

Friends of the Department of English Local History

# NEWSLETTER

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UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

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## **COVER PHOTOGRAPH**

**Workers at the Yardley Tannery of George Muscott and Son Ltd in Amington Road, Yardley, Birmingham c. 1900. Women of all ages were employed in the spring stripping and stacking the bark which was used in the tanning process. Copyright Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery.**

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## EDITORIAL

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This year we are pleased to report that the number of Friends of the Department of English Local History has risen to new heights - there are now over 250 of us throughout the world. The Friends are important because it allows people who have met through the Department to maintain contacts and friendships, as well as giving the opportunity to enjoy the facilities of Marc Fitch House and benefit from seminars and lectures. More than this though, the Friends have now embarked on a programme to raise money for one or more W.G. Hoskins Studentships which will eventually help to ensure that our subject is carried on into the future and provide an academic foothold for an aspiring scholar. Through your generosity and through the great benevolence of an anonymous donor we are pleased to announce that we are already well on the way to raising enough money for a studentship.

Last year Friends joined in most of the Department's activities, many of which are reported in this edition of the Newsletter. Next year should be equally full and the dates of seminars, the W.G. Hoskins Lecture and the Friends' Outing are given elsewhere in the Newsletter. It is very good to have Friends!

We very much hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter which for the first time includes pictures. We have also introduced a new item which we have called Talking to Friends (page 25) which is to be an occasional series of discussions with Friends or other local historians whose work has made an important contribution to the subject. We were delighted when Dr Margaret Gelling, President of the English Place-name Society and Honorary Reader in English Place-name Studies in the Department of Medieval History at Birmingham University, agreed to launch the series for us.

We are very sad to have to record in this issue the death of Dr Marc Fitch, the eminent local historian, antiquary and benefactor of this Department; a tribute to him appears on page 13.

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## EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT

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### Departmental Seminar Programme 1993-94: Autumn Term

The system of charging customs on river transport has left particulars of boats, their masters and cargoes in books known as port books. In his paper 'The

Gloucester port books and internal trade 1576-1765' Dr Malcolm Wanklyn (University of Wolverhampton) was supported by Graham Milne as the expert on the computer analysis of the records. River ports such as Gloucester commanded surprisingly wide catchment areas for the sources of cargoes, which included a full range of goods, not just heavy goods. Dr Wanklyn confronted the question of how far the port books present a complete picture of river trade before estimating the contribution water transport made to the sum of internal trade of all sorts.

Less well-known than probate inventories as a source of agricultural information are probate accounts. The seminar on 'The administration of the estate of a Hampshire yeoman in the 1590s' by Dr Peter Edwards (Roehampton Institute) showed how the survival of the lengthy accounts of the estate of William Poor of Longstock, covering five years, has made it possible to reconstruct in detail the functioning of one mixed farm, and to show how the farm and the deceased's family fitted into the local economy.

Over ten years Mr Donald Hyslop (City Heritage, Southampton) was engaged in building up an archive of recorded interviews as part of a Bradford Heritage Unit project. Interviews with Asians were particularly concerned with first arrival in Bradford and with the community's recent experiences. Exhibitions were mounted by Mr Tim Booth (Bradford Museums) to publicise the activity. Their joint talk, 'Oral history with Britain's Asian communities: problems and possibilities', illustrated with slides and tape extracts, dealt with some of the practical difficulties and pitfalls met in the field. The first impressions of the city in the 1950s, when the cultural difficulties were made bearable by the ease of finding jobs, would probably be lost if not recorded in this way.

The excellent series of records of the Bishop of Durham's liberty of Allertonshire has enabled Dr Christine Newman (University of Durham) to study in minute detail the ancient borough town of Northallerton for a whole century earlier than is usually possible. Her paper on 'Aspects of the economy and society in North Yorkshire: a study of Allertonshire, c.1470-1540' presented the fascinating workings of a main-road market town of no more than six hundred inhabitants and explored the commercial and agricultural economy of the town and its area.

John Goodacre

### Spring Term

Familiar themes were reworked and presented in a challenging and exciting seminar entitled 'Understanding enclosure: architecture and landscape in pre-industrial England' presented by Dr Matthew Johnson (University of Durham). Dr Johnson's research

has focused on the Bury St Edmunds and Lavenham areas of Suffolk in the period between 1400 and 1700. He examined the relationship between enclosure of open fields and the changes which were taking place in domestic architecture in his study period and found several common themes. For example he saw that fields moved through phases from open to closed in the same way that domestic living space moved from open hall to smaller rooms. He discussed the cultural and social factors which caused these changes among which were changing social and gender relationships and (more speculatively) the ideology of Puritanism.

Dr Nick Higham (University of Manchester) offered some results of a re-examination of *De Excidio Britanniae* by Gildas. Noting the importance of the author's purpose in writing the work (to draw the attention of the present to the example of the past), he reminded us of the extensive Biblical imagery used and also offered a new interpretation of the Saxon conquest. Gildas sensationalizes and does not write 'history' in our terms, but some historical reconstruction can be made using his work. He discussed the traditional rendering of the Latin *postrema*, usually translated as 'final', though 'very last' would be better as we would then be free to deduce that Badon had not ended the war which Gildas writes about in chapter 22. Moreover, when that war did end, it was in victory for the Saxons leading to the reduction of the remaining British kingdoms to, at most, tributary status in a Saxon protectorate covering most of southern Britain, and dominated by a mysterious Saxon figure whom Gildas will do no more than call *Pater diabolus*. Not only this, but these events occurred much earlier than has previously been thought, Higham's second source, a Gallic Chronicle, suggesting 441 as the time by which 'Britanniae ... had been reduced'. These theories stimulated, informed and animated debate during the questions which followed.

It was good to welcome back to the Department Dr Rosamond Faith (Wolfson College, Oxford), whose seminar 'Other origins of the manor in England', reviewed both Stenton's and Aston's views of the topic. She re-evaluated descriptions of the pre-Conquest manor where they are found in Gloucestershire and Kent, focusing particularly on the meaning of the term 'inland' and the possibility that this land developed into the demesne of the classic manor. That inland was tax free is evidenced in geld documents; it varied in size and where it is found in the Danelaw areas, is scattered. Geld documents make it clear that it was unhidated. Those peasants living and working on the inland were unfree, described as *geburs* or *bordars* and appear to have had their tithes paid for them, because they were part of the lord's household. By contrast, land described as 'outland' appears to have been occupied and worked by those who were free. Dr Faith suggested that the role

of those working the inland was to meet the needs of the lord's household and perhaps to supply the table.

'The rough and the smooth; rural scenes in the later eighteenth century', was the title of the eagerly anticipated seminar delivered by Dr Michael Rosenthal (University of Warwick) who concentrated on Gainsborough and his contemporaries, showing different perspectives of rural life. He discussed images of woodland economy in art, where peasants were seen to be able to support themselves and compared this with the changes brought about by enclosure when agricultural workers became wage labourers. Dr Rosenthal also compared some paintings with earlier works in a classical and arcadian vein, such as those by Claude Lorrain, from which eighteenth-century painters may have drawn inspiration. The concept of leisure was thoroughly debated in the discussion and images of 'leisure' and 'idleness' in painting were debated.

In her seminar, 'Writ in brass: drink tokens, material culture and backstreet enterprise in Victorian Britain' Mrs Yolanda Courtney (Keeper of Social History, Leicestershire Museums) showed the potential for nineteenth-century object studies of the brass tokens, called 'checks' by contemporaries (a word which means 'receipts' for goods or services) used in pubs from c.1830 to c.1920. Pub tokens are poorly served by documents, but represent a classic case of a group of objects that are still amenable to study because, unlike most similarly undocumented items, they bear their own clues - place-names and the names of pubs and landlords. They can thus be attributed to specific establishments and dated by landlord use of directories and licensing records, and their spatial distributions can be plotted and examined. Detailed work looking at the distributions of products of individual makers shows that trading networks survived into the age of mass-production. Quantitative examination of pub checks relative to population distribution shows the importance of the production centres of the checks, and joins the distributional evidence in suggesting that the phenomenon of British public house tokens was production-led, created by Birmingham-based diesinkers and salesmen.

Dr James Campbell (Worcester College, Oxford) treated us to a fascinating and unusual seminar on 'Some questions on the early history of East Anglia'. The history of East Anglia is obviously close to his heart, as he spoke warmly of his boyhood on the Norfolk coast. His subject was essentially the medieval herring fishing industry, but he also found time to discuss the foundation and endowment of Norwich cathedral, and to muse on the spectacle of Henry III's polar bear swimming in the Thames. Discussion concentrated mainly on the issue of what herring fishermen did for the other ten months of the year (the

Norfolk coastal waters contained an abundance of herring only during the spawning season): the consensus was that they dug peat and made salt in preparation for processing the annual catch. Questioners were also diverted by local place-names, the effect of Danelaw, the relative locations of Summerton and Winterton, and the differences between *liberi homini* and sokemen.

We were delighted that Professor Robert Malcolmson (Queen's University, Kingston, Canada) chose to deliver his paper intriguingly titled 'Pigs and people' at an unusual summer seminar in the Department; it was both exhilarating and amusing. 'Loathsome but necessary' is how pigs have been described and Professor Malcolmson outlined the place of pigs in farming and domestic economies until the present century, tracing both the evolution of the pig as we know it today, and the reason for its popularity as a food source. Pigs were traditionally related to woodland, being indiscriminating scavengers, fattening on food which other animals would avoid. In such circumstances, running loose in unrestricted conditions, breeding was uncontrolled. The limited area each herd of pigs inhabited produced distinct regional breeds. Changes from early breeds began in the eighteenth century, so that by the second half of the nineteenth century fixed breeds had developed. For the working-class family pigs provided a valuable source of nourishment providing dung, food and income, and was one of the few avenues open to the labourer to acquire capital. Professor Malcolmson also noted the importance of pig clubs in rural life.

### The Medieval Settlement Research Group's Conference on Seasonal Settlement

This conference was held in Marc Fitch House on the afternoon of Saturday December 4th, following the Medieval Settlement Research Group's A.G.M. in the morning. The first paper was given by Peter Herring, of the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, who took transhumance in medieval Cornwall as his theme. He proposed that transhumance led to the fracturing of communities and/or families (so dividing friends, kin and lovers) and was therefore something that was not undertaken lightly. It was argued that transhumance had taken place on Bodmin Moor in the pre-Conquest period and perhaps in Roman and prehistoric times too. The distances between the seasonal and permanent settlements were small: a maximum of ten miles was conjectured. The place-name evidence of *havos* and *hendre* was reviewed along with the archaeological material. Small sub-rectangular buildings, suitable for one or two people, were thought to be characteristic of transhumance settlements. These buildings formed loose groups and sometimes stood alongside stock pens. It was argued that transhumance had two functions. First,

it took livestock away from the unenclosed open fields when crops were standing unprotected and, secondly, it ensured that all resources, including upland grass, were fully utilised. Herring concluded with an examination of the social structures which organised the process by managing the landscape, determining stocking limits and ensuring that each of the eastern hundreds of Cornwall retained some land both on the Moor and on the coast. It was argued that there were various levels of society involved, the household, the hamlet and the hundred being the most important.

Christopher Dyer, of the School of History, University of Birmingham, examined seigneurial sheepcotes in the Cotswolds. These structures, used by both people and animals, are a frequently found form of dispersed settlement in what is, in the main, a region where nucleation predominates. These buildings were 'cigar shaped' and exceeded forty metres in length. Examples are known from DMV sites where they post-date the village and when excavated provide thirteenth- and fourteenth-century material. It appears from documentary sources that sheep were housed in these *bercaria* from mid-November to Easter and that the number of sheep in each cote might have been as high as three hundred. Shepherds lived with their flocks, perhaps in the lofts above the cotes. The cotes stood amidst the upland pastures, whereas the principal settlements, the churches and the arable fields occupied the valley bottoms and sides. The sheepcotes were presented as winter shelters in these areas; pens and paddocks here suggest the use of the upland in summer too. Hence there must have been complex movements of sheep, shepherds and stores from place to place in the Cotswold pastures.

Mary Higham, very kindly standing in at short notice, reconsidered the *-aergi* names of the North West and was concerned to determine whether or not they were sheilings. The place-name element probably had a Norse origin, but is likely to have been introduced from Ireland. Many of the names are found on what are, in local terms, good soils and are usually below 200 feet. It was argued that these places were established before the Norse settlement and that names indicate 'take-over' rather than origin. The notion of diurnal movement was introduced with the idea that plough-beasts were moved daily; movement out to pasture lands took place when the arable was under cultivation, the cattle returning at night.

