

Friends of the Centre for English Local History

NEWSLETTER

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William and Grace Darling on the Farne Islands

Painting by William Adolphus Knell (1802-1875)

Accompanies Seminar by Prof Diana Whaley on 22 November 2018

Grace Horsley Darling was a lighthouse keeper's daughter, famed for participating in the rescue of survivors from the shipwrecked *Forfarshire* in 1838.

In the early hours of 7 September 1838, Grace, looking from an upstairs window, spotted the wreck and survivors of the *Forfarshire* on Big Harcar, a nearby low rocky island on the Farne Islands off the coast of Northumberland. The *Forfarshire* had foundered on the rocks and broken in half.

She and her father William determined that the weather was too rough for the lifeboat to put out from Seahouses, so they took a rowing boat across to the survivors, a distance of nearly a mile. Grace kept the boat steady in the water while her father helped four men and the lone surviving woman into the boat. William and three of the rescued men then rowed the boat back to the lighthouse. Grace remained at the lighthouse while William rowed back and recovered four more survivors.

The paintings are reproduced with kind permission of the RNLi Grace Darling Museum, Bamburgh.



William Darling (1786-1865)

By John Reay (1838 – 1900)

The quotation at the head of the Editorial are the words of Laura Timmins, in *Lark Rise to Candleford*, adapted by the BBC Series 2 Episode 2 (2008), based on F. Thompson, *Lark Rise to Candleford* (Oxford, 1939).

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EDITORIAL

Phil Batman

‘The past is a safe place. ... Nothing ever changes there ...’

Welcome to this autumn’s Friends Newsletter. As usual it drips with the achievements of Friends and Staff at the Centre and celebrates the teaching and learning of our history both in formal and informal settings. There are the impressive publications of Staff and Friends, reports of the events we have hosted and attended, and some insights into what makes people tick. Richard Jones’ Centre Report begins with his thoughts about uncertainty and change, and then broadens out into all the significant achievements of the Centre in recent times. His final paragraph is a ringing endorsement of the support that we, the Friends, provide. As the structure of the Centre and its teaching must change, then so inevitably will the Friends’ support change also.

Change is one of the few things in life of which we can be absolutely certain. The quotation at the head of this Editorial are the words of Laura Timmins, in Flora Thompson’s *Lark Rise to Candleford*, addressing Miss Lane, the Post Mistress in Candleford. Her words are fundamentally true, of course, but we historians continually uncover more of what happened in the past and reinterpret it. Laura carried on: ‘If we do not dare, here, now, then what kind of life is it? It is a perfectly contented life, that goes on the same today as it did yesterday, and there is nothing wrong with that. The choice is not between progress and no progress, Miss Lane. The choice is whether we join the journey or not.’ I’ll second that!

Enjoy your Newsletter!

THE CENTRE

CENTRE REPORT

Richard Jones

It seems that the whole world is struggling to make sense of what is just about to come over the next few months and years. Uncertainty reigns during a time of transition. The Centre, too, has embarked on a period of transformation; but our final destination is, at least, clear.

The year has once again been busy. In September 2018, we welcomed Angela Muir into the Centre as Lecturer in British Social and Cultural History. This is a hugely significant appointment for the Centre. While other eminent female academics have worked within the Centre over the years (one thinks immediately of Joan Thirsk for instance), Angela becomes the first female member of staff to be permanently appointed. It also signals the university's commitment to invest in the Centre. Angela has hit the ground running (as you will read below) and her impact and influence, which takes local historical studies in new and exciting directions, has already been felt by those who she has taught on the MA.

Angela arrived along with our final cohort of students on the independent MA in English Local History and Family History. Those

taking the part-time route will remain with us for the next academic year. But our new 2019 intake will be taking a new course entitled History (Local History) MA which repackages but largely preserves the core of our existing teaching provision. Others graduated this year, many with considerable distinction. It is great to report that our two MA prize-winners, David Russell and Paul Shaw, are to stay on to undertake doctoral research in the Centre. The Centre has produced two new 'Dr Bs' as they have collectively become known on social media. Nicola Blacklaws and Katie Bridger both successfully defended their theses on the new poor law and Leicestershire gentry landscapes respectively, both passing with minor corrections. Others have finished their research and are, at the time of writing, waiting for their vivas over the next few weeks: Denise Bonnette-Anderson, Trixie Gadd, and Elias Kaupfermann.

The Centre and its activities were positively reviewed by the university in November 2018. The review identified the progress made on a number of fronts since the previous review, and offered both advice and support in advancing these further. The Centre continues to develop its digital profile. Following the

creation of an on-line platform where ELH theses can be remotely accessed, we will shortly be able to announce that many volumes in the Centre's influential Occasional Papers Series will likewise be made freely available in electronic format. Such initiatives help to make available the research of Centre staff and students, both past and present, to a global audience, something critical to maintaining and building our profile as a leading research unit in our discipline. As part of our efforts to extend the reach of the Centre around the world, we have continued to develop our Distance Learning MA under the guidance of Angela. We remain on track to launch this new course in September 2020. Please do spread the word among friends and colleagues who may be thinking about post-graduate courses in Local and Family History and encourage them to think about applying.

As for individual staff members, Andrew Hopper has had a busy year. This involved standing in as Director during my study leave in semester 1 and assembling the Centre Review document. Hopper and myself attended the review panel and received a very positive report from the panel about the Centre's progress and achievements. We have now consequently been moved to a more favourable three-year review period. In the autumn Andrew also began the Business Case document for the Centre's Distance Learning

Ambitions before handing over the lead on this to Angela Muir.

Andrew delivered 3 modules as module convenor: HS1013 Great Britain Since 1688, HS2232 Religious History, and HS7127 Local Identities and Palaeography of Early Modern England. He also contributed to HS2500 The Historians Craft and took on 7 UG dissertation students and 2 MA dissertation students. He sat on the PGT Development panel headed by John Coffey which has streamlined the MA offerings within the School of HYPIR.

As for his research activities, Andrew delivered his inaugural lecture on 'The Human Costs of the British Civil Wars' on 4 June 2019. He has completed archival work for 4 more counties for his AHRC Project: Oxfordshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Norfolk. The design development work for the project website is now complete. The AHRC Project Conference in July in Oxford was a great success and will lead to an edited collection with Taylor and Francis. Andrew was successful in an application for an AHRC Midlands 4 Cities Collaborative Doctoral Award in conjunction with the National Civil War Centre, which will be taken up by Oresta Muckute, an MA student at UEA in September 2019. He also obtained £823 from the Impact Development Fund to pay Katie Bridger to conduct an impact-related internship at the National Civil War Centre.

His first year PhD student, Diane Strange, won the Midland History Prize for 2018, with 'From Private Sin to Public Shame: Sir John Digby and the use of Star Chamber in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire, 1610', now published in *Midland History*, 44:1 (2019), pp. 39-55 (published March 2019). Andrew also now sits on the University's AHRC Funder Group. He has completed his 4th year as external examinee of the MSc in Local History Programme at Rewley House, University of Oxford. He was also external examiner for a Cambridge PhD in July.

Andrew has continued work on his Impact Case Study for REF2021, now named 'British Civil War History: transforming National Heritage and influencing Hull Truck / The Royal Shakespeare Company'. This has involved producing an exhibition brochure and new visitor experience evaluation at the National Civil War Centre supported by a three-month AHRC M4C funded internship there for Diane Strange of c. £5,000, and a £7,440 ESRC Impact Acceleration Award to support the 'World Turned Upside Down Exhibition' at the National Civil War Centre. Andrew continues his work as Chair of the Volunteers and Research Committee of the Leicestershire VCH Trust and sits on the LVCT Executive Committee. He has also been named a patron of the Naseby Battlefield Project whom he is assisting with an HLF application.

Angela's first year at the Centre for English Local History has also been non-stop, teaching undergraduate and masters-level modules, supervising PhDs, keeping up with research, and getting stuck into programme development. She also had the fortune of speaking about my research at several invited talks throughout the academic year. In October of 2018 I was invited to join a panel alongside Laura Gowing and Amy Erickson for a Ford Workshop on the current status of women's history in the UK, which was held at the University of Oxford. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with established and emerging academics to reflect on the successes and challenges in this ever-growing and always-relevant field. She also presented a paper at the final ELH seminar series of the 2018 calendar year, which was entitled 'Not Just Poor, Thwarted Lovers: Reassessing the Relationships of Single Parents in Wales, c. 1700-1800'. In March 2019 Angela presented a paper about midwifery and the provision of maternity care to single mothers in eighteenth-century Wales as part of the University of Exeter's Sexual Knowledge seminar series. Finally, in May 2019 she presented a paper 'Femicide in the Land of White Gloves: Fatal Violence Against Unmarried Pregnant Women in Eighteenth-Century Wales' at New History Lab (the University of Leicester PGR seminar series).

In terms of her publications, Angela's article 'Midwifery and Maternity Care for Single Mothers in Eighteenth-Century Wales' was published in *Social History of Medicine* in November 2018. Her first monograph, *Deviant Maternity: Illegitimacy in Wales, c. 1680-1800*, based on her doctoral thesis, will be published by Routledge in 2020. She is in the process of researching and writing an article on prostitution and the 'economy of makeshifts' in Wales between 1750 and 1820, and will be presenting a paper on this topic at a conference on modern gender history in Wales at Cardiff University in September 2019.

Over the past year Kevin Schürer has worked with former colleagues based at the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure (University of Cambridge), producing an online atlas of Victorian fertility decline, now available at www.populationspast.org. This website is based on the Integrated Census Microdata (I-CeM) complete count census database he created earlier with funding from the ESRC. In addition to mapping various fertility, nuptiality and mortality measures for England and Wales for the period 1851 to 1911, it also allows various socio-economic indicators to be mapped as well, such as household structure, numbers of residential servants, migration, and so on. The ESRC has recently awarded funding for the atlas to be extended to Scotland, and work on this new three-year

project will start in 2020. His talks and publications are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As for me, I was on study leave during the first semester of this year. This provided the opportunity to make progress on a number of fronts. The monograph resulting from my Leverhulme Trust 'Flood and Flow' project was advanced. Seven of the envisaged ten chapters are now in draft. A couple of exciting technical articles were also prepared. These report the results of fluvial geomorphological fieldwork which has produced detailed flood histories for the rivers Severn, Teme, and Wye made possible by recent advances in sedimentary analysis and the dating of alluvial deposits. In our article submitted to the *European Journal of Archaeology* we are able, for the first time, to understand how these rivers were behaving at the time when settlements along their banks were being given their names. As a consequence we now know much more about the physical phenomena that were being described in these place-names, in particular the element **wæsse*, land that floods under certain specific conditions, both rapidly and spectacularly.

The second semester brought teaching. The Medieval Landscapes module ran for the first time after Christmas, the lengthening days providing students more opportunities to get out in the field when writing their reports. We spent five days visiting parts of the Midlands

around Easter. Everyone has their highlights. For me, it is the Hills and Holes at Barnack, the remains of medieval stone quarrying, and my annual pilgrimage back to Whittlewood, visiting old haunts, and on this occasion bumping into old acquaintances. For the undergraduates, I convened my module on the Medieval Natural World ('whatever that is' to quote the eminent Austrian environmental historian Verena Winiwarter when she introduced my paper in Tallinn recently!).

In terms of other activities, I sat on the jury of a rather impressive French PhD thesis at the Université de Caen, a comparative study of social stratification, read through the archaeological record, of medieval settlements in England and Normandy; and I vivaed another thesis at the University of Newcastle. Various external research grants have been submitted or progressed: an AHRC network grant to build connections between academics and practitioners working on flooding; a Leverhulme Trust research grant that will explore the science behind food production, processing, and storage in medieval and early modern England; and an AHRC research grant to write the first environmental history of river embanking in England. Disappointing to report that my bid to establish a university-wide network exploring and exploiting the concept of 'the local' was unsuccessful, but we have the opportunity to use some pump-priming money to develop the idea further. I

continue to serve on the council of the English Place-Name Society. I have refereed various book manuscripts; reviewed articles for *Agricultural History Review*, *Archéologie Médiévale*, and the *European Journal of Archaeology*; and reviewed books for *Local Population Studies*.

2019-20 promises to be an exciting year. We have two events planned. The first is a showcase of digital resources that will be of interest to all local historians, but in particular to teachers of local history. The second, scheduled for 19-20 September 2020 is a weekend conference under the title 'Local Power and the Power of the Local'. This will comprise a number of themed panels and keynote speakers some of whom you may well have seen on TV! We also have a full and, as always, varied seminar programme for those able to join us fortnightly during term-time. We are investigating ways in which we might be able to 'broadcast' these seminar papers so that those unable to come to Leicester in person might still be able to participate in these lively sessions. Watch out for further announcements.

Finally, may I thank you for your continued support of the Centre and its activities. It is greatly appreciated. Some, as a consequence of the transformations now underway, may feel that the Centre is becoming an unfamiliar place. Certainly it is changing. But change is required if the Centre is to remain relevant and

influential in the fast-altering world of academia and higher education. Those of us charged with delivering this change are acutely aware of the rich heritage of the Centre and are determined to ensure that its foundational ethos and guiding philosophies are never abandoned. Rather, if in different ways, we

wish to ensure that they continue to shape its future in a more globalised context, exploiting new technologies to communicate the very best of local history to traditional and new audiences.

