6,586.20	£6,155.32
	FP CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income	£4,239.58	£4,388.19
		<b>£10,825.78</b>	<b>£10,543.51</b>
Total assets (including current investment value)		<b>£28,204.74</b>	£31,140.19
<b>Robert M Mee (Treasurer)</b>			
<b>31 October 2017</b>			

## Obituaries

It is with regret that we record the death of Dr Jane Laughton on 15 October 2017.

# STUDENTS

## MA Dissertations

### **Sally Hargreaves, 'Population and society in Hopton, a township in Derbyshire, 1660 to 1705'**

This study of Hopton, a township on the southern edge of the Derbyshire lead field, was prompted by a map and sketch from about 1684. Information from a range of primary sources, largely in the Gell collection at the Derbyshire record office, established that they were drawn as evidence in a law suit about access to a well. These sources reveal a socio-economic structure which had more in common with the pastoral villages of North West England than the stereotypical poor lead mining village. It is argued that the importance of the lead industry to the 'country' around Wirksworth has shifted attention from its agricultural history and that the area was more diverse than previously thought.

The value of the source material is demonstrated. The map provided information on landscape and agricultural history which was not found elsewhere. However, the hearth tax data (1664 and 1670) and the poll taxes (1678 and 1689) give a limited and sometimes misleading picture of Hopton. Conversely, the lists of parochial tax payers were useful indicators of the socio-economic conditions. It is suggested that information about the collection of parochial taxes is a relatively untapped resource for local history.

The witness statements, taken to demonstrate a custom and practice in the access to the well, complimented the nominal lists but overall the sources gave limited information about what life was like for the ordinary villagers.

### **Barbara Harvey, 'Service and Mobility, 1851-1911'**

This study considered five great houses near the midland town of Burton-upon-Trent and the distances travelled by many of their servants from their birthplaces to their estates and the reasons for this. For example, the percentages of workers on the estates who were born locally was much lower than in the village populations. The census returns show that the servants came from many different

counties. This was affected by a traditional policy in large establishments of recruiting servants from a wide area of the country or even abroad, rather than locally. It was thought that servants who were local may pass on household secrets and girls were sent more than 20 miles away to discourage followers or to stop the girls running home.

**Lucy Brown, 'Power, Charity and Brotherly Love: Local Government and Society in Two Essex Towns: Thaxted and Braintree, 1580-1660'**

This is now a book, published by the Thaxted Society, with a foreword by Stephen Fry (see the ELH twitter account for an image of the cover).

**Karen Randall, 'Littlemore Hospital and Leicester Borough Asylum: Post-mortem Examination Practices 1886-1916'**

This study explores the post mortem examination clinical practices of asylum medical attendants in Littlemore Hospital Oxford (1886-1898) and Leicester Borough Asylum (1909-1916). The aim of this research was to establish the reasons for performing post mortem examinations on asylum inmates, identifying the practitioners undertaking them and exploring the pressures and limitations they faced. A comparison of the cause of death data between the two asylums was undertaken, in order to assess differences in clinical practice, how external pressures affected those disciplines and what advances in medical science were noted over time. The sources, which form the principal basis of this study, with the clinical reports in the post mortem examination registers of each asylum. The methodology concentrated on the analysis of these reports, with a specific

focus on causes of death, condition of the body, name of the medical attendant, dissection findings and any diagrams or margin notes. The evaluation considered the language used by the attendant, any omissions in their recordings and the comparison between causes of death in relation to dissection findings. The results highlighted the main areas of clinical and administrative difference between the asylums and identified the qualifications of the senior attendants. The conclusions indicated that scientific advances were made in heart and lung diseases over the historical period, but highlighted stagnation regarding medical advances in brain diseases. The research also found that political limitations and professional pressures, adversely affected the clinical practices of some of the senior medical attendants.