Harold Fox spoke on the fishing settlements of Devon. He took a retrospective approach and began with an examination of fully-fledged fishing settlements as described in trade directories. Many of the settlements were not parish or manorial centres nor did they have 'old' names; it was proposed that they originated as permanently settled sites in the fifteenth or

sixteenth centuries and had humble origins as seasonally used collections of huts on the beach. These coastal, seasonal sites had a characteristic morphology and nature; they seem to have been used for the storage of fishing equipment belonging to inland communities. In the fourteenth century the shore was being exploited for sand, sea birds, fish and shell-fish, yet there was no regular settlement there. Gradually these sites became permanently occupied, transition taking place at a range of dates from the late fifteenth century to the late sixteenth. Various reasons for this change were proposed, including climatic alteration, changes in fishing technology, an increased demand for fish and growing population leading to a more sophisticated division of labour.

Among matters raised in the general discussion following the papers were issues of the definition of transhumance, the archaeological evidence for it and the sexual division of labour which was sometimes involved. The term 'transhumance' often conjures up images of European (especially Alpine) movements of communities and animals over great distances and altitudes. Does distance, therefore, define transhumance? Some members of the audience argued that it does not; that what is diagnostic is the removal of some members of a community, along with some animals to a new summer site, so that the relative proximity of parent and daughter settlements, as in some of Peter Herring's examples, does not rule out use of the term. Does the nature of occupation define transhumance? Almost certainly it does, so that diurnal (or even nocturnal) movement to the *-aergi* settlements discussed by Mary Higham, or to Harold Fox's coastal settlements in their uninhabited phase cannot strictly be classified as transhumance. Clearly, then, some distinction needs to be made between seasonally *used* settlements on the one hand and, on the other, seasonally *inhabited* settlements.

As for evidence, place-names seem almost certainly to point to transhumance in parts of England at an early period, while for some regions of Great Britain there is excellent documentary and anecdotal evidence for survival of the practice into the nineteenth century. The archaeological evidence is more problematic and members of the audience rightly raised the question: what assemblages of artifacts can be taken to define a seasonally used site? Finally, the personnel involved in transhumance aroused much interest in the discussion. In the case of Christopher Dyer's shepherds guarding their (sometimes remote) sheepcotes, transhumance was in the male domain, but Peter Herring liked to think that his seasonally used settlements on Bodmin Moor were looked after by young milkmaids, as evidenced in other parts of Britain in the nineteenth century. The question needs more research, and will probably be resolved by

the suggestion that the composition of the personnel involved in these movements varied according to the types of animal which were being moved to the seasonal settlement.

Jon Kissock and Harold Fox

### The Fifth W.G. Hoskins Lecture

The fifth W.G. Hoskins lecture, 'W.G. Hoskins and the Great Rebuilding of England', was delivered by Dr Malcolm Airs, whose credentials were most fitting for the occasion as he confessed to having been 'profoundly influenced' by Hoskins, his supervisor at Oxford. The lecture provided a discussion of the ideas and concepts first introduced by Hoskins in his 1953 *Past and Present* article, 'The rebuilding of rural England, 1570-1640'. Dr Airs argued that this article had a seminal influence on research into vernacular buildings, coming at a time when such work, and local history more generally, was far from being a respectable discipline. Hoskins maintained that for the period between the reign of Elizabeth I and the outbreak of the Civil War - and more particularly between 1575 and 1625 - abundant and inescapable evidence of modernisation, rebuilding and increased furnishings and household equipment pointed to a revolution in civil building. Rising food prices were of particular benefit to freeholders, who began investing their new reserves of money in building work and furnishings. Greater privacy and comfort also resulted in falling mortality; but continued rebuilding, stimulated by the population expansion, in turn brought about congestion and a consequent rise in mortality levels.

Dr Airs praised the article by Hoskins for the characteristic breadth of analysis which it displayed in forming a national theory against which regional studies could be tested. Hoskins hoped that the article would stimulate documentary research and encourage fieldwork which would make sense of the documents (as he did himself when attempting to place houses in a human and social framework in *Fieldwork in Local History*). Dr Airs surveyed much that has been written in contribution to the debate on 'the great rebuilding' and maintained that while the chronology of changes unearthed by local studies has become much more complex, the basic hypothesis remains generally intact. It is, for example, possible to maintain that the distinction between early, timber, undated buildings and later, stone, dated buildings corresponds generally with a lowland/upland divide. He also argued that the message of the original paper had often been distorted: Hoskins emphasised that the universal adoption of the closed chimney stack and the abolition of the great hall were significant changes behind a shift from medieval to modern living styles; his emphasis was not on the



number of houses, but on their form and the manner of living inside them.

The idea of the old accommodating the new was evidenced by the insertion of new brick chimneys into existing buildings. The enclosed fireplace had been common for the nobility from at least the fourteenth century; the availability of brick in small units for transport and the ease with which it could be inserted liberated the typical farmhouse from the pattern imposed by the open hearth and also provided a symbolic means of displaying status. The changes in domestic arrangement and the new opportunities they gave were amply illustrated; for example decorative staircases and towers, sequences of interconnecting rooms, separate kitchen areas, individual furnishings, wall paintings, panelling, plaster ceilings and glazed windows. The distinctiveness of local architecture was similarly illustrated; the lowlands were characterised by the typical house design of a child's imagination, that of the central lobby and central chimney stack (four chimneys back-to-back) with staircase behind. By contrast, the upland region was more conservative, retaining the through-passage while the hall, containing the staircase, also remained dominant here since it permitted access upstairs to be monitored. These two types merged in the symmetrical house in which the chimneys were associated with the entrance and Dr Airs argued that the triumph of symmetry heralded the end of the vernacular.

Following some stimulating questions and further debate, attention was turned to events at Marc Fitch House and the now famous tea and book sale.

**Kate Parkin**

### **Research Students' Workshops**

This academic year there were two research students' workshops in Marc Fitch House, presenting an opportunity for students to support and learn from one another. At the first, in October, students were pleased to welcome Nick Corcos as guest speaker to bring those present up to date on Bristol University's Shapwick project. The project covers methodology, geology, documentation and the dating of medieval buildings. Four of the six postgraduate students gave up-dates on their current research. Julie Dexter revealed a fascinating seventeenth-century byway of a study of primitive methodism and the woollen industry in the Somerset Coalfield. Graham Jones sent a tape from Dubai, giving more information on his search for St Helen and his discoveries to date concerning the measurement of the Domesday hundred and the meaning of the term 'plough'. Jem Harrison told an inspiring tale of how local history can enrich the lives of his students and then gave an account of his research into the manor of Brent. Terry Finnemore discussed boundaries with some

wonderful slides. The two remaining postgraduates did not mention 'work in progress'. Robert Peberdy talked about 'a good read' and what features make a readable history book. He lamented the waning of the tradition of writing history for the general reader and gave the group some recommended reading. Jenny Bhatt discussed the problems of combining comment and original comment - a subject which provoked much discussion.

The second of the year's workshops was held in April when the organiser, Jenny Bhatt was unfortunately prevented from attending by snowdrifts in Cumbria while Graham Jones's tape from Dubai could not be heard because the recorder was not available; however his paper was distributed and it is hoped that he will be present in the flesh for next year's workshop. Three other engrossing papers were presented. Teresa Hall gave an account of her work on the identification of the minster churches of Dorset. She described her methodology - a weighted point-scoring system based on symptomatic indicators such as early documentary or literary references, topographical settings and place-name evidence and fiscal status. Jem Harrison shared his puzzlement over whether the composite manor of Brent in Somerset operated a two or three field system. He provided some impressive crop rotation and acreage schedules. The morning session was brought to a close with a critique of the supposed influence of Methodism in the nineteenth-century Somerset coalfield by Julie Dexter. She discussed the charismatic 'singing ragman', an itinerant preacher who preceded Wesley into the region and elaborated on the role and influence of Wesley on the attitudes and way of life of the coalfield. Jenny Bhatt and Mike Thompson

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### **FRIENDS EVENTS**

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#### **Friends Outing to the Chiltern Open Air Museum**

Affirming to an exuberant Harold Fox that I would be swelling the expected high turnout of Friends for the trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum, I was a little mystified afterwards as to how I had agreed to be both chauffeur and reporter. No matter, the day dawned, the sun shone, but at Marc Fitch House things were a little glum. Numbers had dwindled. Might we be the only Friends to make the trip? The route from Leicester to Chalfont, chosen to avoid motorways led through wolds and woodland pasture, from one medieval new town foundation to another. Reaching the area of our destination with little problem, the haphazard nature of routeways in an area of ancient woodland delayed us somewhat. A local youth from whom advice was

sought, thought carefully, spat his chewing gum into the gutter and confidently sent us in the wrong direction.

Eventually only slightly late, we were greeted by our guide co-director of the project Miriam Moir. Miriam and her husband James, both ex-students of the Department have overseen the development of the Chiltern Open Air Museum at Newland Park, Chalfont St Giles, since its inception. The buildings are displayed so as to form integrated groups within the landscapethough only the prefabricated cast-iron Caversham public convenience, made in Glasgow in 1907, was still in use for its original purpose. The decision to fill the Victorian farm with livestock was a

brave one! The museum features buildings which while not necessarily grand, are redolent of the social origins. A Victorian sports pavilion, the Vicarage Room from Thame, used for meetings of the Church of England Temperance Society, a little corrugated iron chapel, or an eighteenth-century farm worker's cottage converted from a barn, all have their story to tell.

The museum's time span covers thousands of years, from the 1947 pre-fab to the reproduction iron age dwelling, which it transpired was the coolest building in summer and the warmest in winter. The Moirs do not restrict their activities to buildings; the open field farming project is soon to be cultivated by horse power alone and the couple can even turn their hand to making wonderful cakes. It was a great day despite the disappointing attendance.

Vernon Davis

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## DIARY DATES FOR FRIENDS

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### Sixth W.G. Hoskins Lecture, May 20th 1995

The sixth W.G. Hoskins Lecture sponsored by the Friends will be given on May 20th by Gordon Forster, doyen among northern historians and founder of *Northern History*, on the subject of 'The Crown and the people of the provinces under the Tudors and Stuarts'. This will be a highly entertaining and popular lecture, so please note the date in your diary now. All Friends will receive a reminder in the Spring.

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**FRIENDS OUTING 1995**

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**COME TO GLORIOUS GLOUCESTER !**

Reserve the date in your diary now!

On 17th June 1995 all Friends are invited to Gloucester - it is an easy journey from anywhere in the country by car or rail.

The programme will be as follows:

11.00 Meet at the Record Office. After coffee there will be a conducted tour, taking you behind the scenes to show how the archives are obtained, recorded, indexed, conserved and produced for all.

1.00 Lunch - by special arrangement - at the National Waterways Museum, when it is hoped the curator will join us to explain the objectives of this collection.

2.15 Visit to the marvellous Cathedral for a guided tour to see both the wonders of the buildings and to admire the interesting memorials.

3.45 Visit to the National Waterways Museum.

5.00 Tour of the Docks.

6.00 Refreshments before departure at Doctor Foster's.

**This outing is extraordinarily good value at only £10. Transport details will be sent to all Friends in the Spring.**

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## FUTURE EVENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT

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### Seminar Programme 1994-5

If you would like to come to any of the following seminars, you will be very welcome. They are held in the Seminar Room at Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road. *We regret that it is essential that you notify the Departmental Secretary (Mrs Pauline Whitmore, (0116-2522762) the day before as there may be limits on the number of spaces available. It is hoped that it will not be necessary to turn away visitors who have not telephoned.* All seminars start at 2.15 and end by 4.00 p.m. (approx), followed by tea.

#### TERM I

Thursday 13th October

**Dr Andy Wood** (University of Liverpool), 'The place of custom in plebeian political culture 1550-1750'.

Thursday 10th November

**Dr Phillipp R. Schofield** (Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine), 'Tenurial developments and the availability of customary land in a later medieval community'.

Thursday 24th November

**Mr P.C.D. Brears** (Director of Leeds Museum, Retired), 'Folk art and food: cultural aspects of everyday life'.

Thursday 1st December

**Dr Nigel Llewellyn** (University of Sussex), 'Funeral monuments in the visual culture of post-reformation England'.

Thursday 15th December

**Dr D.P. Kirby** (University College of Wales, Aberystwyth), 'The genesis of a cult: Cuthbert of Farne and ecclesiastical politics in Northumbria in the late 7th and early 8th centuries'.

#### TERM II

Thursday 19th January

**Dr Alan Thacker** (Victoria History of Cheshire), 'The fluctuations and the changing political implications of the cult of St Werburg up to the 12th century. (Interim title.)

Thursday 2nd February

**Dr Simon Miller** (Centre for Rural Research and Policy, University of Manchester), 'Rural idealization and the paradox in English culture: images of land and labour, 1920-1990'.

Thursday 16th February

**Dr R.W. Bushaway** (University of Birmingham), 'Private grief and public mourning: British society and remembrance during and after the Great War'.

