



# *Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society*



## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2014

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email:[sahs@sahs.uk.net](mailto:sahs@sahs.uk.net)



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### *BLAST FROM THE PAST*

Were at The Guildhall, Lichfield on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> 2013

(Did you see them?)

President: Dr. J Hunt

Tel: 01543423549

Hon. General Secretary: Mr. J Debney

Tel: 01213503497

Hon. Treasurer: Mr K Billington

Tel: 01543278989.

## Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the New Year from your President and Committee.

As you may be aware things change, events happen which are beyond your direct control, new discoveries are made and some things even improve. This is as true in our fields of interest as in any other.

The contents of this Newsletter seemed to be a bit thin at the end of the year and I was in doubt as to what I could use to make another interesting Newsletter. Then hey-presto, articles started to roll in, new events happened and my gloom vanished!

So we now have several reports on events, and exhaustive list of past Lichfield hostelries and an interesting visit to S America as well as our usual notices about the Lectures to come.

I hope you find it interesting as I find it to edit!

Paul Norris

## The Turin Shroud

It is now 25 years since samples from the Turin Shroud were examined by accelerator mass spectrometry C14 dating, by three independent laboratories. The results showed that the fabric of the Shroud dated from AD 1260 to 1390, leading to the conclusion that the Shroud was, like many other relics, a medieval forgery. Almost at once doubt was cast on the results for reasons varying from the plausible to the fatuous and to the insulting. The scientists who made the original examination in 1989 have seen no reason to change their conclusions and stand by the experimental work they carried out then.

In 2013 Italian scientists came to a different conclusion with their examination of samples taken in 1970, using a combination of Raman and infrared spectrometry and mechanical textile breaking parameters, and claimed that these methods showed a date consistent with that of the Crucifixion. Their technique is new and has been criticised on the basis that it has not been properly validated, seems to have been developed specifically to address the issue of the Shroud and is not one normally used by archaeologists and historians to date objects.

This one will run and run. The scientists who examined the samples in 1989 are not against further examinations; there are new C14 dating methods available including laser ablation which will allow various layers of the linen fibres to be dated, thus making one of the original, more plausible objections to the results, that the dates found were due to surface contamination of the samples, irrelevant.

So we look forward to further testing; at this rate there will be little of the Shroud left in a century or two of repeated testing as new techniques are developed and the problem will become pointless.

See Chemistry World January 2014 for a lengthier discussion.

Richard Totty January 2014

## Lecture Meetings for January to May 2014

- 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014**      **Robin Mathams and David Barrett**      **The Trent Valley Railway**
- Robin and David are both railway enthusiasts and will tonight present to us a talk covering the history of the Trent Valley Railway, the proposed routes and the political intrigue that was associated with it.
- 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014**      **Dr. William Purkis**      **Hunting for Relics on the First Crusade**
- William Purkis is a historian of Medieval Religious culture (c1600-c1300) with particular interests in crusading, pilgrimage and monasticism. This is the subject of the talk this evening
- William is Lecturer at Birmingham University.
- 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014**      **Prof. David Mattingly**      **The Garamantes of the Libya Sahara**
- A Lost civilisation beyond the Roman Frontier.
- David Mattingly is Professor of Roman Archaeology at Leicester University.
- The talk tonight is about the Garamantes the important people of the Sahara Desert and extends from the Fazzan Project and is beyond the boundaries of the Roman Empire within the Sahara Heartlands.
- 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014**      **Dr. Turi King**      **Genetics and Peopling of Britain**
- Turi King is a Research Fellow and Project Leader of The Impact of Diasporas also she is a Lecturer in Genetics and Archaeology at Leicester University.
- The talk tonight will be about Genetics and their impact on the making of Britain.
- 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014**      **Emma-Jayne Hopla**      **Drowned Landscapes**
- Emma is a Quaternary Palynologist at Birmingham University with a particular interest in prehistory and human impact on early Holocene Environments. The talk tonight will take us into the research and results devoted to the Pre inundation of the Southern North Sea or Doggerland as it has become to be known by.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014**      **Steve Dean**      **Staffordshire Update**
- Steve is returning this season to present an update on the Archaeological happenings within Staffordshire during the last couple of years together with an update on the latest finds from The Hammerwich Hoard.

## Birmingham Central Library

The new library in Birmingham has been open for a couple of months and rather belatedly I have managed to visit it. From the outside the golden domed structure is interesting and reminiscent of a cross between Selfridges and the Sikh Gurdwara in Smethwick, and it enhances but does not dominate the open space in front. Inside the ground floor is open to the Repertory Theatre foyer creating a large and airy space with an atrium of several floors in the library itself. The upper floors of the circular atrium are lined with books and the walkways that allow staff to access them, in the manner of a nineteenth century Reading Room. Off the atrium are open plan spaces for study and access to books and journals, with several coffee shops sprinkled around so that one can refresh oneself whilst studying. There are also plenty of toilets. Outside are extensive terraces from which one can admire the view of central Birmingham although on the cold and damp November day that I was there no one was using them and there wasn't much to see either. Visits by elevator to the roof were popular but brief.