**Alison Norton, 'A viewshed analysis of castle roles in the early-Norman English landscape using East Midlands case studies.'**

The variation and character of the English landscape encourage academics to utilize its under-represented source material in our efforts to re-appraise the impacts of the Norman Conquest, particularly as they pertain to the correlation between castle ideology/lordly identities and landscape. I propose new research aimed towards better understanding this relationship, specifically in regards to castles of the East Midlands and their local landscapes, as well as, research dedicated to uncovering the reasoning behind the varying siting criterion used by castle-builders in this region. Through my research I aim to expand our knowledge on questions

such as: What role did local landscape play in connection to castle functionality, symbology, and settlement nucleation? How did castles shape and influence local history? I will apply a multi-disciplinary methodology towards my research, emphasizing GIS analysis (including viewsheds) as my main research tool. This method will provide essential visual and spatial analyses of castle and landscape. In conjunction with each viewshed will be a mixture of primary historical and archaeological data. I will also incorporate as secondary components: photographic, cartographical, geographical and geological evidence to expand upon prior research.

## **Recently Completed PhD Theses**

### **The experiences of war widows during and after the British civil wars, with particular reference to the Midlands** **Stewart Beale**

The British civil wars of the mid-seventeenth century are collectively estimated to have been the bloodiest conflict in British history. More than three percent of the pre-war population in England and Wales perished during the wars, a figure proportionally higher than British losses in any other conflict. Despite this, historians have paid little attention to the experiences of the thousands of women whose husbands were slain during the fighting. This thesis seeks to address this oversight by examining petitions for relief and redress submitted by female war victims to various national and provincial authorities during the mid-seventeenth century. It examines the ways in which the various regimes who governed England during this period sought to provide for their welfare, the petitioning strategies utilised by widows in order to access relief, and the ways in which the petitioning activities of widows at Westminster and Whitehall compared to those of their counterparts in the provinces.

Private correspondence and print material are also utilised in order to gauge contemporary attitudes towards war victims. In doing so, the thesis sheds considerable light on the hardships inflicted on ordinary women during the civil wars. Yet petitions for relief submitted by widows are as much records of female agency as they are of female victimhood. Rather than suffer in silence, countless widows engaged with national and provincial authorities during the mid-seventeenth century in an attempt to improve the livelihoods. As such, the thesis provides further evidence of the ways in which early-modern women sought to shape their lives. The thesis further argues that political allegiance and social status were significant factors in shaping women's experiences of widowhood. By examining the social welfare afforded to war victims, it also demonstrates how the study of war widows can help to bridge the divide between military and social historians

### **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 Boundaries of Medieval Charnwood Forest Through the Lens of the *Longue Durée* Ann Stones**

Charnwood Forest is an upland area in north-west Leicestershire characterised by areas of woodland and distinctive outcrops of pre-Cambrian rocks. The literature to date suggests that medieval Charnwood Forest was a marginal and inhospitable environment which discouraged human interaction with the landscape. This study challenges those perceptions. It identifies the boundaries of medieval Charnwood Forest and explores the ways in which boundaries reflected relationships between people and place. A range of landscape, archaeological, place-name, documentary, and cartographical sources are examined. Many of the sources are post-medieval in origin; they reveal the location of medieval boundaries and the continuing significance of medieval boundaries in later periods. In this way, the boundaries of medieval Charnwood Forest are seen through the lens of the *longue durée*. Findings indicate that medieval Charnwood Forest was itself a boundary, but a permissive boundary which facilitated cultural

interaction. The external boundaries of medieval Charnwood Forest are seen as a broad band formed by concentric circles of human activity surrounding an inner core of valued resources. Two foci of medieval encroachment are identified, one in the north of the study area, and one in the south. Encroachment was facilitated by the forest's status as a seigneurial hunting ground or chase. Internal administrative divisions converged upon the two foci of encroachment. Other internal spatial divisions, such as those between elite and peasant space, private and public space, religious and secular space, and economic and recreational space, are less clearly defined. This study reveals that medieval Charnwood Forest was a familiar and utilised landscape demarcated by boundaries that were often broad bands of intercultural activity. The finding that many of Charnwood's medieval boundaries were spatial rather than linear units is one that might have implications for the study of similar medieval landscapes.