Thursday 9th March

**Dr Howard B. Clarke** (University College, Dublin), 'The Topographical development of medieval Dublin'.

Thursday 16th March

**Ms Jean Birrell** (University of Birmingham), 'Deer hunting and the medieval forest'.

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## FUNDED RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT

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### Cultural Regions and Religious 'Pluralism' in England and Wales, 1676-1851

One major project under way in the Department of English Local History is an analysis of the 1851 Census of Religious Worship in England and Wales, and this project has recently been awarded a very large three-year grant from the Economic and Social Research Council. We are most fortunate in having been able to appoint Alasdair Crockett as E.S.R.C. Research Associate, and he joined the Department from September 1994. There is space here for a brief account of this work, which has been underway in the Department for over six years now. Indeed, when one considers earlier pioneering work by Alan Everitt, one could say that the project builds on a long tradition of departmental interest in this subject. Among many questions, we are asking why religious denominations became established in some areas but not in others; we are relating patterns of religion to their social and economic contexts; and in addition we are making further analysis of earlier religious patterns as found in sources such as the 1676 Compton Census, the 1715, 1772 and 1829 religious returns, and selected visitation returns, to explore changes in religion over time.

The primary aims of this work are to analyse in full detail the local and regional contexts of religious geography, looking at denominational spread in relation to very many social and economic variables, to develop understanding of the boundaries and persistence of cultural regions, and to provide a strong historical input into academic questions that have long been asked in the anthropology, geography and sociology of religion. For example we are most interested in the causes of a change to a more secular-minded society, and it seems likely that the very detailed and numerous socio-economic variables that have now been created will go a long way to uncover much of interest in this connection, when they are related statistically to local patterns of church and chapel attendance in 1851.

The research has been producing huge computerised datasets, and computerised maps, of religious and related patterns. All the 1851 registration-district data for England and Wales has been computerised by Paul Ell, comprising an important part of the project. Building on this work, with Paul Ell and Keith Snell assisted by at least seven other scholars, we have now reached the stage at which the data for many counties encompass just under two thousand religious and socio-economic computerised variables for every parish. This is the most

comprehensive work of this sort ever undertaken in the British Isles. Indeed, with over seven million data entries for the parish-level variables alone, it probably represents the largest body of computerised historical data in the United Kingdom for the nineteenth century, or perhaps any period. The research should contribute significantly to a very large range of historical questions, to the ways in which we (as a nation, and as people from different regions) conceive of our cultural identities, and to many modern questions concerned with regional, cultural and political activity.

Some of the religious geographies that have been emerging can be mentioned. It is becoming clear for example just how southern and midland-based the Church of England has been - indeed, its strength in 1851 is similar in many ways to the modern geographical strength of the Conservative Party, as indicated in modern political maps of electoral success. To the north and west of the Anglican-dominated areas, there lay the heartland of 'new dissent', most notably the Methodists. The Wesleyan Methodists and Primitive Methodists had their greatest presence in areas like the north midlands and the north-east, the Bible Christians in the south-west, and the Calvinistic Methodists in Wales, a country that emerges very distinctively in religious terms. The Roman Catholics in 1851 were strongest in regions of heavy Irish immigration - this was shortly after 'the great famine' in Ireland, which led many Irish people to settle in England and Wales. Areas of old dissenting strength (e.g. the Baptists, Independents, Quakers, and Presbyterians) overlapped to a greater degree with the Church of England: concentrated in southern and south midland regions, such as Leicestershire. Leicester, indeed, was termed 'the Metropolis of Dissent' in the nineteenth century, such was the presence of dissenting religion in the city and county. Perhaps this makes the Department of English Local History all the more suitable as a place in which to research these issues.

K.D.M. Snell

### Map Room database

Funding has now been confirmed for the proposal, outlined in last year's Newsletter, to put the departmental collections onto a database catalogue, to be available through JANET. Funding has been given jointly by the British Academy, the University, the Faculty and the Department and Bruce McGarva (see Staff Changes) has been appointed to undertake the work.

Much of the ground work of re-cataloguing the Map Room's books, pamphlets and maps in preparation for the database has been completed. Work has also begun on preparing the archive for inclusion on the database and the Hoskins and Steer collections have been sorted,

re-boxed and catalogued in preparation. The Attenborough collection of slides has been re-sleeved in acid-free envelopes and they have also been re-catalogued in preparation. Once the database has been established it will mean that an entire catalogue of our collection of maps, books, pamphlets, slides, prints and engravings at Marc Fitch House will be available to local historians, societies and students all over the world.

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## STAFF CHANGES

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### Bruce McGarva

Bruce McGarva joined the Department in February, funded initially through a government training scheme to help in the map room and archive. Much of his work has been devoted to re-cataloguing and accessioning maps and books in preparation for the map room database.

Bruce's previous experience was as catalogue assistant in the geography department at Manchester University, working solely with maps. He graduated in Humanities as a mature student from Bolton Institute of Higher Education, specialising in Philosophy and European Literature. His leisure activities include literature, theatre, travel and film and he appeared in several student productions. Poetry is a particular enthusiasm and some of his own work has been published in various anthologies; he also has an extensive knowledge of popular music and radio and a formidable memory of music and drama from the sixties and seventies.

### Sam Riches

It seems hardly possible that a whole year has passed since I cautiously stepped into Marc Fitch House for the first time. I was then employed as an assistant psychologist by the NHS in Birmingham, and the House seemed like a haven of academic endeavour far removed from the high-pressure world of public responsibility versus free-market economics. How wrong I was! On closer inspection, there proved to be a similar power struggle ensuing here, between the forces of administrative demands and the drive to do real research, and I soon realised why my job had been created. Despite the changing status of both the health service and higher education, I know where I would prefer to be, and I was very lucky to be able to join this friendly Department.

In itself the job (part-time research assistant to Charles Phythian-Adams, working on the Midlands regional chapter for the medieval volume of the projected *Cambridge Urban History of Great Britain*)

has extended my horizons. Given my almost total lack of knowledge about urban history (and medieval boroughs in particular), so painfully obvious at my interview, I have certainly learnt a lot this year. I particularly enjoyed researching the late Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, which were completely new to me, and I now know more about the contents of Domesday Book than any sensible person would wish. I hope that Charles will be able to make sense of it all! If he does get into trouble with my hieroglyphics I won't be too far away: in October I shall be starting a PhD with the Art History Department.

I would like to thank Charles for being the ideal boss: tactful, understanding and very trusting ... a complete change from my last job where I had to account for every minute of my day. Mike Thompson is due an even greater measure of gratitude: he has cheerfully shared his computing facilities with me, helped me with problems that have arisen and been a tolerant room-mate, especially given the fact that I shouldn't even have been in his office. No doubt I shall be back for seminars over the next three years, and I look forward to maintaining contact with my many friends in the Department. I have been very lucky to have such an easy *entrée* back into academia after several years out in the 'real' world of motherhood and 'proper' jobs, and I feel that my time here has confirmed my interest in pursuing an academic career.

### Alasdair Crockett

Alasdair Crockett joined the Department in September as Research Associate working with Keith Snell on the Geography of Religious Pluralism project (see Funded Research in the Department). Alasdair has moved over from Leicester University's Geography Department where he worked as a research associate on an E.C. project investigating farm diversification in the lagging regions of Europe. Alasdair hopes to contribute to the Department's strength in data analysis and expects to be teaching part of the quantitative methods and computing for local historians options on the MA course.

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## MARC FITCH HOUSE AND ITS FACILITIES

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### Gifts to the Department

As usual you have been very generous and we are very grateful indeed to all of the following who have helped in building up departmental resources. Further gifts are always very welcome. Please contact Harold Fox (Marc Fitch Fund Library) and Rosie Keep (Map



Room and Archives). We therefore give warm thanks to: David Aldred, James Brown, Paul Courtney, Pete Edwards, Gordon Forster, Harold Fox, Graham Gibberd, Cyril Hart, Trevor and Margaret Hill, John Hurst, Peter Kennedy, Jackie King, A.A.L. Pearce, Charles Phythian-Adams, Geoffrey Martin, Henry Reed, Tom Shearer, June Sheppard, Derek Shorthouse, Roy Stephens, Margery Tranter, Professor Chris Wrigley and Eleanor Vollans.

In addition to these gifts from private individuals, the Duchy of Cornwall Office has made a substantial donation of books (through the archivist Miss Elizabeth Stewart and the Secretary and Keeper of the Records, J.N.C. James). These books, discovered to exist in duplicate at the Duchy, include the *Statutes at Large*, a long run of the *Journals of the House of Commons* and a run, beginning in the eighteenth century, of the printed *General Acts of Parliament*.

### Joan Anderson and Ken Smith

With so much more to do in the Department, volunteers are always welcome at Marc Fitch House. This year we have been extremely grateful for the help that Dr Joan Anderson has been able to give us in the archive where she has directed and encouraged the work of sorting, cataloguing and correctly storing the Hoskins and Steer archives. Joan began her work as an archivist in Bedfordshire Record Office and later became the archivist in charge of the Methodist Missionary Society in London. She later became a teacher, developing her love of history; though officially retired she now lectures on aspects of the history of English childhood and pursues her research into a Bedfordshire gentry family - the Gibbards of Sharnbrook.

Ken Smith continues his sterling work in the Department where he has been assisting Charles Phythian-Adams in his research on Cornish folk tales, some of which was presented at the Department's display at the university open day in the Spring. Additionally he has been assisting in the Marc Fitch Fund Library where his work has been greatly appreciated.

### Library Openings on Saturdays

The Marc Fitch Fund Library will be open on the following Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.: 29 October, 3 December, 11 March, 27 May. The Library will also be open on the following two Thursday evenings between 5.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.: 4 May, 11 May.

### News from the Map Room

This has been an extraordinarily busy year in the Map Room thanks in large part to the hard work of

Bruce McGarva (see Staff Changes) who joined the Map Room team in February. Much of the work of re-cataloguing the books, pamphlets and maps in preparation for putting the catalogue onto a database has now been completed. Most of the maps which formed part of the Fitch collection have been accessioned, adding new maps to the Map Room; should any Friends like to see the list of new accessions, it is displayed in Map Room 1. In order to house our extended map collection we expect to have a new secure cabinet built this year which will both improve security and make the rare maps easier to use.

Bruce has also been busy in the Archive and under the tutelage of Dr Joan Anderson (see Marc Fitch House and its Facilities) he has begun to sort, catalogue and re-box the Hoskins and Steer collections. In addition he has started to re-sleeve the Attenborough collection of slides in acid-free envelopes and re-catalogue them in preparation for the database.

Much of the ground work for establishing the database will have been done by the end of the year and we hope that inputting will begin before too long. It is envisaged that the database will be available through JANET so that students and Friends as well as local history groups will be able to access our catalogue from all over the country.

Rosie Keep

### Bibliography of Local History at Leicester

In the last *Newsletter* mention was made of the proposal to publish an extended edition of *Local History at Leicester 1948-1978* as a contribution towards the Department's 50th anniversary celebrations in 1998. We would like the bibliography to be as complete as possible but, because of the large numbers of students who have passed through the Department since 1978, it is not possible for the compilers to undertake a search for the publications of past students. We ask, therefore, that all ex-students send bibliographical details of their publications to Margery Tranter or Rosie Keep at Marc Fitch House. It is important that title, name of periodical with volume number and date, place of publication, year and page numbers are given. We also need a brief abstract (say 150 words) indicating the subject in order that each entry may be correctly classified. If you are in contact with past members of the Department who are not Friends we would be grateful if you would encourage them to get in touch with us.

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**MARC FITCH**

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Dr Marc Fitch with the Duke of Norfolk and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester at the opening of Marc Fitch House on 11th April, 1989

Marc Fitch died on April 2nd at the age of 86. He was born on 5th January 1908 and christened Marcus Felix Brundenell Fitch. He was educated at Repton School whence he was sent to Vienna and Geneva to become proficient in languages and gain other skills deemed to be necessary for the part which he was to play in his family business, Fitch and Son. During the war he was on active service, chiefly in the North African campaigns. After the war he increasingly devoted his time to his historical interests, to editorial work, to travel and to the fund which bears his name. He leaves a widow and the children of his first marriage.

Marc Fitch established the Marc Fitch Fund in 1956 and when its operations were still quite small it took the bold step of establishing a research fellowship in the history of surnames at the Department of English Local History. That step, in 1965, would not have been taken without a fruitful marriage of minds between William Hoskins, already interested in the social history of names, Sir Anthony Wagner, Garter King of Arms, and Fitch himself who was tracing his own family name back to a Richard Fitch in Essex in the late fifteenth century. There followed an important series of publications in the English Surname Series, edited from the Department and latterly published by the Leopard's Head Press (which is associated with the Fund). Then, in the late '80s, came the Fund's loan to the Department of a substantial library containing many of the books which Fitch himself had collected in connection with his interests in Essex topography, family history and the history of London (especially its livery companies) as well as the formidable collection of F.W. Steer, once county archivist of East and West Sussex. The loan

meant that the two houses in Salisbury Road had to be converted to accommodate the books and it was at this point that the Fund and Marc Fitch personally made generous gifts in various forms, to ensure that what was named Marc Fitch House (the suggestion was not his) would become a fitting place for the academic study of local history. The Fund continues to finance the English Surnames Survey and helps to maintain the library.

