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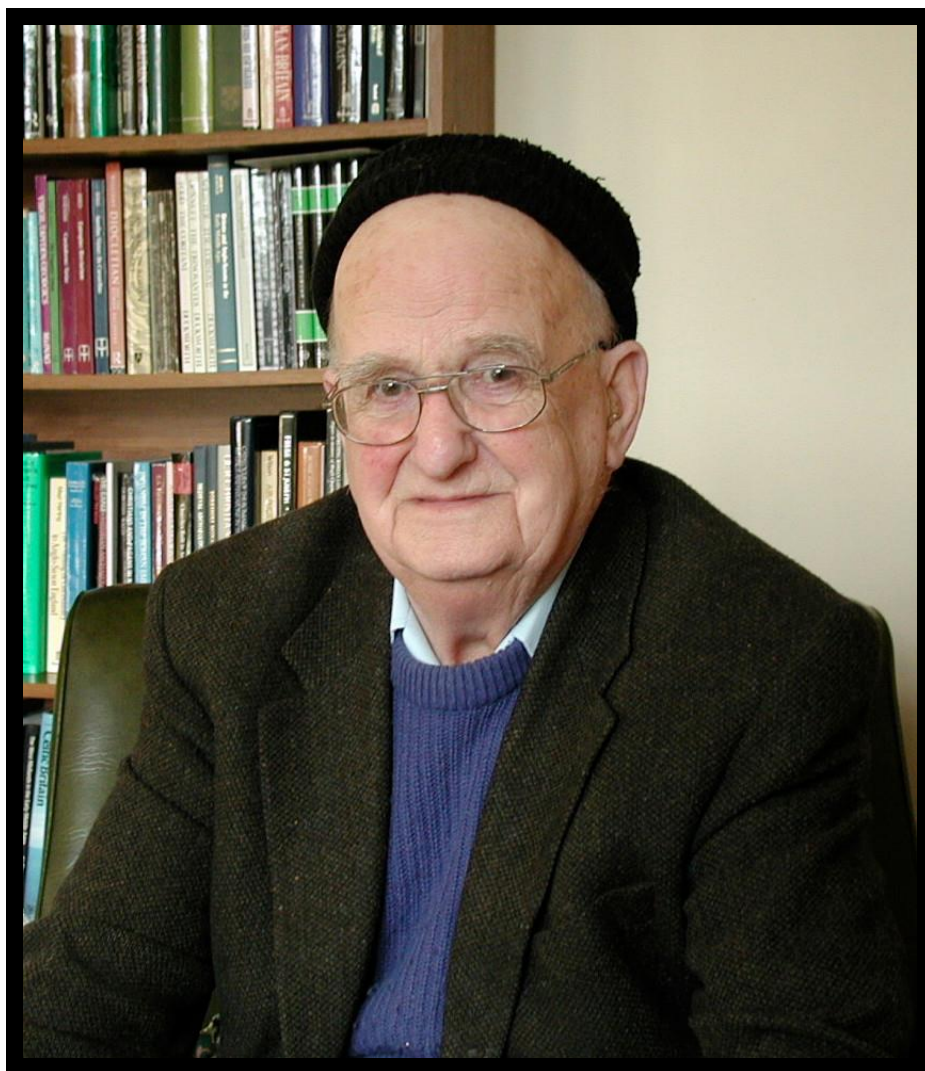
*Staffordshire Archaeological and
Historical Society*

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2013

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JAMES TYNAN GOULD 1918 – 2013

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EDITORS NOTES

Welcome to 2013 and this new issue of the Newsletter. You'll notice that we now have an Issue number. Our Treasurer has calculated from his records (you can rely on a Treasurer to have records!) that 112 is the best estimate of the number we have issued in the past. The Committee decided that we needed to keep in better contact with our membership and that one way would be to have more frequent issues of the Newsletter. Hence this appearance of this new January issue. The rise of the Internet has changed the way in which we can all communicate. So now the Newsletters are all available at any time at your convenience and in colour! See the SAHS Website, now upgraded and having even more information.

Newsletters depend on the Editor receiving sufficient content to make it worthwhile to print and post. For this issue most of the content has been sourced by Committee Members. For that many thanks. But in the future if we are to keep up the rate of issue we will need input from members as well! So please read this issue and think about what you would like to see in future issues and best of all, to write a short piece to help enthuse other members to become interested in your subject.

CAN WE INTEREST YOU IN A HISTORY OF MUSIC??

Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society will break exciting new ground this October. They will join forces with Lichfield Arts, who play a key role in the District's music and creative arts community, by staging a concert in the main hall of the City's historic Guildhall.

Committee members of the two organisations have met and are currently in talks with a company of historical musicians, to perform their "History of Music" show at the venue. This will be a chance to experience 600 years of music in one evening. Tunes and songs will be played on the hurdy-gurdy, reichspfeife, shawn and vihuela – and that's just the first 100 years! Mediaeval, Tudor, Stuart, Georgian and Victorian eras will be covered in the group's repertoire, culminating in the early 20th century.

The date pencilled in is October 11th, the Friday between our first two lectures of the 2013 -2014 season. Further details will be made available nearer the date and as they become available, for what promises to be a memorable and enjoyable evening in Lichfield's magnificent panelled and hammer-beamed Guildhall.