In Conversation with Professor Kevin Schürer ...



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

I grew up and went to school in Southend-on-Sea Essex. My history teachers at A level were Mr Coles and Mr Carmichael (it was an all-boys school and virtually all the masters were men). They were both excellent teachers, but probably of greater influence was an infant school teacher. She was a delightful old lady (well all adults seem old when you are 7 or 8) who told such engaging stories about the past with such passion. Unfortunately I can't remember her name.

Did you always want to be a Historian?

Not as such. When I was very young people I thought I might work in a library. I thought I would own and run an antique (junk!) shop. I spent 17 years in senior management and another couple doing consultancy.

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

I have not as such had a career path. I have just done things that interested me at the time largely. Before finishing the PhD I was given a job in the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure as a researcher, which for that time in my so-called career was a dream job. Then after some 10 years of so I thought I should maybe try working outside of Cambridge doing something different. I was offered an Associate Directorship at the UK Data Archive (at Essex) and as I wasn't overly convinced if this move was right, arranged to work part-time at the Archive and part-time in Cambridge. I did that for about 3 years then was offered a Senior Lectureship in the History Department in Essex, so I swapped the part-time Cambridge element for the Essex post as it meant that I could set up my own research group, which I did, which also resulted in me giving up the Data Archive job and moving to the History Department full time. I did this for a while but then reduced hours at Essex to work as a self-employed consultant, doing work for government departments and the World Bank, which was fun. Then I was asked to apply for the Directorship of the Data Archive. My initial response was to say no thanks, but I was eventually persuaded and am very glad I was as it was a great job working with lots of different and interesting people (virtually none of whom were historians). Then after 12 years I needed something new and was asked to apply for the PVC Research post at Leicester. I already knew Bob Burgess the then VC as we had served on a number of committees together and thought it would be an interesting move. So here I am.

What or who sparked your interest in history?

I have no idea. I just like old stuff!

What is your particular area of historical interest?

I consider myself to be an historical demographer, specialising in nineteenth and early twentieth century Britain, but like most historical demographers my interests range across economic and social history. I have written on the 15th century to the late twentieth century.

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

No idea. I often say lawyer. I think I could have been a good lawyer. The skill sets do not appear to be too different from those of an historian. Somethings I think I would have liked to gone into computer systems design. Other times I wish I had tried to be a travel writer.

Who do you most admire as a historian?

I have been fortunate to know and work with many outstanding and fascinating individuals whose work I can only but admire. Two who have been especially inspirational include Peter Laslett and Prof Sir Tony (E. A.) Wrigley. Very different in many ways. Tony is probably the most influential economic historian alive and it is a privilege to know him and to have learnt from him over many years. Peter was a remarkable character. Engaging, charming, out-spoken, frustrating all at the same time, but with a razor sharp mind. A wonderful writer who has shaped whole fields of history. I will always miss his entertaining stories, his generosity and his insight.

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

What I least enjoy is easier to identify – the over administration, monitoring and bureaucracy within the Higher Education system. No business would operate like this. Or if it did, it would not survive for long.

What I enjoy most is more difficult to identify. I guess it is the acquisition and departing of learning and knowledge. I want to be inspired and hopefully be inspiring.

Who do you most admire in other walks of life?

Blimey, lots of people. Everyone who makes a contribution large or small. I admire people who can do jobs that I think I could never do but who we all depend on (train drivers are a good example) as well as those where I just admire their skill and talent (stand-up comedians, street performers, and so on).

Do you have any other passions outside history?

Lots. Walking, cycling, entertaining and being entertained. Enjoying time with friends and family.

What are your ambitions?

To be involved in the making of a TV documentary, to write a travel novel, to do more charity work, to visit a huge number of places I have yet to see. So much to do, so little time.

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

In what most would see as conventional terms my career ‘peeked’ before I came to Leicester. Being Director of the UK Data Archive was a privilege, and being also the first UK President of the Council of European Social Science Data Archives and UK representative on the European Strategic Framework for Research Infrastructure, as well as being on the advisory bodies of the British Library and the National Archives at the same time was interesting to say the least.

Then of course Richard III was an amazing experience, where I was just lucky to be in the right place at the right time. But I could also say the same about working in the Cambridge Group.

I don’t like to think and dwell on the low points.

Research Seminar Programme 2018-19

The impact of scab panzootics on sheep farming and wool industry in England, 1270-1320

Dr Philip Slavin, Senior Lecturer in History, University of Stirling

11 October 2018



The talk revisited the topic of the origins and impact of the textile crisis in late-medieval England, in the pre-Black Death era. Contrary to the received wisdom blaming the institutional factors, the talk considered an alternative exogenous factor: recurrent outbreaks of sheep scab epizootics, which visited England in a number of waves between c.1275 and 1330 and had a massive impact on sheep population, health and wool production. The talk argued that it was the low recovery of flocks that was the single most important factor in creating the late-medieval textile industry crisis - not only because of its impact on the volume of wool

produced, but also on the reconfiguration of wool and textile trade in England.

John Munro, cited by Philip Slavin, used export figures for broadcloth as a proxy for the state of the 12C wool industry. The earliest figures for broadcloth in 1303 were low and declined into the 1330s and 1340s. Munro believed that this was the effect of war with France which increased risks, tariffs and taxes. Dr Slavin considered that other factors contributed to the decline, in particular epizootic diseases of the sheep flock. He suggested that scab outbreaks destroyed half the English flocks between 1275 and 1280, recurring until 1320. He proposed that a

contributory cause of the disease was continuous damp, cold weather after 1270 possibly exacerbated by major volcanic eruptions in 1257, 1268, 1275 and 1341. This reduced the quality of forage available to the flocks year-round which increased the liability to diseases like scab and fluke. This remains a commercial risk to sheep flocks today.

Between 1275-80 over half the flock died, with high mortality in the early part of the year, possibly when sheep were confined. Panic sales and slaughter were the result. The fleeces from survivors were low in weight and of poor quality. A third of them had broken staple compared with 3-5% in disease free years. Despite this dramatic shortage of wool, the price collapsed, with most selling for less than 2½ shillings per stone. Florentine merchants maintained business as usual by committing to advanced sales contracts. This provided capital for producers to renew their flocks, and pressured them to do so.

There were victims of the economic disaster. Monasteries, Templars and lay magnates were unable to fulfil their contracts, leading to impoverishment, bankruptcies and dispersals temporarily coping with the crisis. Kirkstall

and Rievaulx Abbeys, for example, were reduced to selling property. Royal protection was granted to some foundations. As well as economic responses to the trouble, there were spiritual remedies. Priests and friars visited affected flocks with prayers and charms, some newly written as evinced in the Eynsham Cartulary. It may be that these interventions made the problem worse by gathering sheep together to be blessed when the mites causing the disease could be passed to uninfected sheep. Veterinary measures such as pig lard, ox fat and verdigris were not effective. It was not until 1305 that the outbreaks became less devastating when at the suggestion of the Bishop of Winchester, tar was used to treat affected animals. Pine tar, later known as Stockholm tar, was the most likely product because it was used in ship building. It was expensive and so was mixed with grease to make it go further.

Dr Salvin concluded that although warfare did depress wool and textile production, the biological crisis was significant. This occurred from the 1280s and its consequences were felt into the 1340s.

Further Reading

J.H. Munro, 'Industrial transformations in the north-west European Textile Trades, c. 1290 - c. 1340: economic progress or economic crisis?' in B.M.S. Campbell (ed.), *Before the Black Death: Studies in the 'Crisis' of the early Fourteenth Century* (Manchester, 1991), pp. 110 – 48.

J.H. Munro, 'The Symbiosis of towns and textiles: urban institutions and the changing fortunes of cloth manufacturing in the Low Countries and England, 1270 - 1570', *The Journal of Early Modern History: Contacts, Comparisons, Contrasts*, 3:1 (1999), pp. 1-74.

T. Newfield, 'A cattle panzootic in early fourteenth-century Europe,' *Agricultural History Review* 57 (2009), pp. 155-90.

P. Slavin, 'The great bovine pestilence and its economic and environmental consequences in England and Wales, 1318-50', *Economic History Review* 65 (2012), pp. 1239-66.

M. Stephenson, 'Wool yields in the medieval economy,' *Economic History Review*, 41 (1988), pp. 368-391.

D. Stone, 'The productivity and management of sheep in late medieval England', *Agricultural History Review*, 51 (2003), pp. 1-22.

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Beyond the Parish: Everyday Travel in Early Modern England

Dr Charmian Mansell, Queen Mary University of London

25 October 2018

This paper was drawn from a project entitled 'Everyday Travel and Mobility in Early Modern England'. The roots of this project grew from former work on female servants in church court depositions, where Charmian identified that these itinerant workers were firmly embedded in more than one community. Dr Mansell has concentrated on court depositions, and in particular who was represented, why they travelled there, and their connections. The central question is: did infrastructure dictate travel?

Existing scholarship identifies high levels of migration and parish population turnover in early modern England; yet historians continue to locate social and economic communities of ordinary people within a highly localised framework, characterising the early modern village as self-contained. The purpose of the talk was to trace patterns of everyday travel and mobility in early modern England to recover social and economic communities beyond the boundary of the village, parish, or town.

The everyday or ordinary journeys that individuals made in early modern society were studied. Dr Mansell concentrated on

depositions from three courts, namely Bath and Wells, Wiltshire, and Somerset. Drawing upon existing methodology of using court depositions to extract incidental evidence of early modern life, the quotidian journeys were revealed of witnesses like Joanne Symonds of Somerset who carried grain home along the river with her son in 1650 and Wiltshire weaver John Smyth who returned home from his employer's house one May evening. John Smyth was accused of sheep theft. The deposition tells of his route, in a journey of 14 miles. In the case of Thomas Reeve of 1603, he met a woman who offered sex for money, and Reeve obliged. He was travelling over the Mendips to deliver charcoal, in a journey of about 12 miles. In the case of the drowning of Henry Abbott in 1650, he was returning from market along the river in a journey of about 1 and a half miles. In 1578 in the parish of Bromsgrove, one woman called another a whore. She was accused of breast feeding other babies, and travelling as a wet nurse. In 1605 Elizabeth Garrett appeared in court. Witnesses deposed that she was a poor vagrant of no creditworthiness who had been excommunicated. She wore ragged clothing and had a bastard child. She was well known

in the community. These people had broad spatial horizons.

At this stage of the project, the work concentrates on journeys involving work. Church court depositions were concerned with behaviour among other aspects of life. They also involved inter-county disputes, wills, tithes and defamations. They recorded the testimonies of witnesses, and gave biographies of witnesses. They may record how long people had known each other, and they gave details of the lives and experiences of ordinary people. They give descriptions of character and creditworthiness and credit networks.

These depositions throw light on interactions beyond the parish. The experience of travel went beyond migration. There was a wider range of work than previously assumed and people travelled several miles for work-related activity. Lower status people also moved for work. The study redefines many of the previous assumptions about travel, community and networks. Charmian demonstrated the richness of evidence available in court witness statements and the insight they provide into the spatial experiences and identities of early modern people.

Further Reading

C. Dyer (ed.), *The Self-Contained Village?: The Social History of Rural Communities 1250-1890* (Hatfield, 2007).

P. Clark and D. Souden (eds), *Migration and Society in Early Modern England* (Barnes and Noble, 1987).

A. Shepard and P. Withington, *Communities in Early Modern England: Networks, Place, Rhetoric* (Manchester, 2000).

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Performing Imperialism: Empire Day in South Wales, 1904-1914

Prof Paul O'Leary, Professor in Welsh History at the University of Aberystwyth

8 November 2018

Prof O'Leary started his talk with a newspaper report about celebrations for Empire Day in Montgomeryshire in 1906. About 7,000 children took part in events which included the singing of patriotic songs including ones from around the Empire such as 'Advance Australia fair'. The newspaper was from Perth, Western Australia. The event was one of the most important celebrations of Empire Day in the world and was also reported in other

Australian newspapers. The celebrations in Montgomeryshire were, however, untypical.

Prof O'Leary's research concentrated on towns in South Wales where the coastal towns of Newport, Swansea and Cardiff had strong civic rituals and cultures. The towns in the inland coalfields were different in character and had developed through in-migration during the late nineteenth century. There was no strong middle class, but there was

polarisation between the workers and the employers. It was an internationally-oriented export region and supplied coal to the Royal Navy. (Trials had shown that coal from South Wales produced less smoke than that of the coalfields in north-east England.) The export of coal grew the coastal towns.

Empire Day was held on 24th May, Queen Victoria's birthday, but had failed to become a national holiday at the start of the twentieth century as the Government wanted to avoid the riotous behaviour and jingoism which had been seen during the Boer War. It was felt that it would be dangerous to make people too enthusiastic about Empire.