Since 1965 Marc was a frequent visitor to the Department, fitting his visitations into a busy schedule of professional and personal duties which had to be crammed into the precious little time which tax officials allowed him to spend in England. He was always deeply interested in the work of everybody in the Department, enquiring minutely about everything, especially the progress of the Surnames Survey. He wanted to *know* what you were doing; behind his questions was a deep fascination with the conduct of scholarship and with academic life, stemming partly from his own lack of a university degree (apart from the honorary one given him by Leicester). He liked to be among experts, generally hiding the fact that he was an expert himself in many fields. When he was here he talked about diverse aspects of Local History and it was difficult to imagine that his was a man who, through the Fund and through his own personal generosity - the full details of which will probably never be known - had set up numerous other projects: for example the Stratigraphical Museum at Knossos, the materials laboratory at the British School at Athens and the annual medal awarded by the Institute of Bibliography and Textual Criticism in the University of Leeds.

Memories of three other qualities will abide. First, Marc was a business-like man: he liked to get things done. The results of this are all around us, though one used to shudder slightly at the sight of a letter from him in the pigeon-hole, for he was not adverse to reminding his correspondents that a previous letter had gone unanswered. Second, he believed in the *art* of conversation; he liked to set up a topic and see it through; when he contributed, his was the conversation of a man knowledgeable over a whole range of topics - history of course, fine art and travel to mention two more. In conversation, though, he rarely allowed himself to touch on topics or tell anecdotes which revealed the true extent of his wealth and connections. Finally, Marc had a gift for making friends. It was here that his sense of humour, sometimes slightly teasing, came to the fore - so that a final memory must be of him inspecting the books in the long gallery of the Topography Room on his last visitation (in the autumn of 1993), surrounded by his friends here and chuckling with delight at some small joke as he turned the corner towards the bust of Marcus Aurelius, and passed out of sight.

Harold Fox



## DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS 1993

### J. Bennett

*The Wildlife Garden* (David and Charles, Newton Abbot, 1993) 139pp.

### H.S.A. Fox

Review of L. Abrams and J. Carley, eds, *The Archaeology and History of Glastonbury Abbey: Essays in Honour of the Ninetieth Birthday of C.A. Raleigh Radford*, in *Early Medieval Europe* 2 (1993), pp. 75-6.

Review of K. Barker and R. Kain, eds, *Maps and History in South-West England*, in *Agricultural History Review* 41, (1993), pp. 196-7.

Review of P.L. Everson, C.C. Taylor and C.J. Dunn, *Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire*, in *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 28 (1993), pp. 77-8.

### H.S.A. Fox and R. Keep

ed. *Friends of the Department of English Local History Newsletter* 6 (1993), 22pp.

### T. Hall

'Witchampton: village origins', *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society* 115 (1993), pp.121-32.

### J. Harrison

'Essex plus '91', *Historical Model Railway Society Journal* 14 no. 10 (1993), p.323.

### R.B. Peberdy

Ninety-two contributions to A. Isaacs, ed., *European Culture: a Contemporary Companion* (Cassell, 1993).

### C.V. Phythian-Adams

'Genesi e primo sviluppo del territorio locali in Inghilterra', in S. Anselmi ed., *Alle Origini dei Territorii Locali* (San Marino, 1993), pp. 19-34.

'Genesi e primo sviluppo del territorio locali in Inghilterra', in *Proposte e Ricerche: Economia e Società nella Storia dell' Italia centrale* 30 (1993), pp. 19-34.

ed. *Societies, Cultures and Kinship, 1580-1850: Cultural Provinces and English Local History* (Leicester University Press, 1993), xx + 221pp.

'Editorial', *ibid.*, pp. xi-xv.

'Introduction: an agenda for English Local History', *ibid.*, pp. 1-23.

'Some futures for our local pasts', *Devon Historian* 47 (1993), pp. 4-5. Local history and societal history', *Local Population Studies* 51 (1993), pp. 30-45.

'English Local History', in J. Aguirreazkuenaga ed., *Perspectives on English Local History* (Bilbao, 1993), pp. 23-36.

### D.A. Postles

'The Austin Canons in English towns, c.1100-1350', *Historical Research* 66 (1993), pp. 1-20.

'Personal pledging in manorial courts in the later middle ages', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester* 75 (1993), pp. 65-78.

'The changing pattern of male forenames in medieval Leicestershire and Rutland to c. 1350', *Local Population Studies* 51 (1993), pp. 54-61.

'Surnames and the composition of local populations: Rutland, 13th to 17th centuries', *East Midland Geographer* 16 (1993), pp. 27-38.

'An English small town in the later middle ages: Loughborough', *Urban History* 20 (1993), pp. 7-29.

### K.D.M. Snell

ed. *Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture* 4:1 (1993), 109 pp. Special issue on 'Rural History and Popular Culture' (1993), (with L. Bellamy and T. Williamson).

ed. *Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture* 4:2 (1993), 135 pp. (with L. Bellamy and T. Williamson).

'Rural history and popular culture', *Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture* 4 (1993), pp. 1-4 (with L. Bellamy and T. Williamson).

Review of Philip Lowe and Maryvonne Bodiguel eds, *Rural Studies in Britain and France*, in *Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture* 4 (1993) pp. 93-95.

Review of Christopher Stell, *An Inventory of Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting-Houses in South-West England*, in *Rural History: Economy, Society, Culture* 4 (1993), pp. 236-237.

Review of Maureen Sutton, *'We Didn't Know Aught': A Study of Sexuality, Superstition and Death in Women's Lives in Lincolnshire during the 1930s, '40s and '50s*, in *Local Historian* 23 (1993), p. 118.

Review of Neil J. Smelser, *Social Paralysis and Social Change: British Working-Class Education in the Nineteenth Century*, in *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 29 (1993), pp. 75-76.

Review of Keith Hanley and Alison Milbank, eds, *From Lancaster to the Lakes - the Region in Literature*, in *Social History Society Bulletin* 18 (1993), pp. 21-22.

### E.M. Tranter

ed. *A History of Weston on Trent*, 3, *A History of Transport in Weston on Trent*, (Weston on Trent Local History Society, 1993), ii+39pp.

'Introduction,' 'Before the nineteenth century,' 'Steam comes to Weston,' 'Conclusion,' *ibid.*, pp.2-9, 21-30, 37.

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## **RECENTLY COMPLETED THESIS AND DISSERTATIONS**

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### **Ph.D. Thesis for 1994**

**Rebecca Carpenter**

'Peasants and stockings - Socio-economic change in Guthlaxton Hundred, Leicestershire, 1700-1851'.

This study re-examines the development of the hosiery industry in Guthlaxton Hundred, Leicestershire within the context of the proto-industrial debate and other recent research. The teleological approach of the proto-industrialists is, to a large extent, rejected. Rather, this study examines agricultural and demographic change independently as well as in relation to industrial development.

The study of Countesthorpe, the central parish of the thesis, uses a variety of sources and techniques. At its core is a family reconstitution. The findings from this are examined closely for the evidence they contain concerning fertility strategies and life expectancy. Significantly, the reconstitution suggests that age at marriage was low before industrial diversification and that other conscious decisions were taken about family size.

Probate records, poll books and land tax assessments are used to uncover the economic consequences for families affected by enclosure and the increasing control of the Leicester merchant hosiers. Settlement documents are considered for the whole of Guthlaxton Hundred to chart the movement between those parishes which enclosed early and failed to diversify and 'open' villages which enclosed at a later date and were centres of hosiery production.

The research indicates that agricultural change resulted in the decline of the peasant farmer; this represented a parallel development with the take-off of framework knitting. Ironically, the existence of hosiery manufacture enabled the wives and offspring of agricultural labourers and craftsmen to supplement inadequate incomes and maintain independent households. Within the issue of industrial diversification lies the increasingly diverse experiences of those who owned property and those whose labour was exploited.

### **M.A. Dissertations for 1993**

**John Adams**

'Crisis in Crippledom: some aspects of the history of the Rowley Bristow Orthopaedic Hospital, Pyrford, Surrey 1908-1962.'

The changing role of a small orthopaedic hospital over the course of the twentieth century was examined in this study. The hospital was founded by the Waifs

and Strays Society in order to care for crippled children but changed and developed as have perceptions of the handicapped. The works of Charles Dickens had alerted people to the plight of such children, and the establishment of Pyrford is set in the context of contemporary concepts of crippleddom. In 1923, a leading orthopaedic surgeon, Walter Rowley Bristow, joined the management committee of the Home and the 'medicalisation' of the crippled child began under his influence. Falling numbers of crippled children, as a result of improved medical and social care, precipitated a crisis for the institution in the late 1930s which was resolved by the decision to admit crippled adults. War-time arrangements under the auspices of the Emergency Medical Service helped to support the Hospital through the infusion of public funds, which consolidated a trend begun in the 1930s.

The analysis of data from the admission registers was used to test the frequently made assertion that the early years of the National Health Service saw an influx of patients with chronic conditions of long duration who had been unable to afford treatment under the previous system of health care. The evidence from Pyrford does not support this view and it is suggested that the increasing flexibility of the administration of the Emergency Medical Service allowed relatively easy access to public funded health care for the civilian population.

**Peter Austin**

'The trees and woodlands of the Cecils'.

The management of woodland on the Hertfordshire estates of William Cecil, who was first Baron of Burghley and Elizabeth I's principal Secretary of State in the sixteenth century, provided the context for this detailed examination of woodland management. The estate centred on the manor of Theobalds in Hertfordshire and five neighbouring manors which included several hundreds of acres of woodland and numerous individual trees, many of which had been pollarded and provided tenants their customary allowances and botes. These trees and woodlands were managed as renewable resources; the self-renewing nature of coppice was central to Lord Burghley's leasing of the woods in 1595. However the arrangement caused a local outcry, the details of which tell us much about the way in which these woodlands were managed as well as their local importance. The rapid development in surveying techniques in the sixteenth century, and especially their application to the accurate measurement and mapping of woodland, was followed through the study of important contemporary treatises. Parks and their closure, woodland, wood-common and other detailed aspects of woodland management on the estate were also examined.

**David Bates**

'Industrial location: cotton-spinning in Northampton, a case study.'

For many centuries, the chief manufacturing occupation in the town of Northampton was the weaving of woollen textiles and, in more recent years, shoe-making. It is less well known and indeed somewhat surprising, to learn that in 1742 the town was the location of the first water-powered cotton-spinning factory and that the same mill was the site of a revival of cotton-spinning some fifty years later. Less surprising given the well-known historical geography of the cotton industry, is the fact that both episodes were resoundingly unsuccessful and that cotton-spinning was never established in the town.

The aim of this dissertation was to examine the period c.1742-1812 in the industrial history of Northampton and to seek to explain or at least to interpret such attempts to establish a new industry in a peripheral location and the reasons for their ultimate failure. This case-study offers a rare opportunity to study in a single town, even a single mill, two distinct phases of the Industrial Revolution and to examine the many factors that influenced a single business at different states of a formative period of profound change.

**Anthony Cooper**

'Patterns of nonconformity and social change in nineteenth-century Cardiganshire.'

This study of nineteenth-century Cardiganshire was based on the 1851 Religious Census. The analysis was carried out using data collected from I.G. Jones's Calendar of Returns together with various socio-economic statistics taken from censuses, gazetteers and other documents and organised on a parish basis centred on the four main religious denominations in Cardiganshire at the time - Church of England, Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, Independents and Baptists. The objective was to build up a profile of the registration county which would set out the conditions for the development of nonconformity. The religious and socio-economic data were examined using S.P.S.S., a statistical software package which generated 1,801 variables allowing detailed analysis of the county to be made. It was important to look at social, economic and demographic changes over the period leading up to the 1851 Census and how people were affected by these changes. Some interesting trends in the distribution of the main denominations emerged showing many contrasts between the mining centres of the north and the southern parishes around the Teifi valley. The coastal parishes were also very different from the mountainous inland parishes where levels of population density were much lower while urban centres grew at

the expense of the rural districts. In 1851 Cardiganshire was seemingly almost lost to the Anglican Church and striving for some form of identity at a time of great social and economic change. The result was a county split between Church and Chapel.

**Keith Davis**

'The Glastonbury manor of Sowey, 1086-1308.'

The increasing prosperity of the tenants of the Glastonbury manor of Sowey in Somerset between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries was the focus of this dissertation which used as source material Domesday Book, the published *Liber Henrici de Soliaco* of 1189, the manuscript version of the surveys of Michael de Ambresbury (1237) and Roger de Ford (1252), and the unpublished survey of Geoffrey de Fromand of 1308. Population densities were determined (based on Hallam's work on Spalding), changes in demesne, tenants' land, and in rents and their commutation were analysed and the results tested against Titow's subsistence level calculations based on figures from the Winchester episcopal estate. From this it was found that, due to constant moorland reclamation and the retreat from the demesne in comparison with tenant holdings, the majority of tenants became more prosperous in land-holding terms. There remains the possibility that these findings could be modified by analysis of the account rolls for the period especially regarding crop yields which, because of natural fertility and good husbandry, could well prove higher than those at Winchester. If this is so the level of subsistence holdings could well be lower but this may have been counter-balanced by extra payments like heriot and chevage.