Peter Evans

SAHS COMMITTEE 2013

The following people were elected at the AGM held on 5th Oct 2012:

President Vice Presidents

Honorary General Secretary Honorary Treasurer Honorary Transactions' Editor Honorary Membership Secretary Honorary Newsletter Editor Honorary Meetings Secretary Honorary Publicity Officer Other Members of the Committee

Co-opted Members

Dr. J Hunt
Mrs. F E Fox
Mrs. D Wilkes
A. G. Ward, CBE
Mr. J Debney
Mr. K Billington
Dr. N Tringham
Mrs. F E Fox
Mr. P Norris
Mr. B Bull
Ms. J Wilson
Mr. P Evans
Dr. R Totty
Mrs. D Wilkes
Ms. S. Lupton

Mr. S Walton

OBITUARIES

JAMES TYNAN GOULD 1918 – 2013

It is with very great regret that the Society records the death of Jim Gould on January 7th this year. He was an early member of our predecessor, The Lichfield Archaeological & Historical Society (1959) and its first Secretary.

A teacher by profession, he worked in several South Staffordshire – as it then was – schools. He was concerned with the dig at Wall from the earliest days of the Society's involvement until 1966. During this period a 14 year schoolboy from south Birmingham became a Saturday volunteer at Wall. Arriving by bicycle and train, his first task as dictated by Jim was to "clean up that Roman road." The young man grew up to be Professor Mick Aston.

Many of Jim's papers on Wall and those on excavations at Tamworth and elsewhere were published in our Transactions and those of the Birmingham Archaeological Society. He also contributed to *The Antiquaries Journal*, of which Society he was a Fellow, and *Britannica*. His interest in local history resulted in the publication of *Men of Aldridge*, the first port of call for anyone interested in the area. His wife, Dorothy, was co-author of several papers on local topics, some published, others not.

A very keen gardener in his earlier years, he had several articles printed in *Garden History* and *The Garden*. It pained him as he grew older that he could no longer care for his own garden.

A man generous with his time and knowledge to those who sought his help and also a man very sure of his own opinions, he will be greatly missed by those who had the good fortune to have known him.

Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

Betty Fox

Dr Jonathan Kwok, Jim's Grandson said:

'He was a wonderful fellow. I remember many happy discussions with Grandpa, in his front room, where he would pull down a historical book or journal and explain why the authors had not quite got something wholly correct, or might have missed an interesting piece of information, whereupon he would produce a letter to the editor to share his thoughts. Local archaeology particularly that of Roman Britain, was very much his lifelong passion. It is kind of you to remember him.'

Jim Gould's funeral took place on Monday, January 28th at 3.25 at Streetly Crematorium.

Members of the Society were welcomed to join in a "Secular celebration of the life of service and achievement of a Victorian polymath". Jim's papers etc. will go to Keele University.

Betty Fox

NANCY SANKEY

It is with regret that I have to report the death of Nancy Sankey. Nancy and her sister joined the Society in the early 1980s. The "two sisters" as they were known supported Society activities until very recently, when as senior citizens, they found evening meetings a journey too far. Members may remember Mary and Nancy sitting with the Wimburys, close to the refreshment facilities at St Marys Centre. The Sankey's were renowned for enjoying good refreshments and would often cross the city centre to The Angel Croft Hotel for a convivial hour after meetings. For the last year Nancy had suffered heart problems and had a mini stroke.

Mary has supported her throughout. The two sisters have never been apart until now.

The Society offers their heartfelt sympathy to Mary.

Diana Wilkes

TALKS FOR THE SEASON 2013

Meetings held at St Mary's, Market Square 7.30pm for 8.00pm commencement.

Visitors most welcome, £3.00 entry. Membership Forms are always available at the Meetings.

15th February 2013 Prof. Simon James Dura-Europos. Pompeii of the Syrian Desert

Simon James read archaeology at the London Institute of Archaeology, where he also took his PhD, by which time the Institute had become part of University College, London. He moved to the British Museum, first as an archaeological illustrator and then as a museum educator, responsible for programmes relating to the later prehistoric and Roman collections. After a decade at the British Museum, he sought a career in research and teaching. Having held a Leverhulme Special Research Fellowship at the University of Durham, he joined Leicester University in January 2000, was promoted Senior Lecturer in 2002, and Reader in 2005. In April 2012 he was awarded a personal chair. Dura-Europos is an ancient city in Eastern Syria, destroyed by war and abandoned in the third century AD. Excavations in the 1920s and '30s, renewed since the 1980s, have revealed spectacular remains of elaborately decorated buildings (including a painted synagogue and a very early Christian shrine), and astonishingly well-preserved artefacts. These famous finds led to the city being dubbed the 'Pompeii of the Syrian desert'.

1st March 2013 Iain Soden Ranulf de Blondville, 6th Earl of Chester, and his castle-building of 1225'

Iain has been a professional archaeologist for 28 years, working across the Midlands and specialising in the medieval period and in the analysis of historic buildings. He is the author of three books and over 20 academic papers and published reports. His second book, a biography of the 6th Earl of Chester, '*Ranulf de Blondville: the first English hero*', was published in 2010. Iain's current interests are royal exile during the medieval period, and England's medieval imports.

15th March 2013 Helen Wiser Swinfen Hall History

Helen Wiser is the Owner and Managing Director of Swinfen Hall Hotel and the talk she will present will follow the history of Swinfen Hall and its colourful cast of occupants from the mid-eighteenth century onwards and will include briefly the restoration works that have been undertaken since taking ownership in 1987.

5th April 2013 Paul Ford The Zeppelin Raid on Walsall 1916

Whilst working for BT his passion was for matters historical and archaeological and he worked at Wall with Stephen Campbell Kelly. On retiring from BT Paul took up employment with the Record Offices at Stafford and Lichfield before finally moving on to Walsall Local History Centre where he is the Archivist.

The talk this evening has been researched by Paul from myriad records.