The South Wales area was strongly Liberal with few Conservatives, however Conservative papers such as the Cardiff Western Mail did not find Empire Day problematic. The Liberal press reaction was mixed: Empire Day promoted international brotherhood or could potentially be dangerous. There had been a religious revival in 1904-5 when 100,000 people had been converted. The Anglicans were happy to celebrate Empire Day but many Nonconformists saw it as the thin end of the wedge towards militarism. The growth of Socialism in the coalfield towns led to criticism of Empire. In the coalfields there was very little discussion in the press, and the culture was less receptive to the Imperial message.

The Earl of Meath established Empire Day and had a clear idea how it should be celebrated. It should be a half-day holiday with nationalist rituals such as saluting the Union flag taking place in the morning. There could be lessons about the Empire, and other activities such as dressing-up and drama. In the coastal areas this did happen because LEAs saw it as a valid

Further Reading

P. O'Leary, 'Wales and the First World War: Themes and Debates', *Cylchgrawn Hanes Cymru / Welsh History Review*, 28 (2017), p. 591.

educational activity which enforced the responsibilities of patriotism and citizenship.

There was some opposition. In 1908 the Labour party attempted to stop the events in Swansea because of 'fake patriotism', jingoism etc. and because Conservatives were in favour of the event. The attempt was defeated by 2 to 1. The argument shifted to the Swansea Trades Council which had 7,000 members who threatened to withdraw children from school on Empire Day.

In schools headteachers were given detailed instructions on what they should do on Empire Day: talks on Wales, great men and the Empire; the success of the abolishment of slavery; common customs, laws and languages; unity & diversity. There were attempts to play-down military jingoism. Detailed press reports showed that schools reacted differently to the guidelines, and that some teachers subverted the instructions.

In towns processions were dominated by groups of uniformed workers e.g. the police, fire brigades, and even telegraph messengers. Uniformed youth groups were also involved. Mayors and the military also took part. Streets were dressed with flags and evergreens, and decorated arches were put up. There was an absence of processions in the coalfields.

Dr O'Leary summed up by saying that the celebration of Empire Day in South Wales was uneven. The choice of date was unfortunate as it clashed with other events such as May Day, school festivals and eisteddfodau. Empire Day became a national day in 1916 and between the wars it was used to commemorate those from across the Empire who had died. Empire Day never fulfilled the Earl of Meath's ambitions.

**‘Hence the Name’: Ordnance Surveyors in Northumberland, c. 1860,
in their own words**

Prof Diana Whaley, Emeritus Professor of Early Medieval Studies, Newcastle University

22 November 2018



Liverpool Hole

This talk explored the Ordnance Survey Name Books — the note-books that record the monumental range of fieldwork undertaken by the Ordnance Survey across the whole of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales at the scale of Six Inches to the Mile. They are not well known. The books are preserved for all or most of Scotland and Ireland, but from England only those for the four northernmost counties (Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland and Westmorland) and part of Hampshire survived the bombing of Southampton in 1940, and none for Wales. The focus in this talk was on the 103 Name Books for Northumberland, housed in the National Archives, Kew, and currently being digitised and transcribed by a Newcastle-based project.

These books are of variable length. They follow a standard format, comprising an index, a column of names, a column of modes of spelling and authorities, a column of situation, and a column of descriptive remarks. Some of these descriptive remarks are flowery and lengthy, for example the entry for Warkworth Castle which spills over into adjacent columns and is a potted history of the castle. Some books also contain some loose papers.

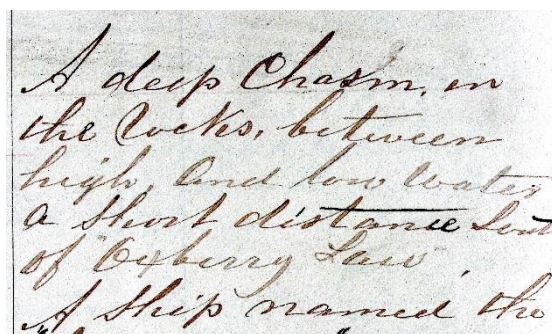
The surviving Name Books capture much of the character of individual places, urban and rural, at a time of great flux, and at the same time throw light on broader issues, and hence have relevance and value well beyond the counties for which they are preserved. Firstly, they show the processes by which place-names came to be recorded on the First Edition OS

maps, and hence on subsequent maps. We see surveyors — predominantly young men whether Sappers and officers of the Royal Engineers or Civil Assistants — debating the correct form of names, and taking orders from above, for instance to write 'Spital' rather than 'Spittle'. Occasionally they explain the place-names with a pleasing verbal flourish: 'Hence the name'. In effect, and secondly, they produced the nearest thing to an official register of place-names — a corpus or gazetteer which, together with the contextual information they give, is an invaluable resource for toponymic research. Thirdly, the Name Book entries, though often routine, contain a wealth of insights into the landscape, antiquities and industrial and social history of the time. We learn of such matters as the opening and closing of mines and wagonways, enclosure of fields, the numbers of children in village schools and provisions for shipwrecked mariners.

The entries were passed to an authority for verification. The authority was primarily oral sources, such as owners, estate agents, or a respectable local dignitary. For example, William Darling senior and junior at the Farne Islands identified rocks around the Farnes (see front cover for a description of a famous rescue off the Farne Islands). Another authority was written sources, and names were not considered obsolete even if they were not known locally. Some surveyors in

Northumberland got a bad reputation with some local frictions. Surveyors went to a lot of trouble to get things right. Dialect was often filtered out. Surveyors often got Medieval names wrong, and usually chose plausible explanations. Colours could be included in names, for example White Hill in an area of bleached grass. Incidents could be included, for example Liverpool Hole, the site of a wreck; the photographs show Liverpool Hole and an extract from the Embleton Name Book, explaining that the place-name Liverpool Hole commemorates a shipwreck.

Watercourses were somewhat of a headache, because the stream could change names with the farm or parish. Generic names for watercourses could vary with county, for example Burn or Syke. Personal names could be included, for example Peter's Grave, Betty's Well, Fond Tom's Pool, Purdy's Stream, and Lambert's Leap. Bird names could be included, for example Gull Hall and other halls attracted unusual names, for example Lightpipe Hall and Hangman's Hall. Verbal place names appear, for example Pity Me, and Seldom Seen. Some folk or vernacular names were suppressed. There were some 'remoteness names', for example Botany Bay in Lancashire. Some battle names refer to the recent Crimean War. Some names even referred to disagreeable smells, for example north and south Wamses referring to cormorant nests on the Farnes.



*A deep Chasm, in
the Coetes, between
high, and low water,
a short distance
of Oxberry Law.
A Ship named the*

Embleton Name Book

Further Reading

R. Hewitt, *Map of a Nation: A Biography of the Ordnance Survey* (London, 2010).

W.A. Seymour (ed.), *A History of the Ordnance Survey* (Folkestone, 1980).

D. Whaley, 'Northumberland Name Books – places and people c.1860', *Journal of the English Place-Name Society*, 48 (2016), pp. 92-95 (project report).

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Not just poor, thwarted lovers: reassessing the relationships and identities of single parents in Wales, c. 1700-1800

Dr Angela Muir, Lecturer in British Social and Cultural History, University of Leicester

13 December 2018

Much of the scholarship on the causes of illegitimacy in early modern Britain has focused on the role of premarital sex and thwarted courtships amongst those at the poorer end of the socioeconomic spectrum. Although there are strong evidentiary links between poverty, conjugal courtship customs and illegitimacy, the same evidence also reveals a wide array of alternative paths to illegitimacy that are frequently overlooked by historians. This paper moves beyond courtship and poverty to explore the diversity of identities and sexual encounters which resulted in the birth of a child outside of wedlock, and reassesses the correlation between illegitimacy and poverty. Analysis of parish and court records from Wales during the eighteenth century reveals rich evidence about the identities of unmarried mothers and fathers, and their diverse sexual

encounters that often cannot be classified as courtship, ranging from illicit consensual sex to rape. Close analysis of these sources also reveals considerable information about the occupations and social status of unmarried parents, which demonstrates that rather than being drawn predominately from the lowest orders of society, unmarried parents were instead drawn from across a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds which reflect the diversity of Welsh society at the time. The aim of this paper is not to challenge existing hypotheses that correlate illegitimacy with courtship and poverty, but to add to the scholarship by exploring the alternative pathways to illegitimacy that were very much a part of the lived experience for many men and women in the past, but are often disregarded in studies that focus on broad demographic trends.

Further Reading

J. Barber, 'Stolen goods': the sexual harassment of female servants in West Wales during the nineteenth century', *Rural History*, 4 (1993), pp. 123-136.

J. Black, 'Who were the putative fathers of illegitimate children in London, 1740-1810?', in A. Levene, S. Williams and T. Nutt, *Illegitimacy in Britain, 1700-1920* (Basingstoke, 2005), pp. 50-65.

L. Gowing, 'Ordering the body: illegitimacy and female authority in seventeenth-century England', in M.J. Braddick and J. Walter (eds), *Negotiating Power in Early Modern Society: Order, Hierarchy and Subordination in Britain and Ireland* (Cambridge, 2001), pp. 43-62.

A. Greenfield, A (ed.), *Interpreting Sexual Violence, 1660-1800* (Abington, 2016), pp. 13-22.

A.J. Muir, 'Courtship, sex and poverty: illegitimacy in eighteenth-century Wales', *Social History*, 43 (2018), pp. 56-80.

G. Walker, 'Rape, acquittal and culpability in popular crime reports in England, c. 1670-c. 1750', *Past and Present*, 222 (2013), pp. 115-142.

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Archaeologies of the Norman Conquest: new directions in material culture research in the 11th and 12th centuries

Dr Alexandra McClain, Senior Lecturer in Medieval Archaeology, University of York

31 January, 2018



Chicken consumption by Norman elites on the Bayeux Tapestry

Dr McClain's talk summarized the genesis and progress of the current AHRC-funded research network "Archaeologies of the Norman Conquest", as well as some of the recent research focusing on material culture in the 11th and 12th centuries that is moving our methodologies and interpretative agendas in this period forward. There has been a truism in

archaeology that the Norman Conquest is somewhat 'invisible' materially apart from new castles and rebuilt churches—that we can't see this momentous cultural and political change in the stuff of everyday life. However, new methodological approaches, particularly involving the scientific side of archaeology, has allowed us to use human and animal

remains and the residues of foodstuffs inside pottery remnants to probe differences in diet, health, cuisine, and consumption practices on either side of the Conquest, highlighting that even when things like pottery did not apparently change at 1066, the ways those pots were used, and the things cooked inside them, were sometimes changing substantially. Other materials, like coinage and the moneyers who produced them, tell stories of both sharp change and disruption (coin hoarding around the time of 1066 and the Harrying of the North) as well as strategic continuity (moneyers and tax collectors from the pre-Conquest period not only maintaining their positions, but thriving and advancing in the new Anglo-

Norman world). Certain practices, such as fallow deer emparkment and hunting and the rising consumption of fish and chicken, were not introduced by the Normans or due to the Conquest, as once thought, but were rather already extant behaviours in elite Anglo-Saxon society which were adopted by the Normans and rapidly accelerated to meet their own social goals. On the whole, we are encouraging archaeology of this period to move beyond simplistic dichotomies of continuity and change, rather asking what particular things changed and what stayed the same, and who was making those choices, and *why*, given the complex sociocultural process that was happening around them.

Further Reading

<http://www.normanarchaeology.org>

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Being seduced by the temptations of the devill and your own filthy lusts’: the sexual crimes of clergymen in late seventeenth-century Herefordshire

Liz Round, PhD Student, University of Leicester

14 February 2019



Dorstone Church, Herefordshire

Liz began with a discussion about the main records used for her research, the consistory court records, and some of the issues of working with them, and some of the issues faced by women in the period against those who wished to take advantage of them – what the attitudes were towards rape and those who had been raped at this time. She then moved onto two examples. The first was a curate from Dorstone who had seduced his domestic servant, and when she became pregnant, tried in multiple ways to cover up his seduction of her, the most serious of which was his attempt to have her forcibly taken from the parish to Virginia in America. The second case looked at the Rector of Pipe Aston, who was a predatory stalker, twice breaking into the bedroom of one his parishioners with the intent of raping her, and conducting a campaign of

harassment against her. Both of these men had their cases heard in the church courts rather than in the criminal courts, thanks to the difficulty of prosecuting rape in the period. Liz examined how the actions of these clergymen affected their parishioners and how parishioners could respond to offences committed by ministers. Lastly she looked at the severity of the crimes, questioning why in both cases the crimes were more serious than the usual ‘fornication’-type of sexual crimes that might be found amongst the laity. She suggested that this was because clergymen could lose their livings for sexual crimes, so where they could not resist the temptation, this simple fact could possibly drive them to commit worse crimes in an attempt to conceal their original transgression.



Tympanum above the entrance to Dorstone Church

Further Reading

L. Gowing, *Common Bodies* (London, 2003).

B. Capp, *When Gossips Meet* (Oxford, 2003).

M. Harris, ‘Weapons of the strong’: Reinforcing complaints against the clergy in post-restoration Warwickshire, 1660-1720, *Midland History*, 43 (2018), pp. 190-207.