**Vernon E. Davis**

'A sweet prison: aspects of the origin and establishment of the Leicester Asian community.'

Leicester is now noted for its large Asian community. Taking as a starting point the oral history of some of the earliest settlers, an explanation was sought for the reasons why Leicester should have proved an irresistible target for Indian migrants, and in particular why the early arrivals were predominantly Punjabi Sikhs. Using other sources, such as census data and the electoral register, it proved possible to trace the spatial development of the Indian community, and its early differentiation into discrete neighbourhoods along religious fault lines. It was noted that the early settlement was not in the area suggested by other commentators, but that the subsequent concentration in certain areas of the city was due to specific housing and industrial patterns whose origin was in the nineteenth century. What was established was that the very earliest settlers had been drawn to Leicester by the hosiery and

knitwear industry, although in a somewhat oblique fashion. Certain features of the settlement of this migrant community, rooted in the pattern of ownership of housing, the availability of an unusual method of house purchase and the effects of council house building on the housing market, appeared to be unique to Leicester. Surprisingly, it was found that initially the settlement had taken place without many of the more extreme and overt signs of hostility, nor with the attention of contemporary writers.

Using reports and correspondence in the local press, the development of the relationship between the settlers and the host community was traced. From 1965 onwards a hardening of attitudes was discerned for reasons which are not altogether clear and require further investigation. The nature and development of the settlers' institutions was also studied in the light of the relationship with the host community. A lack of comparative and accurate published data suggests that more local studies of this type are required.

#### **Dorothy E. Fox**

'The spread of christianity and christian churches in the Wapentake of Langbargh, North Riding of Yorkshire 600-1300.'

Christianity and christian churches in the extreme north east of Yorkshire during the turbulent years 600-1300 and Anglian settlement patterns were investigated in this work. Anglian church sites were identified from sculpture and studied in relation to settlements, remote sites suggesting the widespread provision of churches. After the setback of the Scandinavian arrival, later sculpture, place-names, annals and Domesday Book helped to find pre-Conquest churches. The effect of the Norman Conquest, the Domesday statistics for 1066 and 1086 and their evidence for future Norman nobility linked the earlier period with post-Conquest times. Religious houses and the churches granted to them were also studied; the importance of the nobility was obvious and the study looked at the religious life of ordinary people and at parish development. Finally Pope Nicholas's Taxation and the 1301 Lay Subsidy list provided a picture of the position in 1300. Four conclusions emerged: firstly, in early times religious sites were based on Anglian settlements; secondly, in later years, the Norman nobility's power influenced every facet of life; thirdly, contrast is apparent, not only between stable and turbulent periods, but also between wealth and poverty, power and dependence in both secular and religious life. Finally and most importantly, christian sites, churches and parishes, show great continuity which has lasted to this century.

#### **Margaret Garven**

'Change or continuity? an evaluation of the economy and society of Suffolk through the nominal and fiscal evidence within the lay subsidy rolls of 1327 and 1524.'

The county of Suffolk throughout the Middle Ages was one of the most economically advanced and densely populated regions of England. Its commercial expansion may be attributed to several factors, but especially to its advantageous geographical location in close proximity to London and the mainland of Europe. It is fortunate, therefore, that the Lay Subsidy Rolls for Suffolk for both 1327 and 1524 have survived as they provide an opportunity to examine the cultural, social, linguistic, economic and demographic evidence to evaluate any changes which may have taken place. Despite the differing circumstances in which the Lay Subsidies were levied it is possible, from an analysis of the nominal and fiscal evidence, to estimate the extent of population mobility, the growth or decline of market centres, the occupational structures and the ways in which the different categories of surnames reflect the socio-economic development of Suffolk.

Comparisons between the taxable capacity and migration fields of the urban and rural settlements revealed that, although between 1327 and 1524 the demographic foci continued to be in the boroughs and market towns, many rural vills expanded significantly with the growth of the wool trade, most notably in the south-west of the county, whilst others declined as a result of the changing agrarian practices particularly in central Suffolk. Similar demographic changes can be identified in the coastal *pays* where the increasing demands of the growing mercantile and marine activities stimulated the expansion of the ports including Ipswich, the regional capital.

#### **Daphne Goodwin**

'The relationship between landlord and tenant in nineteenth-century North Wales.'

The relationship between landowners and tenants in North Wales during the nineteenth century was examined in this dissertation which used as its main source the volumes of *The Royal Commission on Land* supplemented by documents from the Clwyd Record Office. Industrialisation affected the countryside and the religious lives of all the people were changed by the introduction of English priests and language which resulted in an exodus of Welsh-speaking people to nonconformist chapels. There were arguments about tenancy agreements, the payments of tithes, eviction of tenants and the change of political influence from Tory to Liberal. The role of journalists was also studied and found to be ambiguous because they played a part in spreading propaganda for both sets of people.

**Peter Jackson**

'Sawley, from principal settlement to suburb: a study of rural decline in the nineteenth century.'

Sawley on the Trent flood-plain at Derbyshire's south eastern tip, source of parochial and manorial power, was in 1801 the principal settlement in a prosperous agricultural parish containing five other settlements. The 'golden prebend' of Lichfield Cathedral, it was to decline over forty years into a suburb in all but name, of the neighbouring settlement and former chapelry, Long Eaton. This township's twenty-seven-fold industrial growth from 504 to 13,450 people in less than a century permanently overshadowed Sawley's status in the district. The aim of the study was to re-create something of the social and economic structure of Sawley when it was a vibrant community, *caput* of its small region. Why Sawley failed to develop had a passing importance in this context. The most valuable sources were the censuses, with other contemporary sources such as select committee minutes, government reports and local records, especially those detailing the early nineteenth century as well. The most apparent changes in the village's social and economic structure, other than its decline, were the changed roles of child and female labour, decline of self-employment and loss of a sense of belonging, brought about by the influx of migrant workers which divided the village.

**Peter Kennedy**

'The air raids on Smethwick and Oldbury 1940-1942.'

The effects of German air raids on the towns of Smethwick and Oldbury in the West Midlands between 1940 and 1942 were studied in this dissertation which also included an analysis of the way the Civic Authorities prepared their people for war. Sources included first-hand accounts, oral and written, from over 150 wartime inhabitants of the two towns, supplemented by official, local, national and German records, newspaper reports, maps and personal log books. Local records included the original reports on bomb incidents by air-raid wardens, the towns' emergency control centre responses and council committee minutes. The task of cross referencing civilian reminiscences and censored newspaper accounts with official records proved to be the most interesting part of the research and helped to compile a comprehensive chronology of the events that took place in two highly industrialised towns that are situated in close proximity to Birmingham.

It became apparent that the oral and written accounts of the events had a high degree of accuracy but the overall impression was that of a war characterised by nightly air raids and extensive bombings of residential and industrial targets. This was not the case: Smethwick and Oldbury had only fifteen bombing raids in the entire six years of the war and suffered little disruption of

industrial output and relatively light damage to industrial sites. The fact that the civilians suffered hardship, however, is not in doubt and many accounts were given of personal tragedies and attempts made by others to save life and property. They were united in a common cause and resolute in their efforts to survive. From a local historian's point of view, there is a paucity of credible publications on the topic and a pressing need for more research as one of the most important sources, because the people who actually experienced the events are now entering their twilight years.

**Philip Masters**

'The minsters, territories and proprietary churches of Saxon West Sussex.'

The growth and decline of the minster system in West Sussex, its relationship to Saxon estates and administrative units, the variety of natural resources on the coastal plain, Down and Weald and the rise of manorial churches were all studied in this dissertation. Twenty-one possible minsters were identified; many were hundredal centres and royal *tūns* exerting rights and receiving dues after the Conquest when the original long narrow 'Northumbrian' churches had been rebuilt as cruciform ones. The *parochiae* of several of these minsters probably conformed to early Saxon estates predating the hundredal system; on the western coastal plain they were compact mixtures of good land, waste and meadow served by tidal channels, while to the east they were lowland centres with inland pastures. Riverine estates, perhaps the embryonic Norman rapes, extended inland, while on the Downs and Wealden edge central places with minsters formed islands in a large sea of poor land.

By 1066 there was probably a mixture of pre-hundredal and hundredal minsters as well as at least one of eleventh-century origin. St Peter's Chichester seems to have exerted more authority than the bishop's seat at Selsey. None of the manorial church buildings is older than the eleventh century, but by 1066 West Sussex was substantially manorialised, a process of division of estates and expansion of settlement that continued until the early thirteenth century. As manorial churches increased in number, minsters were appropriated for the use of the king, the Goodwine family and their household clergy. Despite radical changes, the Norman lords continued the process. Several minsters became proprietary churches next to castleries, others became cells of Norman abbeys or royal free chapels and some minster rights were preserved down to the Reformation.

**Irene Merral**

'The sense of belonging amongst Polish people in the Midlands.'

The aim of this dissertation was to study a group of Polish-speaking people many of whom had settled in the English Midlands after experiencing terrible suffering during the Second World War. Thirteen first generation Polish immigrants and seven people born in this country of Polish parents were interviewed. Secondary reading was based on English material. One of the key mechanisms for survival and success in the lives of the informants was the development of a sense of belonging. In the years of the war and immediately afterwards, their sense of belonging was to other Polish people. When the realization came that their stay in this country was going to be prolonged, the sense of belonging was to Poland and, when return to Poland became improbable, then the sense of belonging was to an idealized country - the Poland of their youth.

**Kate Parkin**

'The commercialisation of the Cambridgeshire economy c. 1300.'

The multiplicity of factors bearing upon the Cambridge economy of c.1300 were examined here; the aim of the study was to do justice to the diversity of local economic specialisation and market practice without wholly relinquishing the objective and quantifiable overview offered by statistical analysis. This dissertation has two halves, the first of which sought to explain, with the aid of graphically represented statistical information, the distribution of wealth across the county. The figures (derived from the *Rotuli Hundredorum* of 1279 and the 1327 Lay Subsidy) were correlated in a succession which was intended broadly to correspond to the increasingly comprehensive and subtle economic explanations offered by Darby (area and quality of land), Bailey (comprehending diverse use of marginal land), and, most recently, Britnell (comprehending the full complexity of 'commercialisation'). This last theme is limited, for the purposes of statistical analysis, to the measurable factors of the occurrence of occupational names and the distribution of markets. A strong correlation was found between *per capita* wealth (especially among the population bearing occupational names) and distance to markets. This finding, however, apparently exhausts the potential of exclusively statistical techniques for representing economic reality at the level of the particular and local.

The second part of the dissertation adopted a more flexible, descriptive and anecdotal mode with a view to explaining the statistical findings. The themes examined were market distribution and means of communication, evidence of carrying services, and the operation of the economy outside the bounds of formal markets. The

latter theme which drew upon Dyer's work on hidden economies, proved much the most potentially illuminating in terms of the major debate on peasant living standards in the period, which forms the broad historiographical context of the dissertation.

**Lara Phelan**

'Commoning in the New Forest in the nineteenth century.'

This study of commoners and common rights revealed the significance of common rights to men and women, both the employed and the unemployed, the landed and the landless of the New Forest. It retrieved the theme of common rights from the realms of but a 'thin and squalid curtain', between the growing army of labourers and 'utter proletarianization'. Through contemporary accounts, a general picture of what it meant to be a commoner and how commoning was a way of life for many was presented. Yet, despite the importance of common rights, as indicated by the preponderance of commoners, consideration was given to how these rights were continually threatened and how the commoners were castigated for their perceived lack of morals and discipline. Also discussed was how the commoners staved off enclosure, which was a continual threat in the New Forest due to the Crown's increasing interest in silviculture. The dissertation concluded by putting forward the suggestion of a surviving example of a nineteenth-century peasantry within the New Forest.

**Michael Sekulla**

'Patterns of naming in the parish of Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire, 1550-1850.'

There have been few studies of the way in which names were given to children in England in the early modern and modern periods, although the potential sources for research are extensive. Using evidence from one small agricultural village in Cambridgeshire, detailed family reconstitutions have provided a series of well documented and detailed examples of naming amongst specific kin groups. Results indicate that although changes in naming were gradual, periods of major alteration were identifiable in the local context and these could be linked to many variables - including kinship pressure, clergy influence and the role of godparents. It has been suggested that practices in giving of names to children reflected changes to kinship and social structures within localised and wider regional contexts. Further research on other small communities could assist in answering some of the important questions raised by this study.

**Andrea Simkin**

'Community participation and the role of women in the court rolls of the Manor of Wakefield, 1274-1352.'