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

This is an account of everyday life in a single village (Humberston in Lincolnshire) in the century after 1750. However, this study is more than a local history, for it uses the experience of Humberston to examine and test some major issues of historical debate. In this respect, the thesis is an exercise in 'microhistory', where the local becomes the site for consideration of much wider issues.

Humberston was transformed from an open parish into an estate village in the period between 1700 and 1750 and fell into the hands of absentee owners after 1750. The first three chapters of this thesis examine how power and authority were exercised in such a 'closed' parish, focusing in turn on the relationships between landlord and tenant, farmer and farmworker, squire and parson. The following chapter considers how this tightly-controlled village responded to the potentially disruptive challenge of Methodism. The closing chapters examine

the condition of those furthest down the social hierarchy, the Cottagers who had access to pasture and kept a cow and those who were, at various points in their lives, dependent on the parish for poor relief.

A conclusion briefly considers how this exercise in microhistory adds to our overall knowledge of the period. It suggests that the 'open-close' model of English villages requires further refinement to better reflect the characteristics of closed parishes with non-resident landlords. It argues that the effects of enclosure may – in some places and for some people – have been less destructive of cottagers' livelihoods than is sometimes supposed. And it maintains that the relatively benign welfare culture of the south and east of England may have extended further north than previously thought. Finally, it reflects on the relatively slow rate of change in parts of rural England in the century after 1750.

**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.

## Prizes and Awards

The Margaret Spufford Prize for best overall MA performance was awarded to Sally Hargreaves.

The McKinley best MA dissertation prize was awarded to Sally Hargreaves.

The Phil Batman Family History Prize was awarded to Amy Hopes for her essay 'Rural Education in Hampshire and the Experience of School for Rural Children between 1870 and 1912'.

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### **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

### **Kevin Schürer**

(Professor of English Local History)

#### **Presentations**

The discovery and identification of King Richard III', Spanish Researchers in the UK Association, Glasgow, May, 2018.

### **Andrew Hopper**

(Professor of English Local History)

#### **Publications**

'Introduction', 'Chapter 10: "To condole with me on the Commonwealths loss": the widows and orphans of Parliament's military commanders', and 'Conclusion' in 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), pp. 1-22, 192-210, 230-33. Published July 2018

' "The great blow" and the politics of popular royalism in Civil-War Norwich', *English Historical Review*, 133:560 (2018), pp. 32-64.

J. Worton, *To Settle the Crown: Waging Civil War in Shropshire, 1642-1648* (Solihull: Helion, 2016), book review in *The Local Historian*, 48:2 (2018), p. 172.

### **Presentations**

‘The Politics of Military Welfare in Civil-War Yorkshire’, at New Approaches to the North: A *Northern History* Colloquium in Memory of Gordon Forster, University of Leeds, 29 September 2018

‘Thomas, Lord Fairfax and the Second Civil War’, The National Archives, 23 August 2018

‘The Human Costs of the British Civil Wars’, The Warwickshire Loss Accounts HLF Project, Budbrooke Church Hall, Warwick, 21 July 2018

‘Remembering Black Tom Fairfax’, National Civil War Centre, 7 July 2018

‘The Human Costs of the British Civil Wars’, National Civil War Centre, 9 June 2018

‘Collaborating with Museums: The Battle-Scarred Museum at the National Civil War Centre’, at the Presenting the Early Modern Workshop, The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities, 1 December 2017

‘The Human Costs of Civil War: War Victims and their Stories’, New History Lab, University of Leicester, 10 November 2017

### **Richard Jones**

**(Associate Professor in Landscape History)**

### **Publications**

R. Jones, ‘Gerard’s Herball and the treatment of war-wounds and contagion 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, 2018), pp. 113-133.