Vermin landscapes: Suffolk, England shaped by plague, rat and flea 1906-1920

Prof Karen Sayer, Professor of Social and Cultural History, at Leeds Trinity University

28 February 2019

Prof Sayer focused on an outbreak of rat/bubonic/pneumonic plague in Frenston, Suffolk, near the River Orwell, which took place in the early years of the twentieth century. By its conclusion in 1918, it had caused 16 human fatalities in and around the local area, especially hitting the poor. Using unpublished documents held at the Ipswich Record Office, the paper focused on the response to the Suffolk outbreak in 1910. At the time, there was an international plague pandemic (the 'third pandemic'), centred on China and India, and this had led to work on the links between rats, fleas and the plague bacillus. This expertise was drawn on to tackle the Suffolk 'rat plague'. For example, the following personnel were involved in tackling it: Dr R. Bruce Low, who served for 23 years under the auspices of the Local Government Board on Public Health and Medical Subjects,

Further Reading

D. Van Zwanenberg, 'The Last Epidemic of Plague in England? Suffolk, 1906-1918', *Medical History*, 14 (1970), pp. 63-74.

M. Howell & P. Ford, 'The Visitor from a Far Country', in *The Ghost Disease and Twelve other Stories of Detective Work in the Medical Field* (Penguin Books, 1985).

J. Black & D. Black, 'Plague in East Suffolk 1906-1918', *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 93 (2000), pp. 540-543.

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'A City Assaulted by Man but saved by God': The Commemoration of the Siege of Gloucester

Dr Imogen Peck, Teaching Fellow in History, University of Warwick

28 March 2019

In the summer of 1643, Gloucester was a city under siege. On the 10th August the King's

forces had arrived outside the garrison, fresh from their victory at Bristol, demanding

surrender. The governor, the Parliamentary Colonel Edward Massey, refused, and the city was forced to endure nearly a month of bombardment. When relief finally arrived from London on the 5th September it was just in the nick of time, for the city was down to its last few barrels of gunpowder.

The relief was celebrated in the Parliamentary press not just as a great military victory, but as a divine deliverance; as one pamphlet triumphantly reported, it was 'the good hand of God, and His good will' that had saved the city. In this spirit of gratitude for God's mercy, in 1644 Gloucester's Common Council ordered that the 5th September should be commemorated annually within the city. This was to be a day of prayer and public thanksgiving, but also a of celebration – the bells rang, the corporation feasted, and bonfires were lit.

The memory of the siege was also woven into the fabric of city life in other rather more tangible ways. One victim of the siege was the city's south gate, which had been badly damaged by Royalist batteries. When it was repaired in 1644 it was adorned with a commemorative inscription that read: 'A City Assaulted by man but saved by God ever remember the Fifth of September, 1643, give God the glory'. By rebuilding the once ruined gate as a reminder of Gloucester's role in the wars, the civic authorities sought not to erase the memory of the recent past but to interpret and control it. A site of wartime destruction was translated into a self-conscious symbol of God's deliverance and stood as a reminder of the city's wartime experience throughout the 1640s and 1650s.

The new coat of arms which the Garter King of Arms granted to the city in 1652 also integrated Gloucester's Civil War experience. Its crest featured a lion holding a sword and a trowel, a nod to the role played by the military and the citizenry during the siege, while the motto 'Fides Invicta Triumphat' ('faith indomitable wins through') reflected the dominant Parliamentary interpretation of Gloucester as a city that had been saved by her faith and constancy. The new arms were displayed across the city: painted at the Booth Hall; on the 'Iron that holds the sword at the Colledge'; even stamped on the city farthings.

The restoration of the monarchy in the spring of 1660 posed an obvious challenge for Gloucester's explicitly partisan, Parliamentary commemoration, and the custom of ringing on the 5th September was tactfully dropped. In 1662, the King ordered that the city's walls should be pulled down and in 1671 the inscription on the south gate was removed, once again transforming the mnemonic landscape of the city. For the period of the republics, however, Gloucester had functioned as a place of memory on two levels: on the one hand, the story of their godly deliverance had become an intrinsic part of the city's sense of civic identity; on the other, the built environment of the city was used to project and preserve this very particular interpretation of Gloucester's recent past. The commemoration was 'forgotten' until 1993, when 'living history', plays etc were commemorated for 'Gloucester Day'. In popular parlance, a pig saved the city, and not God!



Gloucester's coat of arms, woodcut, in John Dorney, *Certain speeches made upon the day of the yearly election of officers in the city of Gloucester* (London, 1653).

Further Reading

R. Williams, 'The Siege of Gloucester, 1643', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, 88 (1969), pp. 238-249.

M. Atkin and W. Laughlin, *Gloucester and the Civil War: A City Under Siege* (Stroud: Alan Sutton, 1992).

J. Washbourn (ed.), *Bibliotheca Gloucesterensis: A Collection of Scarce and Curious Tracts Relating to the County and City of Gloucester* (Gloucester: Washbourn and Son, 1823).

I. Atherton, 'Commemorating the English Revolution: Local Deliverance and Thanksgiving', in E. Vallance (ed.), *Remembering Early Modern Revolutions: England, North America, France, and Haiti* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2018).

I. Peck, *Recollection in the Republics: Memories of the British Civil Wars in England, 1649-1659* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2020).

Notice of Research Seminar Programme 2019-20

All seminars are on Thursdays at 2.15pm in the Seminar Room of No 5 Salisbury Road.

You are invited to tea in the Common Room, 5 Salisbury Road, afterwards.

10 October 2019	Professor Peter Edwards	William Lord Cavendish and his ward, his step-son, Francis Wortley [and his siblings], 1604-12
24 October	Dr Charlotte Young	Sequestration in Leicestershire during the English Civil War
7 November	Dr Sarah Holland	Communities in contrast: Doncaster and its rural hinterland, c. 1830-c. 1870
21 November	Dr Paul Stamper	'Britain needed aeroplanes': First World War flax growing at Podington, Bedfordshire
5 December	Professor Francis Pryor	Ancient people and modern places: landscape history and a sense of identity
23 January 2020	Dr Katie Bridger	Landscape perspectives on the Leicestershire gentry, c.1460-1560
6 February	Professor Paul Readman	Historical pageants in Britain, 1905-2019: locality, community and the performance of the past
20 February	Dr Adam Chapman	Where next for the Victoria County History?
5 March	Dr Chris Zembe	From Slave Trade to scramble for Africa: the making of Black population in Britain
19 March	Matt Bristow	The pre-industrial Lowestoft Fish Office: another red herring?

Hoskins Lecture 16 June 2019

Kingdom, Civitas and County:

The Evolution of Territorial Identity in the English Landscape

Professor Stephen Rippon

Professor of Landscape Archaeology, University of Exeter



In the footsteps of Hoskins and following the Leicester approach, Stephen Rippon mapped the evolution of large-scale territorial identity and landscapes in the late prehistoric, Roman, and early medieval periods across eastern England in this year's Hoskins Lecture.

Over the course of the Iron Age, a series of marked regional variations in material culture and landscape character emerged that reflect the development of discrete zones of social and economic interaction. Drawing an analogy with the light-hearted 'cream tea' debate

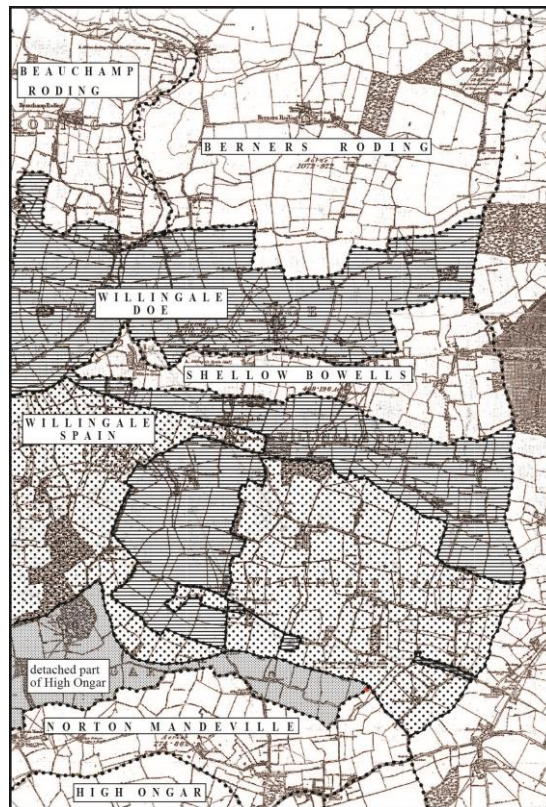
between Devon and Cornwall (should the cream go onto the scone before or after the jam?!), Prof Rippon emphasised how strong county identities still exist today. He also noted the controversy faced by the boundary commission over whether parliamentary constituencies should match county boundaries.

Beginning with the Domesday book, it is easy to assume that counties are very ancient, with Sussex for example equating to the South Saxons, Essex with the East Saxons, etc. But

the boundary between, for example, the counties of Essex and Suffolk is not straightforward as it slices through earlier parishes. Counties in fact only date back to about the tenth century, and Steven Bassett's well-known model postulates how territorial arrangements may have evolved before this tenth century reorganisation. Bassett suggests that a large number of relatively small territories gradually reduced in number as more powerful social groups gradually conquered their neighbours, eventually leading to the formation of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. But Prof Rippon suggests that there may have been some degree of continuity in large regional-scale identities back into the Roman and late prehistoric periods as the boundaries of some Anglo-Saxon kingdoms appear to have corresponded with those of the kingdoms that emerged during the Late Iron Age. In eastern England at least, these pre-Roman socio-economic territories appear to have survived throughout the Roman period despite a trend towards cultural homogenization brought about by Romanization. Although there is no direct evidence for the relationship between these socio-economic zones and the Roman administrative territories known as *civitates*, they probably corresponded very closely.

In the early medieval period, these regional-scale territories were sub-divided into a series

of smaller-scale ones, documented at the time as *pagi* and *regiones*. Bassett has suggested that a prime example of this is the group of Essex parishes called 'Roding', but Professor Rippon suggested that the early medieval *regio* was in fact far larger. The southern boundary of the 'Rodings' parishes is in fact highly irregular, zig-zagging through field systems in a way that suggests it is relatively recent (eg the boundary with the Willingale parishes, illustrated below). There was a web of territorial links, such as parishes having detached parcels, and linked place-names), that suggests an early folk territory that embraced not just the group of parishes called 'Roding' but the whole of Ongar Hundred to the south whose boundaries mostly ran along the watersheds of the Roding Valley. Across the later county of Essex many hundreds appear to have had their origins in earlier *regiones*, although this was not the case in Hertfordshire or Middlesex. The boundaries between early folk territories almost invariably followed high ground (the watersheds between drainage basins), that in the early medieval period will have been common land covered in wood pasture. The coastal and estuarine areas were fringed with saltmarshes, that also appear to have been grazed in common, before they were divided up between the newly emergent parishes.



The Rodings-Willingale Parish Boundary

The study of archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon colonisation across the ‘East Saxon;’ kingdom and adjacent areas suggests it was restricted to certain coastal and estuarine districts. There is plenty of evidence that people were living in the very extensive inland areas – including finds of pottery – but this is suggestive of native British communities. In both areas of Anglo-Saxon and British settlement the landscape was divided up into early folk territories, but it was communities with an Anglo-Saxon identity who eventually achieved political supremacy.

In summary, Prof Rippon emphasised that there is far more potential continuity within landscapes than previously thought, and at different scales. In this region – that was to become the East Saxon kingdom - Anglo-Saxons settled in very restricted parts of the landscape. Elsewhere, a substantial British population appears to have survived and this probably accounts for continuities in the boundaries between zones of social and economic interaction that had started to emerge during the Iron Age and survived throughout the Roman period. While it is understandable that archaeologists and historians study discrete periods, with a

common set of source material, this compartmentalisation of the past does have its problems as it can create a false sense of discontinuity at period boundaries that we think were important – based on for example political events – but which may have had

relatively little impact on ordinary farming communities. It is by studying the landscape, and using a very wide range of source material, that we get the longer-term perspective.

Further Reading

Stephen Rippon, *Kingdom, Civitas, and County: The Evolution of Territory in the English Landscape*. (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Stephen Rippon, *Making Sense of an Historic Landscape* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

Bassett, S. ‘In search of the origins of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms’, in S. Bassett (ed.) *The Origins of Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms* (London: Leicester University Press, 1989), 1-27.

Bassett, S. ‘Continuity and fission in the Anglo-Saxon landscape: the origins of the Rodings (Essex)’, *Landscape History* 19 (1997), 24-42.