Principally, this examination of the court rolls of the manor of Wakefield aimed to interpret the extent of community participation in the manorial court to ascertain whether community actually existed within the medieval manor, or whether early fourteenth-century society in the West Riding of Yorkshire was dominated politically by a wealthy elite. In order to understand fully the nature of any fourteenth-century community the role and activities of women should be investigated so as to appreciate the extent of gender spacing within that society. As such, the women of the Wakefield court rolls were subjected to examination, not just in their public activities but also within the household in an attempt to penetrate further into this medieval community. The Wakefield court rolls series provides a remarkable account of the activities of the population of the lands of Wakefield manor, from the late thirteenth until the twentieth century. They are full and varied in the business transacted, providing a wide and inexhaustible source for the study of medieval society. Because of the overwhelming potential of the source, research for this paper was limited to specific institutions and activities which were deemed the most enlightening in regards to the aims of the study. As a result, there was a narrower view but a deeper insight into the workings of a medieval community and the results which emerged were by no means restricted by this method of approach.

**Terry Sparling**

'An enquiry into the effect of drainage and watersheds on settlement from the end of the Roman period to the Norman period.'

The area bounded by the watershed of the Middle Trent valley in between the late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon periods provided the geographical focus for this study which used as its primary evidence the sites and monuments records of the seven county councils. Excavation reports, place-names and landscape investigation were used as supporting evidence. An attempt was made to relate this evidence to those events recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle which affected the region. In this area most of the people involved during the time-span of the study, from 400 to 1086, from the Iron Age Coritani to the Danes, all behaved in much the same way with regard to the land and settlement, that is, the best land went first and they fought over it, only stopping when a strong central personal control was exercised. The region was in fact a frontier zone as is shown by the various apparent limits beyond which little evidence is found for occupation. The evidence also shows that the settlers

were a mixture of Angles and Saxons, although predominantly Angles.

**Laura Staniforth**

'Rural and urban cotton plantations: some reasons for their establishment and the resultant effects upon the Macclesfield Hundred of Cheshire (1780-1860).'

The factors influencing the siting of industrial plantations and the effects of the consequential development of the cotton industry upon the communities which developed in the Macclesfield Hundred of the county of Cheshire, in the period 1780 to 1860, were examined in this study. This was not a history of the cotton industry in itself, the aim being rather to provide examples of how the development of the cotton industry affected the development of the places of this hundred, and how it affected some aspects of the society. The general sources used to compile this investigation were contemporary directories, tithe maps and Ordnance Survey maps of the hundred. Further documentary evidence, for example land tax values and private estate records, was examined when possible. Rural and urban plantations were discussed as were the factors which influenced the placing of mills or factories; the effect of these plantations upon the communities which developed was also discussed with regard to features such as housing and education. The effect of these plantations upon domestic industries was also investigated and consideration was given to agriculture and the supply of provisions for the workers.

**Stephen Toole**

'Liverpool: city of change and challenge.'

The position of Britain as the foremost nation in world terms during the nineteenth century is beyond dispute. The phrase 'The sun never sets on the Empire' is often used even today when referring to this period. The growth of the country's economy had, of course, a major effect not only on the people but also on the towns and townships which they inhabited. The consequences were far reaching and the reverberations of Empire-building were to be felt in all corners of the globe. It is perhaps, however, too easy to become embroiled in the jingoism and pride of the day and, as a result, to lose sight of what the effect on the people actually was, especially at the lower end of the financial scale. Charles Dickens and other contemporary writers have portrayed admirably in many of their works the characters of the people who abounded at the time, but it must be admitted that much journalistic licence was used. Nevertheless, books such as *Hard Times* do conjure up a frightening imagery of the hardships experienced by the Victorian poorer classes; however, scenes such as this must be viewed objectively and in context. It was the intention of this work to examine



such hardships in the context of Liverpool during the nineteenth century generally and in the mid-Victorian period particularly.

**Jo Wainwright**

'The evolution of parish and township boundaries on the Yorkshire Wolds.'

The importance of parish and township boundaries as evidence for English settlement history was examined in this dissertation which sought to compare the evolution of boundaries between *pays*. In particular it sought to establish that the examination of the historical evolution of parish and township boundaries can tell us much about the history of particular individual settlements as well as the settlement of geologically similar areas. Five parishes or townships on the Yorkshire Wolds were examined in an area of chalk uplands stretching 40

miles from the shores of the Humber to the Pickering Carrs just south of the North York Moors. These examinations reveal a distinctive Yorkshire Wolds pattern of parish and township boundaries with long and narrow parishes and townships radiating like the spokes of a wheel from a central point; a correlation between early archaeological monuments, particularly Bronze Age barrows, and later parish and township boundaries suggested a great continuity of territorial units; and a correlation between parish boundaries which are neither long nor narrow and the incidence of late settlement on ill favoured sites. The conclusion discusses the similarity of the patterns of parishes and townships found in the other wold areas of England and their dissimilarity with the patterns of parishes and townships found in different types of *pays*, in particular those of North Herefordshire.

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**CUMBERLAND FIELD TRIP 1994**

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Field work forms one of the core elements of the MA course and takes place on selected weekends as well as on the six day field trip. Each year a special region is studied and brings together the period and thematic elements of the course. This year's trip to Cumberland was led by Charles Phythian-Adams with his usual infectious enthusiasm.



The class of '94 still cheerful on the final day of this year's Cumberland Field Trip  
Photograph by Bob Parsons





**A lovely and well preserved example of a Cumberland long house is Ona Ash near Kirkoswald, built in 1693. The small central doorway leads to a cross passage dividing the house and byre**



**The Church of St Kentigern, Caldbeck, an interesting and beautiful church in the valley of the upper Caldew**  
**Photographs by Jon Pitt**

## LOCAL HISTORY OR NOSTALGIA? Nurturing local history groups

Future social historians pondering the latter years of the twentieth century are likely to comment, *inter alia*, on the phenomena of early retirement (whether optional or enforced), the amount of time devoted to leisure, and the effect of age and social grouping on the activities chosen. No doubt it will not escape their notice that shorter working hours have been accompanied not only by the development of DIY, but also by an expanding interest in the past - a past often idealised and viewed with nostalgia ('it used not to be like this when I was a lad ...!') - an interest often satisfied through an involvement in family history or the history of the village or community in which the family lived. A cursory glance at the visitors' book in any record office reveals the frequency with which genealogy or local history is given as the reason for the visit. The most heavily subscribed day, evening or adult education classes are those connected with 'tracing your ancestors' or with local history in some guise or other.

The ubiquitous availability of the word-processor, combined with the ease of photographic reproduction has led to a proliferation of the published results of these interests - frequently in the form of books of old photographs or village histories - on the shelves of tourist gift shops, heritage centres and the like up and down the country. The best of these perform a valuable service in recording people, places and events which are part of the kaleidoscope of the past which influences present day communities and which would otherwise be consigned to oblivion. One can think of excellent studies based on years of work done by adult education classes, such as Adrian Henstock's group at Ashbourne, of the accounts of Stoneleigh villagers and buildings or the study of the scarpfoot village of Plumpton in Sussex edited by Nat Alcock and Brian Short respectively. As with *The History of Radcliffe on Trent* edited by Pamela Priestland, Janet Spavold's guidance of the group at Church Gresley or Margaret Gelling's Shropshire class studying and collecting place-names, the success of all these works depends on dedicated amateurs willing to accept leadership and guidance from archivists, historians, geographers and archaeologists prepared to give up evenings year after year to further the work. In doing so they are following in yet another of the paths first marked out by W.G. Hoskins.

There are, however, other publications, often by individuals, styled *local historians* by the local press, which, alas, make little attempt to question or analyse the material so assiduously collected and moreover, repeat generalised historical statements long since

discarded by professional historians. By so doing they do a disservice to local history partly by uncritically perpetuating myths or errors of the past but, more importantly, by pre-empting the viability of more perceptive and analytical studies.

Between these two extremes is the work of a body of people who are fascinated by locality in all its variety, who often bring a mind trained in other spheres to bear upon the evidence and who are prepared to publish small items or articles recording their considered conclusions. Such is Geoffrey Holt's *The Ticknall Tramway*, published by the Ticknall Village Society, Rosemary Lucas's article on the parsonage houses of Derby in the *Derbyshire Miscellany* or Celia Swainson's study of the Derby canal.

However, interest, skill and dedication alone are not always sufficient for the task and, as anyone engaged in historical research will affirm, one needs the stimulus of discussion and the interplay of ideas to gain a deeper understanding of any past society. Adult education classes, weekend courses and day-schools are usually held in large centres to which not everyone has easy access and, combined with the cost of transport, are sometimes beyond the reach of those who would like to take part. It is here, I believe, that a *local* Local History Society (call it what you will - Civic or Preservation Society) has an important role to play. The local group has the advantage of being *local* and, especially in rural areas, more easily accessible; its brief is more circumscribed and can be more easily comprehended. Furthermore where, as in Derbyshire, the Records Office and the Record Society provide links for local societies through a Local History Network and a six-monthly Newsletter respectively, groups are enabled to meet and exchange news and ideas.

**What then should be the aims of such a local history society?**

It is important to allow the maximum number of people of varied skills to feel that they have a stake in the society and something to contribute to it. Secondly, the programme of activities needs to be carefully balanced, otherwise there is a danger that reminiscence and pure nostalgia will exclude more historical investigation and recording, and that one or two members may exclude the contribution of others.

One may group activities under four main themes:

### Recording

A collection of photographs and postcards is a good starting point, but it is equally important to begin a systematic record of the present. This may include: a full photographic record taken (in black and white as well as colour) at a particular time, to be followed up by notes of any subsequent changes; a church survey noting all details of tombstones - height, type of stone, mason, as well as inscriptions - which should include

monuments inside the church or chapel as well as outside; tape recording of oral memories; recording of houses where possible with measured plans; recording hedges, ridge and furrow, conduits, wells, springs, field names etc.; - these are but some of the possibilities.

#### Meetings

These need not be every week or even every month. They can include exhibitions, guided visits to, and by, other local history groups, talks by outside speakers designed to set the local unit, whether village, town or suburb, in its topographical and economic context, and also periodic reports on work done by the society. These activities give scope to those with artistic or organisational skills who might not want to be involved in more detailed historical ploys, and at the same time will allow participation by those interested but unable to devote a great deal of time to the society's activities.

#### Documents

An important part of the society's functions should be to encourage individuals to deposit family papers with the records office. Many people think their personal papers, bills, accounts, etc. too insignificant to be of value, but the papers of ordinary private individuals as well as those of, for example, the local shop or garage would, in the future, help to redress the dominance of the great families in the archival record.

#### Research and publication

A limited number of members may wish to become involved in documentary work. In this context it is probably helpful not to attempt *A History of...* from the prehistoric to the present, but to find a number of topics which will allow individuals to pursue their own interests; one may be an engineer interested in railways, someone else in farming, yet another in footpaths and roads; publication of well-researched and well-written booklets at regular intervals and at a reasonable price is easier to organise, makes it possible for more people to be involved and is more viable financially.

One society that has evolved along similar lines over the last ten years is that based in Weston on Trent in Derbyshire. A request from some newly-arrived residents asking for information on the village's history led to a talk being given by a 'local historian', himself an incomer (or 'blow in' as the Irish has it). As a result a group of eight villagers, very varied in their skills and expertise (they included a Rolls Royce aero-engine designer, a technical writer, a lecturer in hair-dressing science) began meeting in a house once a month. Six months later a two-day exhibition (free entrance and a donation box!) entitled *Know Your Village* aroused a great deal of interest, offers of more photographs, postcards and information and gave a modest financial return. From this beginning it was possible to plan the expansion of the group by offering associate membership for an annual subscription (initially £1) to

those who wanted to support the venture but not take an active part. In this way four meetings a year with outside speakers on a wide variety of local history topics were financed, and such was the response that it was soon possible to plan ahead with some assurance. Two years later, a second exhibition, *Victorian and Edwardian Weston*, transformed the Village Hall into a series of rooms and displays and provided the financial basis necessary to embark on the publication of a series of booklets.

The society now has one class of membership, a committee/research group and has become a registered publishing unit. Three booklets have been produced, a fourth is imminent and three more are in the process of being written. Practical work undertaken has included a filed and indexed collection of photographs, a survey, directed by a founder member of the Vernacular Architecture Group, of houses in the village, recording of gravestones and oral memories.

Local circumstances will, naturally, determine the priorities and composition of each society, but given co-operation, and a willingness to look more widely than the immediate community, shared ideas and discussion will deepen an appreciation of the subtleties of the past, and the proper role of nostalgia and reminiscence can be directed and fulfilled. Furthermore, such an approach can foster a greater sense of identity and belonging within the community.

Margery Tranter

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### SAINT WILLIAM GEORGE HOSKINS?

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This year it was proposed on that highly respected channel - Radio One, that Professor W.G. Hoskins should be made a saint for his work in setting up the Department of English Local History and for his pioneering work on the landscape! No doubt many Friends would support the proposed canonisation which was made by the well-known astronomer Heather Couper when she appeared as 'God of the Day' on the Simon Mayo show.