R. Jones, R. Gregory, S. Kilby and B. Pears, ‘Living with a trespasser: riparian names and medieval settlement on the River Trent floodplain’, *European Journal of Post-Classical Archaeologies*, 7 (2017), pp. 33-64.

### **Presentations**

‘A place-name-informed approach to early medieval flooding in England’, Geological Society, 15 September 2017

‘Empreintes génétiques en nord-Cotentin’, La Normandie existe-t-elle?, St-Lô, Normandy 22-24 November 2017

‘A mastiff’s life: dogs in royal Forest settlements’, MSRGC Conference, Leicester, 9 December 2017

‘Living with water past, present and future’, Norwell Local Historical Society, 21 February 2018

‘Living with water past, present and future’, Spotlight on the Centre, Leicester, 24 February 2018

‘Flood warnings: exploring the relationship between river-names and riparian settlement-names in England in the early Medieval period’, Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland Conference, Isle of Arran, Scotland, 6-9 April 2018

‘Living with rivers during periods of rapid climate change: early medieval perspectives on a contemporary problem’, Local Population Studies Conference, Cambridge, 21 April 2018

‘Living with a trespasser: the Trent at Alrewas’, Staffordshire History Day, Stafford, 28 April 2018

‘Living with water past, present and future’, Wymeswold Historical Organisation, 15 May 2018

## **Susan Kilby**

**(Leverhulme Trust-funded Research Fellow)**

### **Publications**

S. Kilby, 'Divining medieval water: the field-names of Flintham in Nottinghamshire', *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, 49 (2017), 53-89

### **Presentations**

'Scientific fields? The medieval peasant community in Elton and elemental theory', Oundle Historical Society, Oundle, November 2017

'The *slydinge watir*: living with water in medieval Alrewas', The Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, Spring Conference, Arran, April 2018

'To the great nuisance of the whole neighbourhood: living with water in the later Middle Ages', Flood and Flow Project Conference, Cirencester, May 2018

'Fields of vision: memorizing the medieval rural landscape', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 2018

## **Ismini Pells**

**(AHRC-Funded Research Fellow)**

### **Publications**

I. Pells, 'Reassessing frontline medical practitioners of the British Civil Wars in the context of the seventeenth-century medical world', *Historical Journal* (first view: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0018246X18000067>)

I. Pells, 'Stout Skippon hath a wound': the medical treatment of Parliament's infantry commander following the battle of Naseby', in D. Appleby and A. Hopper, eds, *Battle-Scarred: Mortality, medical care and military welfare in the British Civil Wars* (Manchester University Press, Manchester: 2018), pp. 78-94.

## **Christopher Dyer**

**(Emeritus Professor of Regional and Local History)**

### **Edited volumes**

C. Dyer, E. Thoen and T. Williamson, *Peasants and Their Fields. The Rationale of Open-Field Agriculture, c.700-1800* (Turnhout, 2018)

### **Articles in edited volumes and contributions to books**

C. Dyer, J. Hunt and M. Hall, 'Introduction', in M. Tompkins (ed.), *Court Rolls of Romsley 1279-1643* (Worcestershire Historical Society, new series, 27, 2017), pp. 9-23.

C. Dyer, 'Social mobility in medieval England', in S. Carocci and I. Lazzarini (eds), *Social Mobility in Medieval Italy (1100-1500)* (Rome, 2018), pp. 23-43.

C. Dyer, 'Was everyday life in the medieval countryside simply about survival?', in I. Dawson (ed.), *Exploring and Teaching Medieval History* (Historical Association, 2018), pp. 52-5.

C. Dyer, 'Rural living 1100-1540'; 'Town and countryside', in C.M. Gerrard and A. Gutierrez (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Archaeology in Britain* (Oxford, 2018), pp. 193-209; 325-39.