FRIENDS

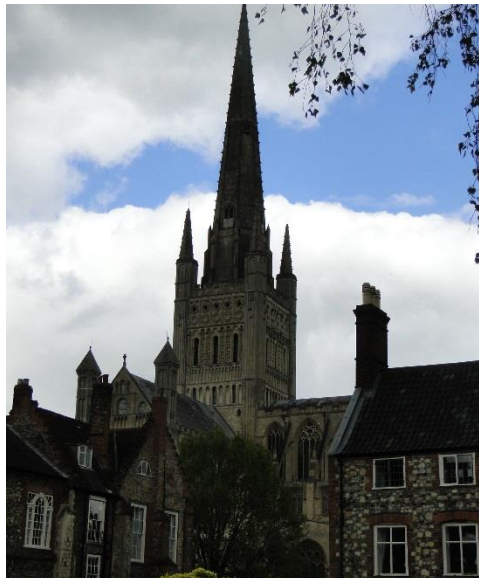
EVENTS

Norwich Study Weekend

26 – 28 April 2019

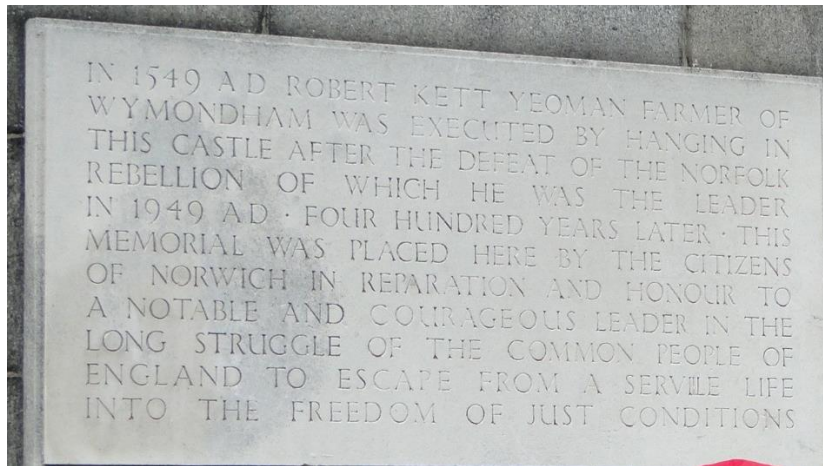


The study weekend was held in the Maids Head Hotel in the heart of the medieval quarter of Norwich and directly opposite the cathedral. The event covered a number of themes including Kett's Rebellion, Norwich in the Civil War, Protestantism and the medieval architecture of the city.



On the Friday evening we had a talk by Professor Andy Wood of Durham University on Kett's Rebellion. Andy is an expert on early modern social history and has studied extensively the causes,

course and consequences of the Rebellion in the reign of Edward VI. His talk emphasised the political, social and religious tensions that underpinned the Rebellion. Andy returned to the study weekend on Saturday afternoon and gave a guided tour of the main sites in Kett's Rebellion, starting with the centre of Royalist resistance in the Castle. We then returned to the hotel by way of the medieval quarter and Tombland, scene of bitter fighting during the uprising.



Kett's memorial on Norwich Castle

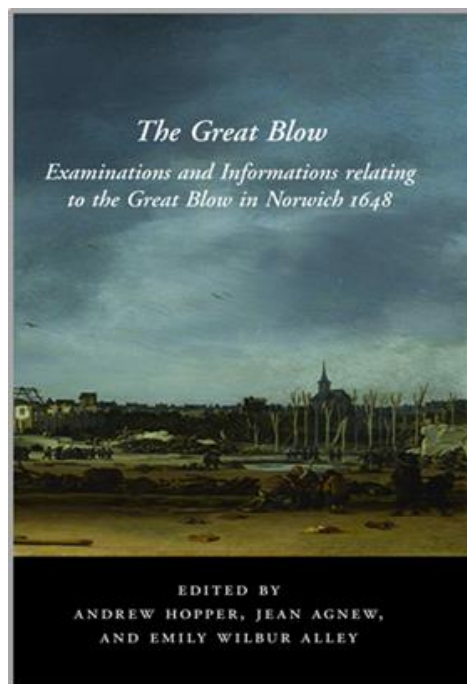


The Old Meeting House Congregational Church

On Saturday morning we visited the Old Meeting House Congregational Church that was built in 1643 in the middle of the Civil War. The pastor, Dr John Clements (in the full costume of a seventeenth century preacher), gave a talk on the origins of the church and the early history of the

independent movement in the city. The Separatist Free Church opposed the rule of bishops and naturally sided with the Parliamentarians during the course of the Civil War. William Bridge, from Norwich, took part in the 1643 Westminster Assembly that advised on the Puritan reform of the Church. We then had a tour of the chapel which was one of the first such purpose-built independent churches still functioning as a place of worship today.

In the afternoon we had a talk by Dr Joel Halcomb from the University of East Anglia on St George Tombland, a radical parish in the English Revolution. He explored how the church prospered during the Civil War despite being without a parish priest for much of the period. This was followed by a talk in the evening by our own Professor Andy Hopper on 'The Great Blow', when, following riots, a store of gunpowder exploded in the city causing extensive damage and loss of life. This event was used as background for exploring the shifting politics of the city during the Revolution and the conflicting tensions within this important Parliamentary centre.



Finally, on Sunday morning Professor Sandy Heslop of Cambridge University give a talk on the medieval architecture of Norwich. Sandy is an expert on the art and architecture of the medieval period and has studied in detail the surviving churches of the city. He highlighted the changing architectural styles reflecting the different periods and the masons involved in their design and construction. This was followed by a tour of the churches in the medieval quarter surrounding the Maids Head Hotel, contrasting smaller churches such as St James the Less (now the home of the

Norwich Puppet Theatre) and St Edmund's on Fishergate with grander churches such as St George Tombland.

It was a full weekend that guided the attendees through a particularly interesting period in the evolution of Norwich. The hundred years from the mid-16th century to the mid-17th century was a period of great political, social, economic and religious change, reflected in the history and fabric of the city.



Ethelbert Gate into the Cathedral Quarter



Church of St George, Tombland

Autumn Visit to Newark

14 September 2019

The Friends were educated and entertained with a visit to the historic market town of Newark with talks on the medieval and Civil War history followed by an afternoon's guided tour of the National Civil War Centre, town and castle. Dr Richard Jones opened the day with an insightful explanation of the history of the town and its name. He questioned the old assumptions about what 'Old Work' preceded the 'New Work', including the nineteenth-century belief that the new lay on top of the old. Newark lies at a strategic place of crossing of several Roman roads and at the crossing of the River Trent. Its wapentake was coterminous with the extent at Domesday Book. There is relatively little archaeology at Newark, including ramparts and ditch, medieval wall, late tenth-century pottery and evidence of a pottery kiln, and a cemetery dating from 970 onwards. Newark grew between 950 and 1070 AD. The estate boundary of Southwell to the south of Newark appears significant, in that the two localities have identical 'footprints' in terms of ecclesiastical quarters, roads and market places. Southwell was a planned town that atrophied, possibly due to a change in geopolitics, while Newark flourished along the same plan. Richard concluded that Southwell is Newark's 'Old Work'.

Kevin Winter then spoke about Newark in the Civil War. Newark was the key to the north because of its geography. The town was a Royalist centre as the castle and land were owned by the King at the outbreak of war. The garrison had four governors in total, and was besieged three times. Defences were poor for the first siege of 27/28 February 1643, but were subsequently strengthened and 'sconces' (or forts) built. A hole in the tower of St Mary Magdalene Church, still visible, is said to have been caused by a cannon ball fired during the second siege. The garrison was massacred at the final siege of November 1645 to May 1646. Plague hit the town in March 1646, surrender came in May 1646, and in the aftermath the Parliamentarians destroyed the defences but then left due to plague. The National Civil War Centre (pictured) opened in May 2015.



Newark National Civil War Centre and Castle

Leicestershire VCH News

Pam Fisher

The national VCH project, to research and publish a history of every parish in England, is 120 years old this year. To celebrate this anniversary, each of the 23 counties where work is currently underway were asked to fill a 'Red Box' (a box file dressed as a VCH Red Book) with items to represent the history of their county. The boxes will go on display at an event in London in November, afterwards for about two months in the foyer of the Institute of Historical Research and will also form a permanent online exhibition. Working with suggestions made through social media, email and various conversations, our box contains items representing many different periods of history, parts of the county and themes, each with a 75-word explanation. We chose a photograph of three flint tools from the Upper Palaeolithic site at Bradgate, a postcard of the 1936–9 excavation of the Jewry Wall, a piece of Potters Marston ware, the order of service when Richard III's body was received into the Cathedral, a piece of Swithland slate, a wooden cleave for splitting osiers, soot from the Glenfield tunnel, a box for a Melton Mowbray Pork Pie, a last for a child's shoe, needles from a Griswold machine, a Ladybird book, knitted fabric swatches by Stibbe, a postage stamp celebrating the invention of the jet engine and a piece of sari fabric. We would like to thank all Friends and others who offered suggestions, and those who lent items to us.



The Leicestershire Red Box

Pam Fisher joined Ibstock Historical Society for their annual two-day event in the spring, and has now completed the history of the parish, which also includes the histories of the village of Battram,

Ellistown colliery and brickworks (as well as Ibstock colliery) and the houses near Ellistown colliery (not the village currently known as Ellistown). Peer review of the text is now complete, and the paperback should be published in early 2020.

Pam was in Lutterworth in July giving a talk on shopping and leisure in the town in the 17th century. This parish history, co-authored by Pam Fisher and Andrew Watkins with help from many volunteers, is progressing well and is on target for publication as a paperback in 2021.

After a lengthy delay due to software incompatibility, we can now add the remaining data completed by volunteers to the Charnwood Roots databank. If any former Charnwood Roots volunteers would be willing to help with this, please let Pam Fisher know (pjf7@le.ac.uk). There is still some technical work to be done so the search facility works correctly, but we hope to be able to make this large database available to the public in the next 12 months.

Funds are being raised to complete and publish the first Leicestershire 'Red Book' since 1964, which will focus on Loughborough. At 190,000 words, this will be a major piece of work which will build on some of the research which formed part of the HLF-funded Charnwood Roots project. We shall need to raise around £100,000 to complete and publish the volume. Chris Dyer, Pam Fisher and David Holmes outlined the plans at a meeting in Loughborough in May, and it was decided to recruit a new group of volunteers to research public health improvements in the town between 1840 and 1930. Paige Emerick will provide volunteer support over 10 weeks from September. This research will go towards the parish history, and will also form the basis of an exhibition in Loughborough Local Studies Library in July and August 2020 to mark the 150th anniversary of Loughborough's piped water supply, the opening of Nanpantan reservoir and the Fearon Fountain in Loughborough's Market Place. It's looking like next year will be as busy as the year just completed.

Friends Publications and Contributions

Paula Aucott

Publications

P. Aucott, H. Southall, & C. Ekinsmyth (2019) 'Citizen science through old maps: Volunteer motivations in the GB1900 gazetteer-building project', *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*, 52:3, pp 150-163.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01615440.2018.1559779>

H. Southall & P. Aucott (2019) 'Expressing History through a Geo-Spatial Ontology', *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information*, 8:8, p. 362.

Peter Austin

Publications

P. Austin, 'Timber management in South East Hertfordshire 1550-1910', *The Local Historian*, 49, (Jan 2019), pp. 41-56.

Presentations

Peter Austin, 'Parks & Pollards', Lyddington Manor History Society, 6th February 2019.

Phil Batman

Presentations

'Potato famine immigrants in Victorian York: Did they like their new neighbours?' presented to Ilkley Probosc Society on 13 May 2019.

'Four Faces: The Batman Family of York', presented to Ilkley 1984 Club on 21 May 2019.

Carol Beardmore

Publications

Financing the Landed Estate: Power, Politics and People on the Marquis of Anglesey's Estate 1812-1854 (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019).

Rose-Marie Crossan

Publications

R-M. Crossan, *A Women's History of Guernsey, 1850s-1950s* (Mòr Media Ltd, Benderloch, Argyll).

Stewart Fergusson

Presentation

8th June 2019: 'Coventry's Godly Magistrate: The Diary of Robert Beake, Mayor of Coventry 1655-6', talk given to Coventry Local History Centre

Heather Flack

Publication

Walking Stourport's History (December 2018; www.flackbooks.weebly.com)

Presentations

8th April, 2019: "Wribbenhall - An Overlooked Hamlet", talk given to WI members in Bewdley

16th May, 2019: "Bewdley under the White Rose", talk given to Hartlebury History Society

28th May, 2019: "Crossing the Severn", talk given to Teme Valley History Society

Marion Hardy

Presentations

Local Population Studies Society's Conference November 2018 (held in Oxford): C17th and C18th Churchwardens' and Quarter Sessions' Records for population studies: Possibilities and Problems.

Seventeenth Warwick Symposium on Parish Research 18 May 2019: 'Heaven is the reward of charity'—Benefactors and their parish charities.



A poor box in Butterleigh Church made from an oak log and provided by an unknown donor, photographed by Marion Hardy.