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## TALKING TO FRIENDS

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Talking to Friends is to be an occasional series of discussions with Friends or other local historians whose work has made a particularly important contribution both to the study of local history and to their own discipline. It is hoped to draw out some of their own philosophy and the themes which have dominated their work. We are delighted that Dr Margaret Gelling, President of the English Place-name Society since 1985, and Honorary Reader in English Place-name Studies in the Department of Medieval History at Birmingham University agreed to initiate the series by being interviewed. Margaret Gelling is the author (among many other publications) of *The Place-names of Oxfordshire*, *The Place-names of Berkshire* and *The Place-names of Shropshire*, *Signposts to the Past*, *Place-names in the Landscape* and *The West Midlands in the Early Middle Ages*. Her links with the Department go back more than 20 years and more recently she has been a frequent visitor to Marc Fitch House and is a Friend. Despite recently becoming a septuagenarian she is an indefatigable supporter of local history groups and travels all over the country delivering public lectures. In addition she undertakes a heavy teaching load at adult classes throughout the Midlands and also teaches a Practical Archaeology course to undergraduates, the main component of which is a parish survey. At present she is working on the third volume of *The Place-names of Shropshire* and a new revised and illustrated edition of *Place-names in the Landscape*. In 1946, after reading English at St Hilda's College, Oxford and a 'fallow' year with the Ministry of Works, Margaret Gelling became Research Assistant with the English Place-name Society working in both Cambridge and London. Six years later she moved to Birmingham where her husband, Peter, took up a post as lecturer in Archaeology.

**Friend:** What was your work after the move to Birmingham?

**MG:** I continued and finished my work on *The Place-names of Berkshire*, lectured to adults in the evening and spent one third of my time helping Peter on his excavations.

**Friend:** Did that suit you?

**MG:** Yes, because I am really an historical geographer *manqué* and at that time there was no teaching post in a university for the kind of work I was becoming so interested in. I drifted into teaching at Birmingham when I was asked to teach one

element in the parish survey part of the practical archaeology course - this grew into a full course, but it was not until the late 1970s that I was given an official post of Honorary Reader in Place-name Studies.

**Friend:** What about work on the place-name volumes?

**MG:** My work on *The Place-names of Shropshire* grew out of an adult class in Attingham Hall and was in answer to local demand. The people of Shropshire pushed me into this. A weekend course was followed by two ten-week courses after which the class simply refused to dissolve - they just stayed there and insisted we continued, so in desperation all I could think of was that we might collect the material for a Shropshire survey and for twenty years these people slogged with me and kept me at it and now I have this vast quantity of Shropshire material. One volume containing the major names of the whole county is out and the next volume, which is the minor names and field names of the hundreds of Conover and Ford, is being printed and I am about to start on a third volume which will cover the area around Much Wenlock.

**Friend:** How did your work with the E.P.N.S. evolve?

**MG:** I stayed in the research assistant post, which career-wise was a terrible mistake - I have never had any sense as regards career - I wanted to finish Oxfordshire, then I got interested in Berkshire and I was realising there was little hope of getting a job in the things I wanted to do and I just stuck until Peter came along.

**Friend:** You became President of the E.P.N.S. in 1985 following in the footsteps of Sir Frank Stenton, Professor Dorothy Whitelock and Professor Kenneth Jackson. What were the preoccupations of place-name scholars when you came to the subject?

**MG:** The notion was that place-names deserved their academic niche because of the light they cast on questions about post-Roman Britain, questions which I thought were done to death. The information was assembled by dogsbodies like me and then people like Sir Frank Stenton would come along and pick out just a few names they thought mattered to build up a notion of the English and Viking settlement. We have now moved away from that to letting the place-names speak for themselves - looking at the whole mass, not picking out certain items. But the subject only has an academic niche because of its bearing on the Dark Ages.

**Friend:** One of the reasons for your writing *Signposts to the Past* was to make place-name material available to other academics such as historians and archaeologists. Did it have this effect?

**MG:** Yes. I was asked to write *Signposts to the Past* and I did not expect it to take off in the way it did - it was an unexpected popular success. Historians and archaeologists were finding it extremely hard to

understand what was going on and I think the book did have the effect of allowing them to use the material. I think I can talk without jargon.

**Friend:** What are the special strengths of place-name studies now?

**MG:** There still is the importance as regards the Dark Ages, but mainly I think it is part of settlement and landscape history; what I want people to do is to look at a map and see everything - where the villages and isolated farms are and notice the drainage and contours and at the same time take in the place-names which are part of the whole pattern of landscape history. This is where we fit in, more than as light on the Dark Ages which always turns out to be dark on the Dark Ages. I believe that the earliest English place-names are the topographical ones - a simple comment on a feature of the landscape which was absolutely vital to early farmers, and then later names came in often ending with 'ton', Old English *tūn*, some of which may be tax gatherers' names, replacing earlier topographical ones. I believe there are chronological layers of place-names and it may be possible to work out a chronology of place-names for a particular district. I have tried to do this in the volume of essays which came out of the Sutton Hoo conference in 1989 edited by Martin Carver called *The Age of Sutton Hoo*. In the paper 'The chronology of Suffolk place-names' I tried to see which place-names existed in Redwald's time, and those which I am pretty sure came later.

**Friend:** You describe the study of place-names as a linguistic skill, but describe yourself as really being an historical geographer. Can we talk about where place-name studies fits in?

**MG:** Place-name studies will always fall between academic disciplines because of needing both the linguistic skill and a notion of how to handle historical sources, but what you produce will be of more interest to geographers, archaeologists and historical geographers, than to people in the English Department or to your mainline document historian. You are using skills from one discipline to produce material which is of interest to those working in another. There was a point at which people changed from saying that place-name studies were of little use because they did not fit in anywhere to saying that they were frightfully important because of being inter-disciplinary or multi-disciplinary and the subject suddenly became fashionable, having been rather out on a limb.

**Friend:** There is now hardly a major historical or archaeological work which does not involve place-name studies.

**MG:** It is a boast of mine that I have been asked to contribute to reports on all the great post-war archaeological excavations - the latest has been Crickley

Hill and I have done something for Winchester, Wharram Percy, Mucking and Sutton Hoo.

**Friend:** Nor would people now approach a parish history without using place-name study. In *Signposts to the Past* you talk about place-name study being necessarily a closed shop because of its complexity but it seems that your whole career has been involved in making the study accessible.

**MG:** It is only the narrow business of saying what the place-name can mean which has to be a closed shop. As long as expert opinion is accepted in these matters, non-specialists are entitled to use place-name material for any purpose they wish.

**Friend:** Has making the results of place-name studies available been central to your philosophy?

**MG:** I did not set out to do this, but when I came to Birmingham I went straight into evening lecturing and I feel very strongly indeed about the value of lecturing to adults. This involved making myself understood by non-specialists. Then I was asked to do a book setting out new developments which turned out to be *Signposts to the Past* and people read it and understood.

**Friend:** Some academic studies are not easily understandable.

**MG:** Yes, perhaps I react too much against academic jargon and I have never mastered the vocabulary - I was still worrying about 'Structuralism' and what it was when I discovered people were talking about 'post-Structuralism' and now there is this new word 'processual'. I'm not sure what it means, but then I have never been quite sure what is meant by the word 'methodology'! Perhaps I have my own form of snobbery, which is a refusal to understand these jargon academic terms - and perhaps I overdo it and they do mean something.

**Friend:** W.G. Hoskins was deeply involved with evening classes and adult education and books like *The Making of the English Countryside* made the subject accessible; your work seems to have followed similar lines.

**MG:** At a much lower level of course, but it is perfectly true and the feed-back is tremendously valuable. You talk to undergraduates and their minds run on tramlines, you only get certain questions, but talk to an intelligent adult audience trained in other things and you get questions which are quite different.

**Friend:** This comes out in the introduction to the Shropshire place-names volume where you make it clear that your relationship with the group was reciprocal.

**MG:** Oh yes! It was wonderful, the relationship with those people who were helping me meant such a lot. The feed-back from people with an amateur interest is tremendous.

**Friend:** You also talk about the contribution of local people and their knowledge of the landscape.

**MG:** This is fundamental - all I can get from an afternoon's fieldwork is a general impression of an area, not like the understanding of the people who live there. Local people can give a tremendous amount.

**Friend:** How much time do you give now to adult education ?

**MG:** As much as I am asked, but what has become very prominent is lecturing to local societies. This winter I am giving two public lectures a month. Next week I am lecturing at Plymouth and the following weekend at Ipswich - I might as well do this while I can and the ulterior motive is that it allows me to visit so many areas, do some fieldwork and build up my collection of slides. I do a ten-week series of evening classes in the Birmingham area as well as weekend schools.

**Friend:** You have never been on the television like Hoskins was.

**MG:** No, but it would be possible to do a series like Hoskins's countryside programme because place-names are a very visual subject.

**Friend:** Can we talk about regionality ? In *Place-names in the Landscape* you talk about the need to study place-names nationally not regionally and emphasise your view that regional variations in place-names are often due to regional landscape variations - is this still your view?

**MG:** Yes, I believe this very strongly indeed and I am strengthened in this belief by a holiday in Northumberland with my geographer colleague, Ann Cole. We found that the landscape terms which we had come to understand from Oxfordshire and the Midlands were the same in Northumberland. We began to look at the name and predict what we would find - there was a nationwide vocabulary when English names were given. I cannot explain how this works - there are deep linguistic implications and my continental colleagues cannot believe that the same landscape terms apply in Kent and Northumberland, but empirically it is so. It must mean that English-speaking people came into this country with an inherited vocabulary and a notion of how settlements relate to landscape and then, when the landscape presented the same challenge in different areas, people came up with the same answers. It appears that some landscape names were related to travel routes - some names of quite conspicuous features appear regularly along Roman roads, trackways and sea coasts. For example along the south coast there is a series of names like Bognor with the element *ōra* which describes a particular type of flat topped ridge; some places on the south coast seem to be named because of their relationship to these ridges. So there seem to be names which are names given by 'travellers'. My great break-through came about twelve years ago with the notion that if a place had a topographical name, it was

a good idea to go and see what was there - it could not be more simple really. It is sometimes the simple and obvious that scholars tend to overlook.

**Friend:** It is a very dynamic study.

**MG:** Yes. It is a wonderful subject, it has changed enormously - before the 1960s it got rather stuck and then some of us began to question the old assumptions and got things moving.

**Friend:** Another aspect of regionality is the suitability of using the county as a unit of study.

**MG:** Yes. County volumes and dictionaries are our main books of reference - neither are adequate for the things I want. The county is not a large enough area to generalise from; you have to amalgamate the surveys and unscramble the dictionaries. The material has to be assembled county by county, though, because that is how Domesday and all the later records have been collected.

**Friend:** Might any other way of dividing the country be useful for place-name study?

**MG:** Not really, because the main thing which affects the place-names is topography. Though what is coming out at the moment is that the area which does stand out as being different is Devon.

**Friend:** How do place-name studies contribute to the study of societies?

**MG:** Place-names give the view-point of the peasant farmer; that is the main thing.

**Friend:** What about the future ?

**MG:** The future is looking very good; there are two main things happening. There is to be a replacement of the *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* by a new one prepared by Victor Watts, the present Director of the English Place-Name Society. The other great thing is that the Leverhulme people have given a large sum of money for a joint project at Nottingham University between the English Department and E.P.N.S. for a study of the vocabulary of place-names; this will create a database and this is the future. The earliest place-name volumes were written in the 1920s and require revision which is being undertaken for the database. When the database material is available analysis will be simpler. Up to now analysis has involved me sitting with the dictionary on my knee and counting the numbers of elements of a certain type.

**Friend:** What about the prospect of future projects linking English place-name studies with German and Scandinavian studies?

**MG:** Only in Scandinavia do they have organised place-name studies to the extent that we have here; there is some work going on in Germany, but we are a long way ahead in this country. I talk about people coming into this country with an inherited vocabulary, but I don't know what the place-names of northern Europe are like because the material is not organised or

available. This is a great gap, we need the German equivalent of the E.P.N.S., getting the material together and giving us sound information and detail.

**Friend:** What do you think is your most important contribution to the study of place-names?

**MG:** *Place-names in the Landscape* has been my major contribution - although deeply flawed, I regard it as a break through.

**Friend:** What about the future of the E.P.N.S.?

**MG:** We do rather take the E.P.N.S. for granted; the thing which amazes our Scandinavian colleagues is that we do not have an institute. It is a very hand-to-mouth organisation, which has been precariously funded and employs only one person. A major development came when we got a foothold at the University of Nottingham when Kenneth Cameron took over the directorship and we were given a room; we might have lost this when he retired, but it turned out all right because we were taken on by Professor Christine Fell, who was head of the English Department and wanted us to stay. At Nottingham we have free accommodation and you know what that means in universities now where people fight over a cupboard, filing cabinets or a position in the corridor. We have this big room which takes our library, plus storage space for our back volumes, without which we could not exist. We do not get guaranteed funding, our British Academy grant is renewable yearly and could be stopped. This makes it hard to plan for the future or make a career in the subject. It is remarkable to have achieved what we have from this base. We have over 600 members, half of them institutional, the others private subscribers, who loyally support us and receive our publications. We are still really in the Great British tradition of enthusiastic amateurs, and this has served us well but it would be nice to have an institute.