19th April 2013 Dr. William Bowden Caistor St Edmund, Norfolk

The Caistor Roman Town project is a new research initiative focused on the Roman town of *Venta Icenorum*, which was established in the territory of the Iceni in the aftermath of the Boudican revolt of AD 60-61. The research is intended to chart the effects of the town's foundation on its surrounding area and to examine the development and eventual decline of the settlement. This is an ongoing project and the talk will provide an insight to the project itself and the latest investigation work that has been undertaken. Dr. Will Bowden is Associate Professor of Roman Archaeology at Nottingham University.

3rd May 2013 Dr. George Nash Misunderstanding, Myth, or might be?

The discovery of Upper Palaeolithic Rock-art in South Wales.

Discovered in a small inland cave in September 2010 was an engraving of a probable cervid. This small figure, engraved at the back of the cave had been fortuitously persevered over many thousands of years, partly by a datable flowstone (stalagmite). The date range revealed many secrets of when this engraving was made. This lecture will tell the story of the discovery and the process of how it became Britain's earliest prehistoric engraving.

George Nash Lectures at Bristol University as well as being an Independent Archaeologist.

THE ART OF CHEESE-MAKING IS 7,500 YEARS OLD

Neolithic pottery fragments from Europe reveal traces of milk fats.

- [Nidhi Subbaraman](#) 12 December 2012



Neolithic dairies may have been producing cheese as early as 7,500 years ago

(MICHEL GRENET/LOOK AT SCIENCES/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY)

Traces of dairy fat in ancient ceramic fragments suggest that people have been making cheese in Europe for up to 7,500 years. In the tough days before refrigerators, early dairy farmers probably devised cheese-making as a way to preserve, and get the best use out of, milk from the cattle that they had begun to herd.

Peter Bogucki, an archaeologist at Princeton University in New Jersey, was in the 1980s among the first to suspect that cheese-making might have been afoot in Europe as early as 5,500 BC. He noticed that archaeologists working at ancient cattle-rearing sites in what is now Poland had found pieces of ceramic vessels riddled with holes, reminiscent of cheese strainers. Bogucki reasoned that Neolithic farmers had found a way to use their herds for more than milk or meat¹.

In a paper published in *Nature*², Bogucki and his collaborators now confirm that theory, with biochemical proof that the strainers were used to separate dairy fats. Mélanie Salque, a chemist at the University of Bristol, UK, used gas chromatography and carbon-isotope ratios to analyse molecules preserved in the pores of the ancient clay, and confirmed that they came from milk fats. “This research provides the smoking gun that cheese manufacture was practiced by Neolithic people 7,000 years ago,” says Bogucki.

Dairy culture

“This is the first and only evidence of [Neolithic] cheese-making in the archaeological record,” says Richard Evershed, a chemist at Bristol and a co-author of the paper. The finding, he adds, is not only an indication that humans had by that time learned to use sophisticated technology, but is also evidence that they had begun to develop a complex relationship with animals that went beyond hunting. “It’s building a picture for me, as a European, of where we came from: the origins of our culture and cuisines,” he says.

Cheese-making would have given the Neolithic farmers a way to make the most out of the resources available from their herds. Early humans were unable to digest milk sugars, or lactose, after childhood; however, traditionally made cheese contains much less lactose than fresh milk. “The making of cheese would have allowed them to get around the indigestibility of milk without getting ill,” Evershed says.

“It’s one small step, but it’s filling out the picture of that transition from nomadism,” says Heather Paxson, a cultural anthropologist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, who studies US artisan cheese-

makers. She suggests that Neolithic people might have curdled their milk with bacteria that are found in nature, resulting in a clumpy version of modern mozzarella.

Evidence of dairy farming has previously been found at archaeological sites dating from the fifth millennium BC in Africa³ and the seventh millennium BC near Istanbul⁴. But no sieves have been found at those locations, so there is no indication that cheese was being made there.

Nature

doi:10.1038/nature.2012.12020

References

1. Bogucki, P. I. *Oxford J. Archaeol.* 3, 15–30 (1984).
2. Salque, M. et al. *Nature* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature11698> (2012).
3. Dunne, J. *et al.* *Nature* 486, 390–394 (2012).
4. Evershed, R. P. *et al.* *Nature* 455, 528–531 (2008).

Extract from Nature News Dec 12, 2012. Copied with Permission: 305198083445.

JUST LIKE BUSES!!!!



It was reported in the last issue of the Society newsletter that a statue to Erasmus Darwin (comprising four stainless steel profile cut-outs on a large masonry plinth) had been erected and unveiled on Darwin Park housing development. There was even a picture!!!

I trust you have all been to see it.

Well now – further to that – just like the buses – you wait forever for one to turn up then two turn up together!

Yes indeedly – you are reading this small piece and during our “winter close down” a second but more traditional looking statue to Erasmus Darwin has been erected and unveiled. In fact it was on the 12th December 2012 at 12.00noon (12/12/12/12 even). Why it was not 12 minutes past 12 I do not know but you could go on! This time it is situated in Beacon Park adjacent to the Old Library now being used as the Registry Office.

From the front of the statue it could be anyone – the plaque telling us who the statue is supposed to represent is round the back.

I am not impressed with the plinth at all – very second rate unless there a move to do something with when the weather gets better – we shall see.

I trust you will all go and see that one as well.

Quite why Lichfield needs two statues to Erasmus beats me when you think that Elias Ashmole and David Garrick do not have any such monuments in Lichfield (unless you know better of course!)

Brian Bull

HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED!

As Members of a certain vintage may know, the origins of the Society lie with the Lichfield Archaeological & Historical Society which was formed in the late 1950s. Not all that long ago really, when compared with many of the longer standing but similar County Societies which surround us and further afield.