The inscription reads: 'THIS BOXE IS FRELIE GVEN TO RECEEVE ALM FOR Y POORE 1629'

Susan Kilby

Publications

S. Kilby, 'Fantastic beasts and where to find them: the Romanesque capitals of St Kyneburgha's church, Castor, and the local landscape', *Church Archaeology*, 19 (2019)

J. Carroll and S. Kilby, 'Preparing the ground: finding minor landscape names in medieval documents', *The Local Historian*, 49:4 (2019)

Presentations

'Troublesome earth? Medieval peasants, sustainable farming and elemental theory', Troublesome Elements Conference, University of Leicester, November 2018

'Fantastic beasts and where to find them: the Romanesque capitals of St Kyneburgha's Church, Castor, and the local landscape', U3A Rushden, Northamptonshire, January 2019

'Fantastic beasts and where to find them: the Romanesque capitals of St Kyneburgha's Church, Castor, and the local landscape', The President's Lecture, Peterborough Museum Society, February 2019

'Fantastic beasts and where to find them: the Romanesque capitals of St Kyneburgha's Church, Castor, and the local landscape', Thrusington History Society, February 2019

'New perspectives on peasant perceptions of the agrarian landscape in the later Middle Ages', British Agricultural History Society Spring Conference, University of Nottingham, April 2019

'Making a living in the fens: how the other half lived in later medieval Lakenheath', Spalding Gentlemen's Society, April 2019

Terry Sheppard

Publication

'Bust to Boom, the story of the break-up sale of Rothley Temple Estate' (2019)



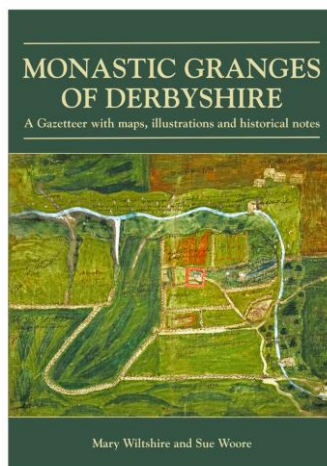
Richard Stone

Publications

‘Woodland in the East Staffordshire Landscape’, *The Historian* (Spring, 2019), pp. 22 – 23.

Book Review of: T. Breverton, ‘Welsh Pirates and Privateers’ and, T. Breverton, ‘The True Confession of William Owen’, *The Local Historian* (January, 2019).

Mary Wiltshire



Annual General Meeting and Accounts

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends, held on Thursday 22 November 2018 at 12.30pm at 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester.

Present: Noel Tornbohm (Chairman), Robert Mee, Ann Schmidt, Andrew Wager, Phil Batman, John Parker, Freda Raphael, Pam Fisher, Mary Bryceland, Michael Gilbert, Margaret Hawkins, Paul Shipman, Mandy de Belin, Heather Flack, Anne Coyne, Kevin Schurer, Graham Jones

1. Apologies for absence: Frank Galbraith, Peter Diplock, Anne Pegg, Sarah Gilpin

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 16 November 2017: The minutes were agreed (proposed by Mary Bryceland, Seconded by Michael Gilbert).

3. Matters arising: No items raised

4. Chairman's Report: Noel Tornbohm reported on the year's activities which included the Spotlight conference on 24 February, Hoskins Day on 23 June when Dr Stuart Wrathmell gave the lecture 'Wharram Percy and its Landscape Contexts' and the visit to Buckminster and Sewsterne on 15 September.

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

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	Michael Gilbert
Committee Members:	Ann Schmidt
	Mandy de Belin
	Mary Bryceland
	John Parker

Kevin Schürer remains the Centre's representative.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner: Dr Pam Fisher has retired and gave her thanks to the Society's treasurers for making her job easy. Paul Shipman was proposed by Mandy de

Belin and seconded by Noel Tornbohm. He was duly appointed as Independent Examiner.

8. Any other Business:

a) Anne Coyne raised the matter of an online course relating to English civil war history. This would be jointly funded with the Civil War Centre. She would look into this and attend the next Friends Committee meeting on Thursday 17 January at 14:00.

b) Kevin Schurer raised the matter of support for the Centre in creating on-line courses. Friends may be able and willing to help with user testing. Noel Tornbohm wondered how best to collaborate. It was suggested that Kevin contact Mandy de Belin and report to the Friends committee.

Chairman's Report - 13th November 2018

I am pleased to confirm another highly satisfactory year of both activities and practical assistance to students and the Centre.

First came our biennial 'Spotlight' conference, held on Saturday, 24th February in The Scool of Museum Studies. Organisation and planning was largely in the hands of our new recruit to the Committee, Dr Michael Gilbert, who unexpectedly stepped forward at our last AGM, proving the old adage that a volunteer is worth ten pressed men! Michael was ably assisted by his 'mole' in the Centre, Dr Nicola Blacklaws and between them, they succeeded in marshalling a varied and stimulating programme, highlighting current research themes pursued by both staff and students. The upshot was a most enjoyable day, which was well attended and appreciated. A new feature was the showing beforehand of several W G Hoskins' TV programmes from the sixties, sourced by our Andrew Wager.

Next was Hoskins Day, held on 23rd June, when we were delighted to secure Dr Stuart Wrathmell to deliver the Memorial Lecture. His presentation was entitled 'Wharram Percy and its landscape contexts'. This was followed by the usual tea and book sale, which this year featured books from the Cynthia Thomas and Roy Studdard bequests. All went well as can be seen from the Treasurer's Report.

A bonus came in the shape of our Autumn Visit, when Dr Pam Fisher, well known and remembered for her outstanding contribution to the Friends, proposed to lead an expedition to two villages in the extreme north-east of Leicestershire, Buckminster and Sewstern. Although lying in the same parish, they could hardly be more different, both in their history and present appearance. An account of the day appears in the current 'Newsletter' but I would like to repeat my thanks to Pam for taking time

off from her VCH work and organising a much appreciated and appropriate outing.

Finally, I extend my thanks to the Committee members for their hard work and enthusiastic support and make no apology for repeating what I said last year in this connection. 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 Treasure and Secretary respectively. Phil Batman has now earned his spurs as Newsletter Editor, producing a second outstanding and

comprehensive edition. All concerned have worked hard and given me all the support I could possibly want. More thanks are due to Pam Fisher, who performs an invaluable service as Examiner of the accounts.

So, as I enter my final year as Chairman, I issue my usual appeal to existing and would-be members of the Friends to join us on the Committee to ensure continuity and assist in the provision of the sort of varied programme and service that keeps the Friends a vibrant organisation.

Noel Tornbohm

Treasurer's Report

A summary of the Friends' accounts for the last year are shown overleaf. The current total assets of the Friends stand at £29,679.01, an increase of £1,229.27 over the starting balance.

2017/18 has seen a considerable reduction in both income and expenditure compared to the previous year, but that is not surprising as we follow a two-yearly cycle of events and the last year saw no study-weekend which increases both income and expenditure considerably.

Our main non-cyclical expenditure, student support, has returned to its more usual levels after a particularly busy year in 2016/17.

The Spotlight on the Centre conference early in 2018 was extremely successful, and realised over £700. Further book sales, thanks to the generous bequest from Cynthia Thomas, has also added to the income. However, subscription income, and the income from the annual Hoskins Lecture has fallen.

Our investments continue to bring in a very modest income, and we cannot anticipate a return to large dividends in the foreseeable future. We must instead 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.

The coming year will, hopefully, see a study weekend, and it is our intention that such events will, at the very least, break even, so as not to detract from the main purpose of the Friends.

Our financial position is sound, and we can meet any financial obligations for the coming year. Whilst we are not in control of requests made for student support, we do decide which applications are accepted, and the amounts given. In view of our lack of contractual

commitments, we do not have a reserves policy at the present time.

I am grateful to our Independent Examiner, Pam Fisher, for her work in going through the accounts and for the advice she has given. Dr Fisher has, after a number of years as Independent Examiner, told us that she wishes to stand down from this post, so we would be keen to hear from any suitably qualified person who is prepared to take it on.

Robert Mee

19 November 2018

Friends of the Centre for English Local History		
(Registered Charity no.1073528)		
Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30 September 2018		
	2018	2017
Receipts		
Subscriptions and donations	£2,084.00	£2,380.00
Trip Income	£195.00	£3,910.00
Book Sales (excluding Hoskins)	£129.00	£0.00
Conference Income	£708.90	£0.00
Refunds on Student Support	£0.00	£1,095.83
Dividends/Interest (C&C, CAF)	£437.54	£478.60
Gift Aid	£0.00	£259.12
Hoskins Day	£228.60	£369.59
Total Receipts	£3,783.04	£8,493.14
Payments		
Student Support & Harold Fox Award	£1,590.00	£6,326.75
Hoskins Day	£49.52	£71.25
Newsletter	£436.22	£333.77
East Midlands History and Heritage	£0.00	£1,000.00
Conference Expenditure	£89.94	£0.00
Trip Expenditure	£115.00	£3,478.80
Student Amenities	£23.99	£0.00
Administrative Costs	£232.63	£184.04
AGM Expenses	£81.69	£71.25
Total Payments	£2,618.99	£11,465.86
Excess of income over expenditure	£1,164.05	
Excess of expenditure over income		-£2,972.72
Opening Funds at 1st October 2017	£26,082.91	£29,055.63
Deficit/surplus	£1,164.05	-£2,972.72
Closing Funds at 30th September 2018	£27,246.96	£26,082.91
Comprising		
Bank Balances		
Cash	£1.00	£0.00
CAF Bank - Gold Account	£2,073.14	£1,835.55
Natwest Bank	£2,991.52	£2,266.01
Cambridge & Counties savings	£13,722.35	£13,522.40
	£18,788.01	£17,623.96
Investment Assets at cost		
FP CAF UK Equity Fund B Income	£4,278.61	£4,278.61
FP CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income	£4,180.34	£4,180.34
	£27,246.96	£26,082.91
Market value of investments		
FP CAF UK Equity Fund B Income	£6,845.87	£6,586.20
FP CAF Fixed Interest Fund B Income	£4,045.13	£4,239.58
	£10,891.00	£10,825.78
Total assets (including current investment value)	£29,679.01	£28,449.74
Robert M Mee (Treasurer)		
2 November 2018		

STUDENTS

MA Dissertations

Bolton, Parish Conflict and the Legacy of the English Revolution, 1640-1680

Samantha Bourne

This dissertation examines clergy and laity conflict in Bolton le Moors, Lancashire, during the mid-seventeenth century. Bolton was renowned for its Puritanism and was given the moniker the ‘Geneva of Lancashire’. Yet, despite experiencing one of the most bitter events of the Civil Wars, the ‘Massacre of Bolton’, there has been little exploration into what happened in this area during the Wars, the Interregnum and Restoration and how its fervent Protestantism affected the attempts to restore the Anglican Church. How did a town which had helped establish a classis react to the Restoration? In 1662, a very popular incumbent, Richard Goodwin, was ejected and Robert Harpur was ordained in his place. Harpur was not popular and ‘seems to have had a troubled course’. Goodwin and the Lecturer, Robert Parke, were described as ‘beloved throughout the periods of their ministrations’. This contrasts greatly with how

Harpur was viewed. Was this due to religious nonconformity or the personality of the incumbent?

The execution of the Earl of Derby was not met with a unified seal of approval from the townsfolk and there is little physical remembrance of the Wars in the town today. Harpur was determined in his efforts to restore the Anglican church and throughout all of the conflict, much of it brought about by his bombastic nature, he remained in office. Despite all of the conflict, Bolton’s parish remained intact and continued to function. It was found that, despite its name, Bolton was not any more fervent than other Protestant towns, such as, Halifax. The term was appropriated by Victorian nonconformists to fit into their own narratives about the founding of nonconformity in Bolton.

*

The New Village of South Wigston, 1880 – 1910: the Place, the People and the Communities

Mary Bryceland

The sight of South Wigston on a wet and foggy Sunday afternoon in November is an experience one is glad to have had. It reaches the rock bottom of English provincial life and there is something profoundly moving about it.

This was W.G. Hoskins' description of the Leicestershire village of South Wigston in 1957 — nearly 80 years after its foundation. This dissertation examines the development of the village which sprang up over the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The main areas of interest were the people who moved in during this period, and how the Nonconformist churches were set up. The village was the vision of Orson Wright who bought the land in 1881 and encouraged investment in houses and factories. He started with a planned layout on open fields, however he did not build a model village. Manufacturers of hosiery, boots and shoes, elastic web, and biscuits were encouraged to move out of Leicester and Wright brought in an iron foundry, and an electrical engineering company. Houses were built to accommodate the workforce; the majority were bought as investments and rented out. The villagers came from within Leicestershire and from across the British Isles.

By 1888 the village was self-sufficient in shops and services. Sports clubs and political parties were being set up. Anglican, Roman Catholic, and four Nonconformist churches were being established. The support of factory-owners in the building of the Nonconformist churches was found to have been invaluable. By 1901 the population had reached 3,889, which was nearly as large as the neighbouring long-established village of Wigston Magna.

The primary sources for the study were Census Enumerators Books from 1881 to 1901, together with birth, marriage and death records. Newspapers were an important source of information about the development of facilities and organisations. Records for the Nonconformist churches were variable. Some churches had few records in their care and had deposited little at the Record Office. Although books of old photographs have been published, and there is a recent biography of Orson Wright, there has not been a systematic study of the early years of the village.

*

Proto-Industrialization and Family Life: An Examination of the Framework Knitting Industry in Ruddington, Nottinghamshire from the 1851 Census.