**Friend:** Thank you.

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## JOHN NICHOLS PRIZE

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Awarded annually, the Prize is intended to stimulate research into English Local History sympathetic to the broad aims and approaches of the Department, but is particularly directed to attract and encourage work by new, younger scholars. It has, in that respect, an enviable record, since many of its winners such as Clive Burgess have progressed to distinguished status. Although the Department can no longer guarantee publication, many successful submissions are subsequently published, so that submission for the Prize is a part of the process of development of a piece of work. For example, a paper on the interpretation of churchwardens' accounts in the sixteenth century, which

won the Prize in a recent year, has since been published in *Social History*. The Prize has now been opened more widely, since unrevised dissertations may be submitted, including those which have obtained a distinction on the Department's own M.A. course. (Please do note, however, that M.A. dissertations are not automatically considered, even if they have gained a distinction, and that you must actually ask for them to be considered). If you have an extended paper (15,000-20,000 words) which you feel might be suitable, contact the Coordinator of the Nichols Prize in the Department for the preliminary information; submissions are then invited by the end of December in each year.

Last year the Prize was awarded to Tania Macintosh for her dissertation on the decline of Stourbridge Fair, the abstract of which is reprinted below.

**David Postles**

'The decline of Stourbridge Fair 1770-1934: deliberate suppression or deliberate collapse?'

It has been suggested that, in the nineteenth century, popular fairs were intentionally destroyed by the authorities because of their desire to control society. A study of official documents, including council minutes, lease documents and toll receipts, demonstrated that the local authorities in Cambridge did not deliberately suppress Stourbridge Fair. Rather the council retained support for the Fair almost until the end. The reasons for the decline in its popularity were traced using local newspapers and diaries. Stourbridge disappeared for organic, long-term reasons not allowed for by a social control theory. The development of transport, especially railways, appears to have had a devastating impact on the Fair. There is no case for suggesting that Stourbridge Fair was a victim of conscious or unconscious ideas of local control. Its decline was long term, based primarily on changes in trading conditions and communications, and the fact that the Cambridge area was not wealthy or populous enough to support the Fair as a provider of pleasure.

**Tania McIntosh**



## LOCAL HISTORIANS IN THE MUSEUM WORLD

### The Transatlantic Slave Trade Gallery

In last year's *Newsletter* ex-English Local History M.A. student Len Garrison promised to bring us up to date with the development of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Gallery at the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, due to open in October this year, Black History Month. NMGM is the first museum to explore the subject of Britain and transatlantic slavery in this depth in a permanent display. The gallery will occupy 400 square metres in the main building of the Merseyside Maritime Museum, Albert Dock, Liverpool and it will look at nearly 500 years of transatlantic slavery and its consequences, from about 1500 to the present, focusing on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The purpose of the gallery is to increase public understanding of the experience of Black people in Britain and the modern world through an examination of the Atlantic slave trade and the African Diaspora.

Liverpool's history is intimately linked with the history of the European slave trade, a subject which has recently received much comment in the letters column of *The Independent* newspaper. Although not involved until 1700, Liverpool merchants were responsible for more slaving voyages during the second half of the eighteenth century than any other European port. The impact on the city remains the subject of controversy and debate. Even in the nineteenth century much of Liverpool's trade was in goods like cotton which were still produced by slavery. The physical legacy can be seen in the wealth of eighteenth-century architecture in the city, for example the carvings of African heads on the Town Hall. The museum site includes two eighteenth-century docks of the type where slave ships were built and repaired. The psychological legacy is evident in the stories about Liverpool's slaving history which still circulate in the city; the gallery will examine these legacies alongside the history of transatlantic slavery.

Liverpool is home to one of Europe's oldest Black communities; black people were living in Liverpool by the end of the eighteenth century. Some were brought by traders and enslaved in Britain as domestic servants. Others had been given their freedom for fighting for the British during the American War of Independence. During the nineteenth century, many more came as seamen from West Africa and settled in the city.

## A CAREFUL ANTIQUARY

In the 1992 *Newsletter* Harold Fox, following a request from John Hurst, called for a volunteer to track down the identity of the person anonymously referred to in an 1852 publication as 'a careful antiquary'. The only clue also constituted the local interest: this 'careful antiquary' was linked to 'remarks' in the *Leicester Chronicle* (print date unknown, save that it must have been before 1853) about deserted villages in Leicestershire. These remarks reflected the then radical notion, a century before its general acceptance, that some settlement sites might represent villages deserted in the medieval period. This report shows where my continuing investigations have so far gotten me.

The trail begins with one of the founders of modern archaeology, Thomas Wright (1810-77), celebrated in the DNB as 'an enthusiastic pedestrian' who 'combined his walks with archaeological explorations'.<sup>(1)</sup> In his book *The Celt, The Roman and the Saxon* published in 1852, Wright marshalled the evidence from recent excavations for regarding deserted settlement sites as 'the remains of the villages occupied by pastoral and agricultural population during the Roman occupation'.

Having drawn this conclusion, Wright briefly added a tentative speculation that '... in some places perhaps they only mark the sites of villages of a much later date, destroyed amid the turbulence of the middle age'.<sup>(2)</sup> Wright appended a footnote to this speculation; presumably its novelty called for some third-party support. The footnote quoted at length from 'A Careful Antiquary' who had made the following remarks, in the *Leicestershire Chronicle*, on the 'Deserted Villages' of Leicestershire:- "On the north-eastern side of the county of Leicester may be found, apart from human habitations, sites of ancient villages, of which not a fragment is now visible above-ground. One of these lies near Ingarsby, a second near Cold Newton, and a third near Humberstone. An ordinary passer-by would not notice these curious sites, and the peasant may daily pass over their broken surfaces without experiencing any emotion of curiosity or interest; but it is not so with the intelligent man and the reader of history. In their minds these spots excite inquiry and reflection. They know that the populous hamlets have been razed to the ground in the times of civil war or feudal contest. One of the sites well calculated to elicit observation lies ... near to Humberstone ... On paying a visit to this a few days ago, we were struck with the evidence it afforded of former occupancy, and of having been covered with buildings and fortified works. Hamilton is marked in maps as being in this quarter".<sup>(3)</sup>



Wright's book remained in print for over fifty years, going through several reprints and 'reissues with additions'. His brief speculation, and its supporting footnote, appeared unchanged throughout in form and text, suggesting both an idea ahead of its time (and hence not worth subsequent elaboration) and publishers' perennial concern to minimise print re-setting costs. It is also a reminder that footnotes, especially in the nineteenth century, do not necessarily indicate a last minute inclusion of material just come to the author's notice. Nor is there much comfort in the DNB's judgement on Wright that "much of his work was hastily executed, and errors abound, but his enthusiasm and industry were inexhaustible."<sup>(4)</sup>

Although Wright, in the way of his time, omitted to name or date his source, he did cite the *Leicester Chronicle*. So the search for 'a careful antiquary' began by scanning the pre-1853 copies of that weekly broadsheet. A full set of back copies (unfortunately not indexed) is held in the *Leicester Mercury* library, to whose staff I am indebted for their tolerance of an enquirer taking up scarce space in a busily crowded room.

A systematic search through all the issues in the three years - 1850-52 - has led to no conclusive evidence of the footnote's origin. However poring over the minuscule print in these over-sized broadsheets did reveal a wealth of recent 'worthy' publications, and a regular proto-gossip-column of notes of local interest. Concentrated scanning of these areas in the newspaper has brought closer the conclusion that the footnote's origin lies probably in the verbatim report of a lecture given to a local learned society. In the pre-1850s that pretty much narrows the search to the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, whose meetings got extensive coverage in the *Chronicle*. The Society's lecture agenda was all-embracing, from the spotted flycatcher through mesmerism to the Genius of Schiller, and only occasionally archaeological or historical. Formal lectures were delivered by visiting speakers and by Society members. Among the members most frequently reported as giving papers, contributing to discussions and moving formal thanks was James Francis Hollings (died 1862); the tone of the references to him suggests a leading and much respected member. Robert Rutland has recently drawn attention to "James Hollings, whose contribution to the understanding of Leicestershire's archaeology has hitherto been largely overlooked".<sup>(5)</sup>

Rutland records 'three surviving indications' of Hollings's published 'archaeological views' dating from 1842, 1846 and 1851. I am following these through. The 1842 contribution was a lecture to the Literary and Philosophical Society, on 'Roman castramentation'. While the *Leicester Journal's* lengthy account of the lecture does not help directly with the Wright footnote,

it does reflect Hollings's scholarly approach, his awareness of his own pioneering work, and his interest in Ingarsby - although it is disappointing to read that 'whether [Ingarsby was] really a Roman remain or not Mr Hollings did not pretend to determine'.<sup>(6)</sup>

However I hear echoes of the Wright footnote when Hollings, waxing rotund on Ingarsby, reportedly said: '... the intelligent visitor will not fail to remark, at every step indications of the labours of long past ages, upon whose purport all existing records are silent, and on which the light sometimes afforded, by local tradition, is but dimly and imperfectly shed'.

John Taylor

- (1) *Dictionary of National Biography* (1889) vol. lxiii, pp. 130-133
- (2) T. Wright, *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon* (Trubner, 4th edn, 1885), p.112
- (3) *Ibid.*, pp.115-116
- (4) DNB, *op. cit.*
- (5) R. Rutland, 'Leicestershire archaeology to 1849: the development of chronological interpretation', *Leicester Archaeological and Historical Society* vol lxv (1991), pp. 38-54
- (6) *Leicester Journal* April 8th 1842

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## SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFERS TO FRIENDS

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We are very pleased to announce three discount offers which have been set up for the benefit of Friends. First, our student Elaine Browne, together with her husband, has recently established the Needwood Bookshop at 55 New Street, Burton-on-Trent. The shop has a good selection of secondhand and out of print books, including history, topography and archaeology. Friends who call and declare themselves will be allowed a discount of 10%. You may ask to be put on the bookshop's mailing list for catalogues.

Second, please write to Paul Watkins Publishing, 18 Adelaide St., Stamford, Lincs., PE9 2EN for a catalogue. This publisher produces a good selection of history, including reprints (e.g. Hill's *Medieval Lincoln*, Wheeler's *Fens of South Lincolnshire*), original works (e.g. *We Didn't Know Aught*, women's oral history by Maureen Sutton, and *Eleanor of Castile* by David Parsons), works of reference (e.g. *A Reader's Guide to the Place-names of the United Kingdom*, a complete bibliography of the subject), local works on Stamford and the proceedings of the Harlaxton Medieval Symposia. When you order, say that you are a Friend and you will be given a 10% discount.

Third, publications at discounted prices are available through the Department (see below).

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## SALES ON BEHALF OF THE FRIENDS

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We have the following Departmental Occasional Papers for sale, all proceeds going into our funds:

**At £2 (post free) is:**

Finberg, *The Local Historian and his Theme*.

**At £4 (post free) are:**

Thirsk, *Fenland Farming in the Sixteenth Century*

Hart, *Early Charters of Essex* (revised edn)

Allison and others, *Deserted Villages of Northamptonshire*

Allison and others, *Deserted Villages of Oxfordshire*

Hart, *Hidation of Northamptonshire*

Hart, *Hidation of Cambridgeshire*

Merrill, *Cheshire Grand Jury*

Naughton, *Gentry of Bedfordshire*

Moylan, *Form and Reform of County Government, Kent*

Phythian-Adams, *Continuity, Fields and Fission*

Davey, *Ashwell, 1830-1914*

Schumer, *Evolution of Wychwood*

All enquiries to Harold Fox, Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester LE1 7RH (sending no money in the first instance).

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## USEFUL ADDRESSES

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**Membership:** Dr Anne Mitson, 61 Trowell Road, Wollaton, Nottingham NG8 2EJ.

**Reservations for seminars:** Mrs Pauline Whitmore, Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester LE1 7QR. Tel: 0533 522762. After 'phoneday' on April 16th 1995 (0116) 2522762.

**Contributions to Newsletters and books for the Booksale:** Please send these, marked 'Newsletter' or 'Booksale', to Marc Fitch House.

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## EDITORIAL TEAM

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Rosie Keep (Editor), Harold Fox (Executive Editor), the University Reprographic Unit, Anne Mitson (distribution), Margery Tranter and Hugh Keep (Proof reading) Bruce McGarva and Charles Keep (inputting).

### Finally.... An appeal

We are looking for volunteers to join next year's Newsletter editorial team. Please contact Harold Fox or Rosie Keep in the Department. This could be a good opportunity for anyone wanting to learn desk-top publishing skills.