The earliest records still kept by us, which are from the very start, reveal something of a different world back then. Subscriptions were of course tiny by today's values. 10s 6d was required for a year's Membership from September 1957 but the surprising thing is that this appears to be the rate for men. Ladies were only required to pay 5 shillings! Discrimination between the genders clearly; perhaps this was common place at the time? By 1960 a Family or Joint subscription rate had been introduced and this was, applying a basic logic, 15s 6d.

Membership numbers were understandably I guess low in the formative years, for example just over 40 in 1958-59, then nearing 50 in 1959-60, although 10 from the previous year had not renewed. Equally modest appears to have been any programme of lectures. Just two in 1959, involving the hire of the W. I. Hall for 15 shillings and then the Guild Room for just 7s 6d. Total postages in 1959 were four stamps @ 3d, i.e. 1 shilling in total! However, and this would not happen now, a charge for a telephone call made to Barclays Bank is recorded as claimed amounting to 4d. Right from the start the Society was affiliated to the CBA, this costing 10 shillings for the year.

There were some surprising sources of income. May 1958 has an entry for 1s 3d re the sale of flowers. Auction of cake in 1960 brought in 6 shillings. In November of that year a Social Evening was held at the Kings Hill Secondary School in Lichfield for which 143 programmes at 3 shillings each, in lieu of tickets, were sold. With a number of donations as well along the way, adding up to 16 shillings, the total receipts for the event were £22.5.0d. This saw a very handsome profit of £15.12.6d on the evening as total overheads, which included advertising, hire of the school hall and a charge for electricity usage 2s 6d, were only £6.12.6d! Also noted is a fully booked coach trip to visit three Shropshire Abbeys in the previous May at 15s 6d per seat, net profit on the excursion £2.19.3d, paltry by comparison.

The first ever Transactions Volume I for 1959-60 cost £32.11.4d to produce and print. If only!

I could go on. Just a flavour of times past, albeit just 55 years or so ago! Of a certain interest I hope. How things have changed!

Keith Billington

NEW COURSE AT CAMBRIDGE

This is to let you know about a new, part-time Master's programme at Cambridge University: the **Master of Studies (MSt) in Historic Environment**. The MSt programme aims to connect policy and practice in the management and conservation of historic landscapes, parks and gardens with theory, concepts and research. It will provide essential knowledge and practical skills for:

- (a) recent graduates with an interest in developing a career in historic environment
- (b) volunteers and those with a personal interest in the field.

The MSt is taught over two years in short, intensive study blocks. It has been designed to be accessible to those either in full or part-time employment, and to international students. The course starts in September 2013 and the deadline for applications is 28 March 2013. You can find out more about the course, including how to apply, on our website at www.ice.cam.ac.uk/mst-historic-environment. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or if you'd prefer not to receive email from us in future.

Best regards

Mrs Kate Cooper, Marketing Assistant, University of Cambridge, Institute of Continuing Education

Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge CB23 8AQ

New Finds Discovered in Staffordshire Hoard Field

December 18, 2012



Archaeologists working for Staffordshire County Council and English Heritage made the discovery when they were on site following the recent ploughing of the same field at Hammerwich, near Lichfield.

Approximately 90 pieces of gold and silver have been recovered in this work; many of these items weigh less than a gram. The collection does, however, include a possible helmet cheek piece, a cross-shaped mount and an eagle-shaped mount; these items are now being examined by experts.

South Staffordshire Coroner Andrew Haigh will rule at an inquest on January 4 if the metalwork pieces are part of the Anglo Saxon collection and should be declared treasure.

Staffordshire County Council Leader Philip Atkins, said: “The Staffordshire Hoard was an amazing discovery, and together with our partners, we have been immensely proud to play our part in helping to discover and tell the story of a collection of such international importance.

“The ploughing of the same field has unearthed a small number of other gold and silver finds. While it is far too early to say exactly what they are, or how old they are, they are certainly interesting finds.



“We will now have to wait for the inquest, to discover if the objects are a significant part of our national history.”

The new items were found in the same field where over 3,900 pieces of gold, silver and some copper alloy objects were found in 2009. The first discovery was made by a metal detectorist, who had permission to scan the land.

Following the discovery three years English Heritage immediately recognised the exceptional significance of the finds and provided emergency funding at the start of the dig together with continued expert advice, support and funding for the research and preservation of the Staffordshire Hoard.

Archaeologists working with Staffordshire County Council later carried out the excavation of the field and discovered the largest ever find of Anglo Saxon gold and silver metal work from this country.

In total the hoard included over 5kg of gold, 1.5kg of silver and thousands of small garnets.

They include a bishop's pectoral cross, a large folded cross, a helmet cheek piece, a filigree seahorse and numerous sword fittings including hilt plates and pommel caps.

The pieces appear to date from the seventh century, although there is some debate among experts as to when the hoard first entered the ground.

The dig was closed when archaeologists were confident they had retrieved everything that was recoverable at the time.



Last month, a team of archaeologists and experienced metal detectorists from Archaeology Warwickshire returned to the field when it was ploughed and recovered further material. These are currently being examined and x-rayed at a specialist archives laboratory.

The images that accompany this press release are by photographer Vivienne Bailey.

After Note: The South Staffordshire Coroner ruled on Jan 4th 2013 that most of the finds were Treasure and part of the Staffordshire Hoard all except for 10 objects which were discounted.



Press Release from Staffordshire County Council.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If this item is highlighted then your subscription for 2012/13 is still outstanding. Rates are as follows:

Member £18.50; Family £27.00; Student £12.50. Please forward to Mrs. F.E. Fox, 6, Lawson Close, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0RX. Cheques may be made payable to SAHS.