- C. Dyer, E. Thoen and T. Williamson, 'The rationale of open fields'; 'Conclusion: the rationale of open fields', in C. Dyer, E. Thoen and T. Williamson (eds.), *Peasants and Their Fields. The Rationale of Open-Field Agriculture, c.700-1800* (Turnhout, 2018), pp. 1-4; 257-75.
- C. Dyer, 'Open fields in their social and economic context: the west midlands of England', in C. Dyer, E. Thoen and T. Williamson (eds.), *Peasants and Their Fields. The Rationale of Open-Field Agriculture, c.700-1800* (Turnhout, 2018), pp. 29-47.
- C. Dyer, 'Foreword', in R.F. Hartley, *The medieval earthworks of south and south-east Leicestershire* (Leicestershire Fieldworkers monograph, 4, 2018), pp. ix-xi.

### Articles in journals

- C. Dyer, 'The origin and early development of the Medieval Settlement Research Group', *Medieval Settlement Research*, 32 (2017), pp. 1-6.
- C. Dyer, 'Local societies on the move in the middle ages: migration and social mobility in England 1100-1500', *Local Historian*, 48 (2018), pp.5-18.
- C. Dyer, C. Harward, G. Western et al., 'Iron age burials and medieval farm buildings: excavations at Horse and Groom Inn, Bourton-on-the-Hill, 2013', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, 135 (2017), pp.155-194.

### Book reviews

- P. Schofield, *Peasants and Historians*, in *Agricultural History*, 91 (2017), pp. 436-8
- A. Brown et al, *Crises in Economic and Social History*, in *English Historical Review*, 132 (2017), pp. 1397-9.
- E. Thoen and T. Soens (eds), *Struggling with the Environment. Land Use and Productivity*, in *Medieval Settlement Research*, 32 (2017), p. 92
- J. Barrett and D.Orton (eds.), *Cod and Herring. The Archaeology and History of Medieval Sea Fishing*, in *Medieval Settlement Research*, 32 (2017), p. 93-4.
- T. Woolhouse, *Medieval Dispersed Settlement in the Mid-Suffolk Clay*, in *Medieval Settlement Research*, 32 (2017), p. 94.
- E. Impey et al., *The Great Barn of 1425-7 at Harmondsworth*, in *Rural History*, 28 (2017), pp. 229-30.
- T. Lange, *Excommunication for debt in late medieval France* ; L. Smail, *Legal plunder: households and debt collection in late medieval Europe*, in *American Historical Review*, 123 (2018), pp. 291-3.
- J. Chandler and J. Jurica (eds.), *Victoria County History of Gloucestershire XIII*, in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, 135 (2017), pp.341-4.

### Papers presented at seminars and conferences

- 'Connecting country and town in medieval Yorkshire', Olicana Historical Society (Ilkley), September 2017
- 'Planning, building and using peasant houses in late medieval England', Cambridge Architectural History seminar, October 2017
- 'What have medieval peasants done for us?', Thurcaston and Cropston Local History Society, October 2017
- 'New light on the medieval Gloucestershire landscape', Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire, Gloucester, October 2017
- 'Social mobility in medieval England', Medieval History Seminar, University of Ghent, October 2017
- 'Why were late medieval peasants consumers?' History Department lecture, University of Ghent., October 2017