John Parker

This piece of research examines the family structures and domestic relationships within a

nineteenth-century Nottinghamshire industrial village with particular reference to the validity

and applicability of the theories of proto-industrialization. During the course of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries different locations at different times experienced population growth at levels above the national mean levels. The principal cause is generally identified as growth in the birth rate as the result of lower age at marriage and greater fertility which in turn is then often attributed to localised proto-industrialization in rural areas. This is essentially the theory forwarded by Mendels and explored by David Levine amongst others to explain localised population growth within an increasingly industrialised environment. The theories of proto-industrialization also seek to explain why

industrialisation occurred as it did, when it did and where it did - but it is exactly these sweeping claims that have led to criticism by Keith Snell and others about the empirical evidence on which the theory is based and the assumptions that were subsequently made about 'classic' occurrences of proto-industrialization particularly within the British context. Never-the-less proto-industrialization still offers a useful 'system' with which to engage in an examination of family structure within a particular locality and industry firstly through a review of the theories of proto-industrialization and secondly through an examination of local family structures using data drawn from the 1851 census

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Merely a Lake?

The fluidity of Whittlesey Mere in Medieval and Early Modern England.

David Russell

The early historiography of the Fenlands initially focused on land drainage and reclamation projects, with later investigations seeking to understand the interaction between society, settlement and landscape. More recently, the Fenland Project conducted intensive archaeological surveys across the wetlands of eastern England covering the Mesolithic to medieval periods. However, much of this research was conducted across large areas of fen in eastern England. This

landscape micro-study sets out to investigate a small area of the Fenland once comprised of the large clear water lake Whittlesey Mere surrounded by an annulus of wetlands, which prior to drainage in 1851 was situated on the fen-edge in the historic county of Huntingdonshire. Taking the form of a comparative landscape investigation between the medieval and early modern period, the focus will be on change in the physical landscape, and the way it was managed across

a period spanning almost nine centuries. Using Anglo-Saxon charters, medieval manuscripts and the cartularies from the monastic houses of the Fenland, the medieval landscape of Whittlesey Mere will be revealed with the aid of a Geographical Information System (GIS) and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). Seventeenth-century surveys will be examined alongside fen maps to aid reconstruction of the early modern landscape. The cartographic evidence will be subjected to georeferencing and examined for accuracy and reliability.

This study is innovative as it focuses on a small section of fen landscape; excludes areas of settlement and uses new technologies to question and interrogate the cartographic evidence. The findings demonstrate that this micro-landscape had its own agenda and unique *pays* within the wider Fenland. The water, which the early modern land reclaimers sought to remove, was the element that allowed this micro-landscape, and the way it was managed to persist unchanged from at least the twelfth to the late eighteenth century.

*

***Terroir* and tradition. How farming choice influenced settlement in Leicestershire's Wreake valley**

Paul A V Shaw

This work stems from a dissatisfaction with established accounts of the Scandinavian settlement of the Danelaw, specifically that their colonisation of 'inferior' soils was due to passive exclusion. It suggests instead, that conscious decisions, based on their wish to prioritise pastoral farming over arable, lie behind their choice of settlement location.

A generalised model of farming choice has been constructed and applied to the midlands in the ninth century. In the applied model the two main factors influencing farming choice were *terroir*, the local environment, and tradition, the farmers' accumulated experience. The model was tested in the

Wreake valley, Leicestershire, an area with a high concentration of Scandinavian settlement names and an area which can be successfully farmed by either pastoral or arable methods. Each of ninety-five townships has been visited, and the *terroir* of each settlement determined from direct observation, maps, current and historic land use based on the 1936 farming survey, the 1801 crop returns, the density of plough teams in Domesday Book and examination of toponyms.

For specific townships, a bias over time towards either pasture or arable farming can be observed. So too, a distinctive pattern of pasture associated with sloping, valley-bottom

settlement close to running water. The study data strongly supports a previous hypothesis that place-names ending in *-thorp* were associated with arable-based economies and *-by* names with livestock husbandry. Moreover, it prompts a mechanism for *thorpe* formation based on farming choice, as the rural economy moved from pastoral to arable farming in the medieval period. Lastly by

identifying other settlements with a *terroir* and morphology comparable to *thorpes*, it is proposed that the same mechanism also drove the foundation of other settlements, and foci within polyfocal villages.

A revised narrative for Scandinavian settlement of the Wreake valley is presented.

Recently Completed PhD Theses

Nicola Blacklaws

PhD: ‘The twentieth-century poor law in the Midlands and Wales, c.1900-1930’

This thesis examines the New Poor Law between c.1900 and 1930, the last three decades of its operation before boards of guardians were abolished by the 1929 Local Government Act. The poor law during this period has been widely neglected by historians in terms of focused regional studies. Moreover, existing literature on early twentieth-century welfare often relegates the poor law to an increasingly minor role in the face of the alternative early welfare state provisions such as the old-age pension and unemployment assistance. This portrayal is challenged in this thesis. It explores the poor law in these years through four foundational case studies chosen from across the Midlands of England and central Wales. The everyday operations of the poor law unions in each case

study are reconstructed, and distinct regional welfare cultures are revealed, with relief policies and practices informed by specific local socio-economic conditions. Interactions between the poor law and a range of key welfare reforms are explored, and the relationship between ‘old’ and ‘new’ welfare systems is shown to have been more complex than in conventional histories of the period. The poor law in fact acted as a key safety net for families who fell through the gaps in between the newer welfare provisions, and in some cases acted as a stepping-stone to access them. Although often strained by conditions for which it was not designed, the poor law continued to play a significant role in the welfare landscape of England and Wales even in these last years of its operation. In this way,

this thesis bridges the historiographical gap between the ending of the New Poor Law and the coming of the early welfare state.

*

Katie Bridger

PhD: 'Place, landscape and gentry identity in late medieval Leicestershire, c.1460-1560'

This thesis examines the role of place and the landscape in the construction and expression of gentry identity in late medieval Leicestershire. Land has been said to be the gentry's most prized possession, and the myriad ways in which the gentry have influenced the landscape have received substantial attention, particularly in an architectural and recreational context. But the multi-faceted influence of the gentry's lands on their identity, especially in the broader context of place, remains to be explored. The thesis addresses this lacuna through an innovative interrogation of litigation records, probate records and the inquisitions post mortem amongst others using digital visualisation and analysis. It considers the different approaches that can be taken to resolve the neglect of place in gentry studies.

During this historical period of transition and development, ancestral and economic ties preserved and encouraged inter-generational gentry interests in the places occupied by them, and propelled gentry interaction and behaviour where they overlapped. The thesis offers a reconstruction of the Leicestershire gentry's landscape, comprising territorial extents and changing land use during the period. Together, this evidence shows that the relationship between the gentry and place was carefully cultivated throughout the gentry's lives, and culminated in their final statement in death. Ultimately, this thesis demonstrates that the gentry's affinity with and interpretation of the world around them shaped who they were, who they wanted society to think they were, and who they believed themselves to be.

*

Trixie Gadd

PhD: ‘Tis my Lot by Faith to be Sustained’: Clerical Prosperity in Seventeenth-Century Dorset

Drawing on biographical data collected on over 2,500 individuals appointed to Dorset’s 289 rectories, vicarages and curacies over the course of the seventeenth century, this study examines a range of economic, geographical, social and political factors that affected clerical prosperity during this period. A wide range of sources is analysed, including ecclesiastical administrative records, parish valuations, wills and inventories, records of oath taking and published sermons. The physical landscape is also mapped, drawing on geological and topographical data and personal fieldwork.

The study reveals that Dorset’s incumbents tended to be locally ordained and native to the county, although the richest livings were secured through university or other connections. The precise nature as well as the value of parochial income affected clerical prosperity, and detailed analysis of Dorset’s landscape reveals differences between five key regions in terms of land usage and yields and the nature of tithe produce, as well as other income-generating activities in which

clergymen engaged. Some individuals augmented their income by serving more than one parochial cure, or by acting as household and army chaplains. Regional differences are identified in the likelihood of persecution and ejection during the middle decades of the century. Investigation of social relationships with family, patrons, parishioners and other clergy reveals the impact of improved education, the increasing influence of familial ties, and rising geographical mobility. Analysis of oath taking, preaching, publishing and military involvement reveals some patterns in clergymen’s propensity for activism that did not necessarily follow denominational distinctions. Boundaries between parochial and non-parochial clerical activities were fluid, and nonconformist ministers continued to associate with conformist clergy even after leaving the established Church.

Overall, this study presents a broad picture of the diverse contexts in which Dorset clergymen lived and worked over the course of a turbulent century.

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Elias Kupfermann

M.Phil: 'The role of Windsor castle during the English Civil wars, 1642-1650'

This thesis examines the hitherto somewhat neglected but crucial role of the Windsor Castle garrison during the English Civil War and addresses three major themes: the role of garrison warfare, its logistics and supply, and portrayals of the garrison and its commanding officers in newsbooks and tracts of the time.

Using uniquely surviving primary sources, it examines how well-administered and fortified the garrison was and will show how the castle was used as a defensive structure, a depot and a springboard for military campaigns to a prison for Royalists throughout the civil wars.

This thesis questions the significance of Windsor's role in aiding the Parliamentary war effort, looking at the supply of weaponry, arms, ammunition, clothing, transport links and food. It shows how Windsor and its garrison were portrayed in print through the medium of contemporary newsbooks and tracts and examines the accuracy of these accounts compared with other contemporary printed sources. It also looks at how events in Windsor were portrayed by rival Royalist and

Parliamentarian sides, each with their own agendas, and how newsbooks were used to distort the truth and even change the nature of events. It assesses how news was transmitted to those who could not read, with evidence of how news spread in Windsor.

At a broader level, this thesis shows how civil wars were fought and resources mobilised, sometimes challenging traditional historiography. In particular, the traditional historiography saw strategic decisions which took place on the battlefield as the main reason why the Civil-War was won by Parliament. This is challenged in this thesis to show that it was due to the control of resources within the garrison hinterland and the successful control and distribution of goods manufactured in London. The River Thames was key to this and Windsor was the key for its control. This detailed study, using surviving archival evidence, sheds light on garrison warfare more generally and is important for understanding how the Civil War was eventually won.

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Prizes and Awards

The Margaret Spufford Prize for best overall MA performance was awarded to David Russell.

The Richard McKinley best MA dissertation prize was awarded to Paul Shaw.

The Phil Batman Family History Prize was awarded to Ellie Harman for her dissertation ‘The experience of parenting and children of the labouring poor under the Old Poor Law, c. 1750-1834.’

Diane Strange, PhD student, won the Midland History Prize for 2018, with ‘From Private Sin to Public Shame: Sir John Digby and the use of Star Chamber in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire, 1610’, now published in *Midland History*, 44:1 (2019), pp. 39-55.

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 up to £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

Prof Christopher Dyer (emeritus)

Articles in edited volumes and contributions to books

‘Households great and small: aristocratic styles of life across the social spectrum in England, 1200-1500’, in C.M. Woolgar (ed.), *The Elite Household in England, 1100-1550* (Donington, 2018), pp. 5-28.

‘Retailing in the medieval and early modern worlds’, in J. Stobart and V. Howard (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to the History of Retailing* (Abingdon, 2019), pp. 15-30.

‘Pourquoi les paysans anglais étaient-ils consommateurs (XIIIe – XVe siècles) ?’ in G. Ferrand and J. Petrowiste (eds.), *Le nécessaire et le superflu. Le paysan consommateur* (Toulouse : Journées d’histoire de l’abbaye de Flaran, 36, 2019), pp. 127-46

‘Courts and urbanisation: jurisdiction in late medieval seigneurial boroughs and towns’ in R. Goddard and T. Phipps (eds.), *Town Courts and Urban Society in Late Medieval England, 1250-1500* (Woodbridge, 2019), pp. 93-116.

Articles in journals

‘New towns in the middle ages: lessons from Bretford in Warwickshire’, in *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society*, 120 (2018), pp. 75-92.

‘The housing of peasant livestock in England, 1200-1520’, in *Agricultural History Review*, 67 (2019), pp. 29-50.

Book reviews

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.), *The Victoria County History of Gloucestershire XIII*, in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, 135 (2017), pp.341-4.

A.Kissane, *Civic Community in Late Medieval Lincoln* , in *Medieval Archaeology*, 62 (2018), pp. 204-5.

M. Jones, J. Barrow, D. Crook and T. Foulds (eds.), *The White Book of Southwell* , in *Midland History*, 43 (2018), pp. 251-2.

K. Stringer and A Winchester (eds.), *Northern England and Southern Scotland in the Central Middle Ages*, in *Medieval Settlement Research*, 33 (2018), p. 107.

D. Chamboduc de Saint Pulgent and M. Dejoux (eds.), *La Fabrique des Sociétés Médiévales Méditerranéennes*, in *Agricultural History Review*, 67 (2019), p. 148.

P. Foden, *Records of the Manor of Norton, 1244-1539*, in *Rural History*, 30 (2019), p.105.

J.Lee, *The Medieval Clothier*, in *Medieval Archaeology*, 63 pt 1 (2019), pp.225-6.

P. Skinner and T. Tyers (eds), *The Medieval and Early Modern Garden*, in *Medieval Archaeology*, 63 pt 1 (2019), pp.229-30.