Thanks, Betty

(Membership Application Form is part of your September 2012 Newsletter)

THE JUBILEE ROMAN MILESTONE AT WALL

To mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth, Wall Parish Council decided to erect a replica Roman milestone in the village near the site of one known to have stood in the 3rd Century.

It weighs one ton, took six weeks to carve from Derbyshire sandstone and now proudly stands on one of the area's most historic routes.



On a rather cold and foggy November 12, the milestone was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Ian Dudson. Accompanying him were Mrs. Dudson; the Chairman of Staffordshire County Council and his Lady; the Chairman of Lichfield District Council and his Lady; County Councillor Erica Bayliss and her husband; the Chairman of Wall Parish Council/Friends of Letocetum, John Crowe and Mrs. Crowe and Jeremy Milln.



In addition there were many residents of Wall, one or two “diggers” and two stalwarts of the XIIIth Legion on day-release from Wroxeter.

They all gathered at Wall on Saturday, November 12th to see the unveiling of a replica Roman milestone in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The monument was crafted by Huddersfield sculptor Dave Bradbury and bears a Latin inscription which reminds passers-by of Wall's historical importance as a major highway.

It was the idea of the Milestone Society, which aims to conserve ancient finger posts and milestones around the country. The stone is a cylindrical piece of buff-coloured Carboniferous sandstone, 493mm in diameter and 1480 mm in height, carved with a Latin inscription following the format of a Roman original. Richard Grasby of the British Epigraphic Society advised as to the style and content and the lettering was cut by Dave Bradbury.



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A modern translation would be:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth by the Grace of God in the 60th year of her reign the people of Wall set up (this milestone/monument) at the centre of (Great) Britain. Distances from Wall to London 124 (114 statute) miles, Gloucester 66 (61 statute) miles, Chester 68 (63 statute) miles and York 122 (112 statute) miles.

Members decided Wall was the ideal location because it was situated in the centre of the Roman Province of Britannia, within a historic Roman settlement and close to the original junction of two major Roman roads; Watling Street and Ryknild Street. Milestones first marked routes in the 1st century AD on Roman military roads. They were usually cylindrical stones and were often engraved with a dedication to the current emperor around the top.

Watling Street, which was the highway from London to Chester and Shrewsbury, was lined

with many milestones in the past. But during the 1970s the monuments were considered a hindrance to cable-laying across England and were disposed of.

Following the unveiling ceremony guests enjoyed hot soup, mince pies and coffee, which were sorely needed, in the village hall. They were provided by representatives of Wall Women's Institute and Village Hall Committee.

Chairman of Wall Parish Council, John Crowe said so many people had told him how much they enjoyed the event. He added: "We were extremely honoured to have the Lord Lieutenant unveil the milestone on behalf of Her Majesty." "I think we finally realised the significance of it on Saturday when he said what an extremely unique project it was." "During the whole of what he described as the 'Jubilee and Olympic year' he said he had not come across anything like it." "A display and leaflet will be available in the Museum which was opened for the day.

I am most grateful to Jeremy Milln for letting me have sight of his paper on the milestone, which is to be published in the Milestone Society Journal. There is a great deal more detail in it than I have been able to use.

Betty Fox

For some more details see www.visitlichfield.co.uk/content/letocetum-stone

SANDFIELDS PUMPING STATION –

Lichfield's jewel or a blight on the landscape?



For most of us, running a tap to pour clean drinking water is nothing special. We take it for granted. Drinking water and effective sanitation now form part of the fabric of modern day Britain. We forget that it has not always been so.

In 1832 there was a country wide cholera outbreak resulting in the deaths of many people. When cholera struck again with greater virulence in 1848 many areas in the Black Country were affected. After several other outbreaks had already occurred elsewhere in the country, a major outbreak of cholera struck Soho, London. John Snow, a physician, linked the outbreak to contaminated water; he identified the source of the outbreak as the public water pump on Broad Street, and by the use of statistics he illustrated the connection between the quality of the source of water and cholera cases.

With the water supply of the community only partially satisfied by the meagre, impure sources available from a communal pump or wells, cholera and other associated diseases caused the deaths of thousands of people in the Black Country; there was a dire need for an organised waterworks scheme.

Lichfield provided the solution with the establishment of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. Sited near to the railway at Sandfields, Lichfield, the building houses a 150 horse power Cornish beam engine built by Jonah and George Davies of Tipton and pumped two million gallons of water every day, almost non-stop from 1873 to 1927. This engine is unique, and is the only surviving engine in the whole world of its kind and condition. The engine and the building are themselves a magnificent monument to the lives of these individuals. There are people still alive today who had fathers, grandfathers and other relatives who worked at the Sandfields waterworks for the South Staffordshire Water Company. The memories and oral accounts of these individuals can tell remarkable stories about the lives of ordinary people.

The history of Sandfields pumping station sets out a rich useable past in terms of reflecting the generosity of the people of Lichfield, the philanthropic activities of the people who set up the railway into Lichfield, the South Staffordshire Water Works Company, the extraordinary story of fresh drinking water and how this supported the Industrial growth of the Black Country. The philanthropic endeavours of the Victorian age formed the foundation for the National Health Service as we know it today.

In 1997 The South Staffordshire Water Company entered into a voluntary agreement with the Environment Agency to cease abstraction at Sandfields, resulting in the abandonment of Sandfields Pumping Station. The site was sold to a developer with an agreement that the grade II listed building and contents are preserved and maintained and then donated to a charitable trust upon completion of the development.