'Peasants on the move: patterns of migration in midland England, 1100-1500', Economic History Seminar, London School of Economics, November 2017  
'Solving problems in landscape archaeology. The Mick Aston Memorial Lecture, Rewley House, University of Oxford, December 2017  
'Housing medieval peasant livestock : new light on a dark corner of settlement studies', winter conference of the Medieval Settlement Research Group, University of Leicester, December 2017.  
'Was Uppingham a town in the middle ages?' Uppingham Local History Group, February 2018  
'Were lords in control of medieval Herefordshire?' Launch of the Herefordshire Manorial Documents Register, Herefordshire Archive and Record Centre, March 2018  
'Recovery from catastrophe – some lessons from the middle ages', Institute for Northern Studies, University of Highlands and Islands, Kirkwall, April 2018  
'What was the driving force behind peasant consumption in Britain, 1200-1520?'  
Between the Market and the Household, University of Valencia, May 2018  
'Peasants and poultry in England, 1200-1520', International Council for Archaeozoology, 9<sup>th</sup> Bird Working Group, University of Sheffield, June 2018.  
'New light on the town of Birmingham in the middle ages', International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 2018.

## **Honorary Visiting Fellows**

### **Pam Fisher**

#### **Presentations**

'Basket-making in Castle Donington before the First World War', conference Basket-making in Castle Donington and the East Midlands, Castle Donington, November 2017  
'The History of Ibstock's Schools', at Holmsdale Manor, Ibstock, November 2017, The Palace, Ibstock June 2018 and Ibstock Baptist Church, June 2018  
'Local History through Probate Inventories', with Evington Local History & Heritage Group, January 2018  
'Contrasting Characters: The Histories of Buckminster and Sewstern', with Upper Broughton History Group, March 2018  
'An Unholy Conflict: Church and Chapel in early 18th-century Lutterworth', Discover Lutterworth Day, Lutterworth, July 2018

#### **Media**

Radio interviews on BBC Radio Leicester and The Eye, both in October 2017

### **Maureen Harris**

#### **Publication**

M. Harris, "'Weapons of the Strong': reinforcing complaints against the clergy in post-Restoration Warwickshire', *Midland History* (Autumn, 2018).

#### **Presentations**

'Scandalous' clergy versus 'witless' parishioners: Warwickshire Church Court Disputes, 1660-1720', presented to Historical Association, Nuneaton Branch on 18 April 2018.

'Clergy versus parishioners in West Warwickshire and East Worcestershire, 1660-1720', presented to Feckenham Forest History Society on 8 May 2018.

'The "debauched" parson and the "wit-already-expired rogue": Warwickshire parish politics, 1660-1720', presented to Kenilworth History and Archaeology Society on 11 June 2018.

### **HLF project**

'Living Through the English Civil Wars: uncovering personal experiences from the Warwickshire Parliamentary 'Loss Accounts', OH-17-05838, award £13,800, March 2018 plus subsequent press releases to local newspapers and BALH 'Local News', short articles in the 'Friends of the Warwickshire County Record Office' Spring 2018 newsletter, BMSGH 'Midland Ancestor' July edition journal and Warwickshire Local History Society website.



### **Kate Tiller**

#### **Publications**

'Patterns of Dissent: The Social and Religious Geography of Nonconformity in Three Counties', *International Journal of Regional and Local History*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (2018), pp. 4-31  
[Special issue in tribute to David Hey]

'How to read a chapel', *The Chapels Society Journal*, 3 (2018), pp.3-23  
[The First Christopher Stell Memorial Lecture]

'Oxford Diocese, Bishop Wilberforce and the 1851 Religious Census', *Oxoniensia*, Vol. 83 (2108), pp.101-108.

#### **Reviews**

For IJORALS: R.Jones and C.Dyer (eds), *Farmers, Consumers, Innovators. The World of Joan Thirsk* (2016)

For History: P.M.Jones, *Agricultural Enlightenment: Knowledge, Technology and Nature, 1750-1840* (2016)

For Family and Community History: C.Wakeling, *Chapels of England. Buildings of Protestant Nonconformity* (2017)

## CONTACTS

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Chairman	Noel Tornbohm
Secretary/I.T. Coordinator	Andrew Wager
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Robert Mee
Newsletter Editor	Phil Batman
Committee Members:	Ann Schmidt
	Mandy de Belin
	Mary Bryceland
	Beryl Tracey
Student representative	John Parker