Papers presented at seminars and conferences

‘Manorial documents of the middle ages: insights into manors, villages and everyday life’.

Manorial documents: past, present and into the future, The National Archives, Kew, Sept 2018

‘Peasants on the move. Migration in rural England, 1200-1540’, Department of Medieval History, University of St Andrews Oct 2018

‘People on the move in Chipping Campden and district’ Chipping Campden History Society, October 2018

‘Peasant sheep and the trade in wool in medieval England’, Surrey Archaeological Society , Guildford, November 2018

‘Funeral feasts’, Diet Group Oxford, November 2018

‘Pottage for freeborn Englishmen: medieval wages in money and kind’, The social and economic life of money, Joint meeting of Social History Society and Economic History Society , Institute of Historical Research, January 2019

‘Were medieval roads better than ours?’ Medieval Research Centre, Leicester, February 2019.

‘Small towns and rural landscapes in medieval England’, *Small Cities and Environment*, Castelo de Vide, Portugal., March 2019

Prof Andrew Hopper

Publications

Diane Strange and Andrew Hopper (eds), *The World Turned Upside Down* (Leicester, 2019), 24pp. exhibition brochure for National Civil War Centre.

Andrew Hopper, Jean Agnew and Emily Wilbur Alley (eds), *The Great Blow: Examinations and Informations relating to the Great Blow in Norwich, 1648* (Norfolk Record Society, 82, 2018).

Peter Edwards, *Horses and the Aristocratic Lifestyle in Early Modern England: William Cavendish, First Earl of Devonshire (1551-1626) and his Horses* (Woodbridge, Boydell, 2018), book review in *Midland History*, 44:1 (2019), pp. 112-113.

Presentations

‘Conflict, Welfare and Memory during and after the Civil Wars, 1642-1710’, Second AHRC Teachers’ Workshop, National Civil War Centre, 7 September 2019

‘The Politics of Military Welfare in Civil-War Yorkshire’, Restoration Conference, University of Bangor, 30 July 2019

‘The Human Costs of Civil War: The Experience of Oxfordshire’, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, 13 June 2019

‘The Politics of Military Welfare in Civil-War Yorkshire’, Institute of Historical Research Seminar, Kings College London, 2 May 2019

‘The Human Costs of the British Civil Wars’ Canterbury Christchurch University, 13 April 2019

‘Battle-Scarred: the Human Costs of the British Civil Wars’, Nantwich Museum, 15 February 2019

‘Conflict, Welfare and Memory during and after the Civil Wars, 1642-1710’, Early Modern Britain Seminar, Merton College Oxford, 17 January 2019

‘The Trial of Charles I Revisited’, St Mary’s School, Chesterfield, 12 December 2018

‘War Widows Stories and the British Civil Wars’, National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, 19 October 2018

TV Appearance

Britain’s Most Historic Towns: Civil War Oxford, April 2019

Prof Kevin Schürer

Publications

Reid, A.M., Jaadla, H., Garrett, E.M., Schürer, K., (2019). ‘Adapting the ‘own children method’ to allow comparison of fertility between populations with different marriage regimes’, *Population Studies Online Early*:DOI: 10.1080/00324728.2019.1630563

Schürer, K., Garrett, E.M, Jaadla, H.J, Reid, A.M., ‘Household and Family Structure in England and Wales (1851-1911): Continuities and Change’, *Continuity and Change*, 33 (2018), 365-411.

Schürer, K. and Day, J., ‘Migration to London and the Development of the North-South Divide, 1851-1911’, *Social History*, 44 (2019), 26-56.

Szreter, S. and Schürer, K., ‘Revealing the Hidden Affliction: how much infertility was due to venereal disease in England and Wales on the eve of the Great War?’, *in* Simon Szreter (ed.) *Hidden Affliction* (Rochester UP, 2019), chapter 12, 373-419.

Presentations

‘The discover and identification of Richard III’. Hilton Leicester Hotel for the Travel Editions Group Ltd, 10 August 2019.

‘The Footprint of History’. Dean’s discussion, Leicester Cathedral, 8 August, 2019.

‘Edmund of Langley and his Tomb’. Richard III Society, Leicester, 20 June, 2019.

‘Richard III by Numbers: the role of forensic statistics in his identification’. Royal Statistical Society North Eastern Group, Newcastle, 16 May 2019.

‘Richard III by numbers: how forensic statistics nailed the identity of the last Plantagenet’. Richard III Society, Leicester, 18 October, 2018.

‘Tales of a big data historian’. Plenary session to the Russian Association for History and Computing, Moscow, 27 October, 2018.

‘The Body of King Richard III’. London Month of the Dead, Brompton Cemetery, London, 14 October, 2018.

Prof Keith Snell (emeritus)

Publications

Churchyard Memorials, ‘Dispensing with God Gradually’: Rustication, Decline of the Gothic and the Emergence of Art Deco in the British Isles’, *Rural History*, 29:1 (2018), pp. 45-80 (with R. Jones). <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0956793318000031>

‘The role of magistrates and the 1834 transition from the old to the new poor law’, *Taflen Newyddion Ynadon Sir Drefaldwyn* (Autumn, 2018).

Dr Richard Jones

Presentations

23 November 2018 ‘Drowned ground: living by rivers in early medieval England’, *Troublesome Elements*, University of Leicester.

29 November 2018, ‘Washed Away? The preservation and loss of medieval water knowledge in early modern English field-names’, Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Languages, University of Aberystwyth.

16 January 2019, ‘Manuring the open fields of England’, Laxton Historical Society

13 April 2019, ‘Opening remarks’, *Understanding Fenland Landscape and Society: Past and Present*, Spalding Gentlemen’s Society.

28 April 2019, ‘Guide tour of Laxton and Southwell’, Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland Annual Conference, University of Nottingham.

3 July 2019, ‘Water Meadows in Early Medieval England: Toponymies, Topologies, Typologies’, International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds.

24 August 2019, ‘The virtuous cycle of return: soil husbandry in the open fields of England’, *Boundaries in/of Environmental History*, European Society for Environmental History Conference, University of Tallinn.

14 September 2019, ‘The early medieval history of Newark’, Friends of the Centre for English Local History Town Visit.

Publications

R. Jones, ‘Vers une compréhension du fumier et de la fumure médiévale: quelques enseignements d’Angleterre’, in M. Conesa and N. Poirier (eds), *Fumiers! Ordures! Gestion et Usage des Déchets dans les Campagnes de l’Occident Médiéval et Moderne*, Flaran 38 (Toulouse: Presse Universitaires du Midi), pp. 17-34.

Dr Ismini Pells

Publications

'Reassessing frontline medical practitioners of the British Civil Wars in the context of the seventeenth-century medical world', *The Historical Journal*, 62:2 (2019), pp. 399-425.

Presentations

'Cruel Necessity? The English Civil War' Panel at the Malvern Festival of Military History, Severn End Country Estate, Hanley Castle, Worcestershire, 6 October 2018.

'Adventure or adversity? Child soldiers, childhood experience and trauma during the British Civil Wars', Combat Stress and the Pre-Modern World Conference, Manchester Metropolitan University, 7 December 2018.

'Everyday soldiering, military welfare and the human costs of the English Civil Wars' The Prince's Trust Institute, New History Teachers' Day, Pimlico Academy, 8 December 2018.

'Children, violence and trauma in the English Civil Wars', National Civil War Centre, Newark, 19 January 2019.

'The Christian Centurion: Philip Skippon and the British Civil Wars', Nottingham Trent University History and Heritage Research Seminar, 13 March 2019.

'Petitioning soldiers, the power of the patient and the provision of military welfare in seventeenth-century England and Wales', Petitions and Petitioning from the Medieval Period to the Present: When and Why do Petitions Matter? Conference, Birkbeck College, University of London, 12 April 2019.

'Civil War Petitions - Stories of Maimed Soldiers, War Widows and the Human Cost of War', Battle of Worcester Society, The Commandery, Worcester, 25 June 2019.

'From revolutionary bulwark to Stuart loyalists: The Restoration refashioning of the London Artillery Company, 1660-88', Civil War, Memory and Authority Conference, Quaker Meeting House, Oxford, 4 July 2019.

'The soldier, the State and the competing ideals of Restoration military welfare', International Society for Eighteenth Century Studies Conference, University of Edinburgh, 19 July 2019.

'Broken and restored bodies: personal narratives of Civil War injuries in the context of Restoration public discourse', The Bangor Conference on the Restoration, Bangor University, 30 July 2019.

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'History in the Making': Ismini steward in the Pavilion at Lords, with England Captain Eoin Morgan carrying the trophy at the World Cricket Cup Final



'History in the Making'

Dr Angela Muir

Publication

'Midwifery and Maternity Care for Single Mothers in Eighteenth-Century Wales', *Social History of Medicine* (2018).

Presentations

'Midwifery and Maternity Care for Single Mothers in Eighteenth-Century Wales', University of Exeter's Sexual Knowledge seminar series, March 2019.

'Not just poor, thwarted lovers: reassessing the relationships of single parents in Wales, c. 1700-1800' ELH seminar, December 2018.

'Femicide in the Land of White Gloves: Fatal Violence Against Unmarried Pregnant Women in Eighteenth-Century Wales', New History Lab (the University of Leicester PGR seminar series)

‘Prostitution in eighteenth-century Wales’ conference on gender in modern Wales at Cardiff University, September 2019

Honorary Visiting Fellows

Dr Andrew Watkins

Publications

‘The Town of Lutterworth in the Later Middle Ages’, *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, xcii, 2018

The Early Records of Coleshill c1120-1549, Dugdale Society Main Record Series, 51, 2018

‘John Fenton: a sixteenth-century vicar of Coleshill’, *Midland History*, xlv, 2019 (with Kirsteen Harvey)

Review of *Court Rolls of Romsley 1279-1643*. Edited by Matthew Tompkins with an Introduction by Christopher Dyer. Worcestershire Historical Society, New Series, xxvii, 2017 in *Midland History*, xliii, 2018

Presentations

Coleshill Civic Society, May 2019: ‘The Early Records of Coleshill’

Dr Maureen Harris

Publications

Midland History, 43:2, pp.190-207 (Autumn 2018): ‘Weapons of the Strong’: reinforcing complaints against the clergy in post-Restoration Warwickshire’.

Feckenham Forester, 6 (2019), pp. 21-29, ‘To have and to hold’: married, or not, in the Feckenham Forest area, 1660-1720’.

Presentations:

21 May 2019: ‘The Civil War Loss Accounts Project’ for Warwickshire County Record Office Volunteers’ Training Day.

14 June 2019: ‘Linen and Woollen Lost by Violence’- Living through the English Civil Wars’.

17 Sept 2019: ‘The ‘Loss Accounts’ Project’ for the Tangent Club, Kenilworth

28 Sept 2019: 'Plunder, Plague and Poll Tax: Living with an English Civil Wars Project', Warwickshire County Record Office Friends' Forum.

Presentations for the HLF project: 'Living Through the English Civil Wars: uncovering personal experiences from the Warwickshire Parliamentarian 'Loss Accounts''

Dr Pam Fisher

Publications

P.J. Fisher, 'Catching the Bus in Ibstock', *Ibstock Community Voice*, April 2019, p. 18

P.J. Fisher, 'For the welfare of the miners', *Ibstock Community Voice*, May 2019, p. 13.

P.J. Fisher, review in *Leicestershire Historian* of John Bailie, Donington Park: 'The Pioneers – A Tribute to Those Who Created Britain's First Permanent Road Racing Surface... And to Those Who Saved It' (Silverfox Creative, 2018)

P.J. Fisher, review in *Leicestershire Historian* of Lynne Dyer, 'Loughborough in 50 Buildings' (Amberley Publishing, Stroud, 2018)

P.J. Fisher, review in *Leicestershire Historian* of Newbold Verdon & District and Desford and District History Groups, 'Not Forgotten: First World War Fallen Remembered in Four West Leicestershire Villages' (2018)

Presentation

July 2019, 'Leisure and Shopping in 17th-century Lutterworth', Lutterworth Methodist Church

Dr Kate Tiller

Appointed OBE for Services to Local History in the New Year's Honours 2019

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]

<https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/nYEgaV9dTHirDIItKVvS/full>

'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.

‘Local History and the First World War: the centenary experience’, *The Local Historian*, Vol. 49, No.2, pp.90-107

Dr Sylvia Pinches

Review

‘*Elizabeth Morgan Garddwraig ym Môn yn y ddeunawfed ganrif/ Eighteenth century Anglesey gardener* by Mary Gwynedd Jones, Welsh Historic Gardens Trust 2019’ *Transactions of the Anglesey antiquarian Society, 2019,*

Presentations

14 Nov. 2018 Ludlow Civic Society: 'Almshouses of Shropshire and Herefordshire'

13 March 2019 Welsh Highland Railway Society: 'Bassett-Lowke and 78 Derngate'

CONTACTS

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Chairman	Noel Tornbohm
Secretary/I.T. Coordinator	Andrew Wager
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Robert Mee
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Programme Secretary	Michael Gilbert
Committee Members:	Ann Schmidt
	Mandy de Belin
	Mary Bryceland
	John Parker
Centre's representative:	Kevin Schürer

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.