At this moment in time, the building, other than for a brief visit in May 2012, has not been open to the public for over ten years, and is now showing signs of vandalism and metal theft from the roofs. This action has seriously compromised the structural integrity of the building and needs rectifying as a matter of priority.

Many will feel unhappy that this splendid monument to the past is in danger. If it is to be saved it is important to understand doing nothing is not an option. Maintaining the status quo is not a choice. Moreover, if left in its current condition, this Grade II listed building could quite easily and quite quickly become a blight on the landscape. Its listing status would prevent demolition should it fall into disrepair and could in fact act as an attractant to further vandalism and anti social behaviour in a residential area. These effects can have an adverse impact on the value of people's homes, whereas heritage sites can and do add value to the local properties in their vicinity.

The waterworks at Sandfields needs your help and support. It has the possibility to become an asset to the local area, a facility that could benefit many people.

Sandfields pumping station is in need of a small amount of commitment and a lot of imagination. Sandfields Pumping Station is a unique heritage site; however at this moment in time it is lacking public support. To save this valuable site is not a complicated process, it does not need vast amounts of money, or does it need a vast amount of your precious time, it only needs a show of needs public support.

It wants people to say, in a loud and clear voice 'It is worth saving'; you can do this by simply saying so. Visit my blog, write a comment, visit some of the links, register an interest, 'like' Sandfields Pumping Station on Facebook, it's as simple as that.

If you are interested in helping form a Friends of Sandfields Pumping Station Society, or would be interested in forming a charitable trust or becoming a founding partner, please get in touch.

David Moore

Email: sandfields@outlook.com

Website: <http://morturn.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/SandfieldsPumpingStation>

Images:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/morturn/sets/72157629967443719/>

SPEAKERS

I was thinking a short while ago about the forthcoming lecture season 2013-2014 working out who I could invite.

It came to me that I am pulling in speakers with a variety of subjects that I hope will be entertaining, interesting and in general please the Society members. And yes OK (I know that is not good English but it fits!!) there have been a few that were not really up to scratch or the standard anticipated by the Society and for that I do apologise. Hopefully I do get it right most of the time!!

Why am I writing this you ask? Well- some feedback really – Society member feedback is generally a bit thin on the ground as to whether a particular talk is good, bad, or indifferent. OK it is possible to please some of the people all of the time but I realise pleasing all of the people all of the time is not feasible. Your comments will be

gratefully received. Before you ask, this is not an ego trip for me but a genuine request as out there are some speakers who do have other talks in their repertoire and may be willing to come back. Ian Bapty is a good example here – he has been to us three times now and he does have further opportunities for talks particularly as he recently changed his job and Richard Stone also has others up his sleeve. These are the type of speaker that will be invited back if they have been received well by the members.

There are few that get on the programme that have not been too far astray from my own interests (Ned Williams talking about Pat Collins is one example).

So... if you have taken the trouble to read this far in this short piece and not fallen asleep – time for thinking caps on please particularly those members who are members of other Societies. Your suggestions for speakers and/or talk subjects will be welcomed because there will be folk out there that I have not heard of. I will then endeavour to get them to come and talk to the Society. Having said that I do have a good a number of speakers as “targets” but more obscure ones will be welcomed.

So... if you do have a suggestion please tell me, leave a note at the back after a meeting or indeed tell any of the Committee members who I anticipate will pass on the suggestion.

Brian Bull, Meetings Secretary.

THEY WANT HIM BACK!

A few years ago ‘they’ declared that ‘they’ wanted ‘him’ back!!

So... Who is the ‘they’ that want ‘him’ back and who are ‘they’ referring to as ‘him’?

You may well ask or even you may not really care!

However undaunted – Onward - ‘The ‘they’ in all this is the Government of India and the ‘him’ referred to is we will know as the Sultanganj Buddha (Buddha).

This Buddha is a bronze figure some 2.30 metres tall and weighing in at something excess of 500 kilograms. The statue was made by using the ‘lost wax’ technique, a remarkable feat for the period given the size of the statue, has been dated to somewhere between 500 and 700 AD.

The discovery of Buddha was really accidental. Were it not for the construction of the East India Railway (more of this in a later newsletter) it may have remained undisturbed for many years, decades or even never found at all. The statue was found during the construction of the railway station yard at the North Indian town of Sultanganj (hence the name of Buddha) which is in Bhagalpur District, Bihar State. Sultanganj is approximately four hundred and fifty miles north of Kolkata (Calcutta) and situated on the banks of the Ganges.

The accidental discovery was as a result of the requirement for large quantities of ballast to utilise in the construction of the East India Railway (EIR) and in this particular instance the railway station yard at Sultanganj.

A guy going by the name of E.B.Harris was the Engineer in charge of constructing the railway station yard. Little is known about Harris except that he was an amateur archaeologist (that’s how we all start!) and in his quest for ballast observed that there were lines of walls etc. across the area that was eventually to become the station yard. These lines were showing better after light rain. So the archaeologist in him kicks in and he commences to investigate and at the same time writes to ‘The Asiatic Society of Bengal’ informing them of the discovery in September 1862 of what is identified as a Buddhist Chapel Monastery. The Asiatic Society in turn writes to Colonel Alexander Cunningham (more of him in a later newsletter).

E.B.Harris writes in his self published volume albeit slim...

SOOLTANGUNGE is situate about midway between the stations of Bhangul-poor and Monghyr, on the right bank of the River Ganges; the present village is nearly a mile in length, and stands on part of the site or buried ruins of what must have been a very extensive place. The remains of brick buildings can be traced in many parts on the surface over a distance of more than three miles in length, by about half to three quarters in breadth. Adjoining the village at its west end is an artificial mound extending over more than 80 acres, at an average height of 25 feet from the natural surface; this mound is a mass of brickwork; numbers of walls can be traced on the surface and also in the roads leading to the Indigo Factory which stands upon it.

And further on in his narrative...

About a quarter of a mile south of the village, or a little more than a mile from the rocks above named, stand the remains of two high earth and brick mounds, one of which was partly levelled by the proprietor, and the materials sold to the Railway Company for ballast, in the earlier part of the works, but I am not aware that anything was found worth notice. On the other mound the Railway Company built their engineer's house, which is now standing, at the foot of which in February, 1863, I excavated the cells, block of brickwork and floors, shown in the section marked A B. These mounds stand about 900 feet apart from centre to centre and stood in 1855 from 35 to 40 feet above the surface of the surrounding ground.

Below is a short description of the discovery itself...

The excavation for the Railway Station Yard showed that remains of great interest were buried in the immediate neighbourhood. All the principal walls running north and south were crossed, and one or two cells distinctly traced; a few mutilated remains of images, parts of ornamental tiles, a few stone slabs, and parts of stone columns were collected. There was not time to take any plan of the cells or walls excavated, but all the foundations can still be traced after rain in the levelled surface of the Station Yard.

The two small figures of Buddha in stone, which have the inscription on them, were found shortly after I commenced the excavations; they were found very close together, about 6 to 7 feet under the surface, and very near the spot where the copper image was discovered; at about this depth the division walls of the cells became quite clear, together with the three walls were proved to be in continuation of the walls crossed in excavating the Station Yard, and also agreeing with those which had previously been excavated for ballast, which are shown in the plan and will be hereafter referred to. Each wall was carefully surveyed and levels taken as they became distinct.

On the evening of the 6th December, 1862, the right foot of the copper image was met with ten feet under the surface. The news

spread rapidly, and by the next morning several thousands of natives had arrived, and others could be seen coming in all directions up to a late hour that night. The excitement during the uncovering of the body was extreme, and much difficulty experienced in keeping the people back from the falling earth. After the image had been taken from the vertical sides of the excavation and some of the dirt removed from it, the people were allowed to examine it as they liked: the image was immediately surrounded, many of the Hindoo women kissed it making very curious remarks; this great excitement did not, however, long continue, they soon found out that it was not of their religion, which the priests at the Hindoo temple before referred to pointed out, when they found they could not get the image, even by purchase. I believe, during the first 8 days, about 10,000 people visited the spot and image, and for months afterwards numbers came daily.



E.B.Harris with the Statue



The Statue as it is now

Buddha was it transpires buried in about 1202 along with other images and artifacts by the Monks at the Monastery to protect them against actual destruction by marauding hords. Muhammed Ghur had overrun Northwest India as far as Delhi. He then returned to Afghanistan and left Qutb-ud-Din in charge who decided that there was now an opportunity to score as it were. So in 1202 or thereabouts he set about and overran Bengal, Bahir, Orissa and Assam followed by the systematic destruction of the remaining monasteries with the monks who had not already fled for their lives being slaughtered. This period in Indian history is/was known as 'The Rise of Islam'.

In 1864 George Turnbull the Chief Engineer to the East India Railway (more of him in a later newsletter) and in turn Harris's boss through his contact Samuel Thornton (a former mayor of Birmingham) brought the statue at a cost of £200 to Great Britain and thence to Birmingham where it was placed and remains on display in the Museum.

Whether Buddha returns to India is anybody's guess but he does get to be the focus of attention on Buddha Day in May of each year (the actual date varies depending on the solar and lunar cycles) by many practicing Buddhists of West Midlands and surrounding counties.

Brian Bull

STAFFORDSHIRE HISTORY DAY

New Developments in Staffordshire's History

A Collaboration between Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Archive Service, Keele University and the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham

The Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service is working in collaboration with Keele University and the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham to put together a new venture in which we hope:

To provide an overview of recent work into Staffordshire's History.

To highlight opportunities for enhancing historical activity through archival research, visiting museums, project work and publications.

To offer networking opportunities for Staffordshire's historical societies, students and all those who are interested in the county's history.

To create opportunities for postgraduate students to present their work.

To draw attention to the range of courses available for further study at heritage organisations in Staffordshire and the Universities of Birmingham and Keele.

We are also inviting local societies and relevant organisations to set up a table.

We see this as an ideal networking opportunity for those interested in all aspects of the history of the historic county of Staffordshire.

PROGRAMME

Refreshment upon arrival 9.30-10.00am

INTRODUCTION 10.00-10.10am Joanna Terry (Head of Archives & Heritage)

RESEARCH STUDENT PAPERS 10.10-11.10am

Robert Barcroft (Keele University)

The Garrisons of Civil War Staffordshire

Gill Alleeson (University of Birmingham)

Four Staffordshire Antiquarians

Janet Sullivan (University of Birmingham)

Paying a Price for Industrialisation: Pollution in the Black Country

Jo Taylor (Keele University)

Collaborative Projects

Questions 11.10-11.25am

Refreshment 11.25-11.50am

KEYNOTE SPEAKER 11.50-12.30pm

Deborah Youngs

The Letter Book of Henry, Lord Stafford.

Questions

LATEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS 12.30-12.50pm

Steven Dean (County Archaeologist)

ARCHIVE AND HERITAGE NEWS 12.50-1.10pm

Joanna Terry (Head of Archives & Heritage)

Questions 1.10-1.20pm

Lunch 1.20-2.45pm *Opportunity to look at societies' displays*

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY NEWS 2.45-3.15pm

Dr Nigel Tringham (Editor, VCH Staffordshire)

HISTORY WEST MIDLANDS 3.15-3.45pm

Dr Malcolm Dick (Editor) (University of Birmingham)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER 3.45-4.35pm

Mark Curthoys (Oxford Dictionary of National Biography)

Staffordshire People

SUMMARY AND QUESTIONS 4.35-4.45pm

Staffordshire History Day—Booking Form

Please return to **Staffordshire Record Office, Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LZ** with your payment.

I / We would like.....tickets for Staffordshire History Day and enclose my remittance (payable to Staffordshire County Council) of £.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel No..... Email.....

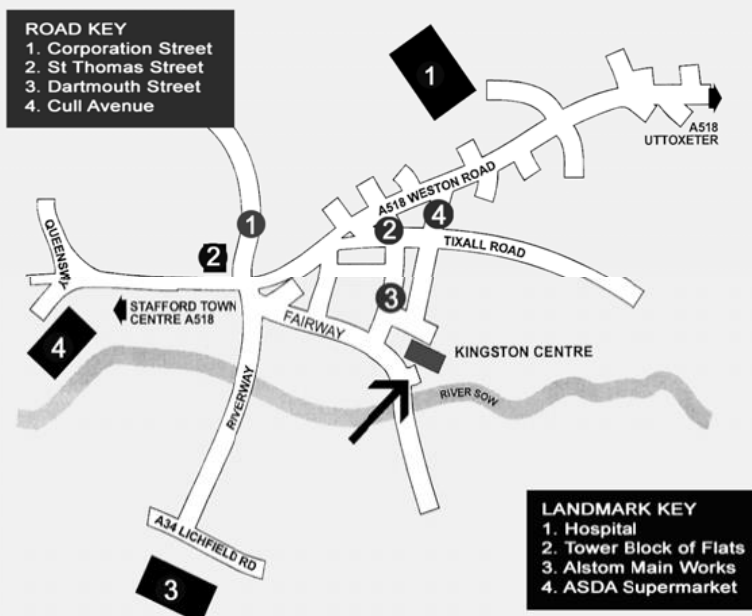
If you are hard of hearing and would like to reserve a seat at the front of the room, please indicate by ticking the box

☐

Please inform us if you have any specific dietary requirements

Tickets are £17.00 with Free Parking, Refreshments and Lunch provided

Locating the Kingston Centre



Directions

The centre is located about half a mile from Stafford town centre.

From Stafford town, follow the signs for Uttoxeter (A518). You will pass an ESSO garage on your right. Turn right at the traffic lights, then turn left after approx. 150 yards into Fairway.

Follow the road for about 400 yards. The entrance to the Kingston Centre is on your left, after the last house.

From the A34 Lichfield Road, follow the A34 towards Stafford town centre. Turn left at the first set of traffic lights at the Hough Retail Park (by B&Q) and carry round until the traffic lights at the junction with Riverway.

Here, carry straight on across the junction down Riverway. About 200 yards after the road crosses the river, turn right into Fairway.

Follow the road for about 400 yards. The entrance to the Kingston Centre is on your left, after the last house.

STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Guided Walk around Castle Ring and Beaudesert, Sunday, April 7 2013 at 2.00 pm

Please reserveplaces @ £3.00 each. I enclose a cheque payable to the Society for

..... Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....Tel. No. (in case of alteration of arrangements).....

I would be willing to offer a lift topeople from

Return to Dr R.N. Totty by March 24th 2013

Rock Cottage Redhill Rugeley Staffffordshire WS15 4LL

No acknowledgement of receipt will be made

A walk of about 4 miles on the southern edge of Cannock Chase using roads, tracks and footpaths with a gradient; using gates and stiles and looking at the prehistoric and medieval landscape. We will be guided by local archaeologist David Wilkinson. Ample parking is available in the public car park at Castle Ring, Cannock Wood. The walk will take us around Castle Ring, an impressive Iron Age fort on one of the highest parts of Cannock Chase, and then through woodland to the remains of Beaudesert, the mansion of the Paget family abandoned by them eighty years ago. There are fragments of the house still standing and we shall see the parts of the once impressive gardens that remain and admire the view northwards from the front of the house over the Trent Valley and look at Humphrey Repton's proposals for the remodeling of the landscape in this area, never completed. The walk also includes a rectangular moat in the Redmoor Valley and the Nun's Well. Stout footwear is essential as many of the paths here are little used and not well defined. Please be ready to start the walk at 2.00pm prompt.

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STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visit to Tissington Hall, Derbyshire, Friday, May 10 2013 at 2.00pm

Please reserveplaces @ £9.00 each (£8.00 for seniors) I enclose a cheque payable to the
Society for

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....Tel. No. (in case of alteration of arrangements).....

I would be willing to offer a lift topeople from

Return to Mrs. F.E. Fox by April 18 2013

6, Lawson Close, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0RX

No acknowledgement of receipt will be made

Tissington Hall was built by Francis Fitzherbert in 1609 and the house has been lived in by the Fitzherbert family ever since. The charming house contains some wonderful paneling and we will not only see the paintings furniture and artifacts in the house but also visit the 10 acre gardens with arboretum and rose garden. The house is part of the estate village of Tissington just north of Ashbourne.

Our visit is timed to coincide with the annual well dressing festival which runs for seven days each year with 6 wells dressed around the village which can be seen before or after our visit to the Hall. The village will be busy and parking is limited, although there are some car parks and other open spaces where cars can be left. Car sharing would be appreciated as would providing transport for those members of the society who do not have their own. There are tea rooms in the village and other hostelrys in the area where refreshments may be obtained.

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