On the fourth floor is the new local and family history section; all very modern with brand new equipment. The elderly microfilm readers have been replaced by state of the art scanner /printers and the items that used to be on open shelves are now housed in mobile shelving of the type that permits storage of large amounts of material in a small space. My acquaintance with these has been with the type that require one to turn a wheel to move them and create a passage through the units which one can enter to select an item. But these are motorised with a complex system of buttons and flashing lights. At my first attempt to open them a nice young lady ran out from the reception desk and gave me a quick tutorial in using them. I'm obviously a slow learner as in spite of the instructions printed on them I couldn't get the system to work. There is not quite enough space to house all the items that were freely available on open shelves in the old library and some are now in the stacks and can only be retrieved on request.

Inside the family/local history centre is the grandly named Wolfson Centre for Archival Research which is the old Birmingham Archives in a new guise. It's a spacious room well lit with natural light and looks pleasant to work in; one bonus is that it is open six days a week. The downside is that appointments made in advance are necessary and they will not accommodate bookings at short notice although apparently one is allowed in to look up indices housed in the Centre without an appointment. They would also like you to order items in advance, listing items in order of priority as they can only retrieve a limited number of items. This seems to spell the end of open ended searching through material following a lead.

It's said to be the most expensive library in the world; there's certainly a lot of it and it will take a while to become fully familiar with how it works. But there is really no point in such new buildings unless the service that they provide is similarly state of the art. The day that I was there Prince William was visiting and there were crowds inside and outside to see him; but there weren't many people using the history and archive resources. Anyway go and see it for yourself; it's worth a visit and the history and archive sections have a surprising amount of records for Staffordshire.

Richard Totty November 2013

## Staffordshire History Day

The next Staffordshire History Day will be held at the Kingston Centre in Stafford on Saturday 15 March 2014 starting at 10.00 am. This event is organised by the Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Service in partnership with Keele and Birmingham Universities. There will be a number of speakers covering a variety of topics in Staffordshire History but the programme is not finalised at the time of writing. See the Staffordshire Archives Facebook page for more details. Tickets cost £19 each and include lunch drinks and parking. This is a popular event and last year tickets ran out quite soon. There will be stalls staffed by representatives of many Staffordshire History Societies and ample opportunity for networking, meeting old friends and renewing acquaintanceships.

If you would like to purchase tickets for the Staffordshire History Day please contact Marie Rayson on 01785 278380, email [marie.rayson@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:marie.rayson@staffordshire.gov.uk) or send a cheque to Marie Rayson at Staffordshire Record Office, Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LZ

Richard Totty

# Blast from the Past Present a Brief History of Music, A Review.

The Guildhall, Lichfield Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> 2013

This was a new venture for the society, organised in association with Lichfield Arts. Blast from the Past promised “a vibrant, vivid picture of our musical DNA” from the C13th to 1914. We were certainly not disappointed as Chris Green (voice, fretted instruments and virginal) and Sophie Matthews (voice and woodwinds) interpreted over 600 years into 90 minutes of fast moving and engaging entertainment – and all performed in appropriate costumes of each represented period.

“Sumer Is Icumen In” is the oldest known song in the English folk tradition, composed around 1260. The second oldest “Miri It Is” featured Sophie on the shawm, the first of a diverse number of instruments to be played. Both songs were sung in Middle English and both were commentaries on the English weather.



Two branles (or brawles) – music for courtly dances from the C14th featured the virginal and crumhorn; a maggot, the mandicello and recorder. In introducing each piece, the history of the time was related to set the song in context. The reason behind the development of musical instruments was also explained, as each new one was introduced.

John Dowland’s romantic “Come Again Sweetheart”, featuring Chris on vihuela, was followed by an explosion of extraneous sound. This appeared to bewilder the musicians until it was pointed out that it was festive fireworks.

The disturbing “Bedlam Boys” (late C15<sup>th</sup>/ early C16<sup>th</sup>), told of beggars, who feigned mental illness by pretending to be former inmates of the Bethlem Royal Hospital. The less serious drinking song, “Who’s the Fool Now?” featured European bagpipes and the raucous rauchspfeife. Possibly my favourite instrument played on the night, but I would not wish to live close to anyone practising it.

Thomas D’Urfey was described as a prolific song writer, but whose work is little known these days due to his inability to write anything other than the obscene or profane. Certainly the chosen song, “My Thing is My Own” fulfilled expectations, despite Sophie singing an abridged version.



“Tom Trough”, from the earliest C18th was written by Charles Dibdin, who was given the task by the British government to write a series of songs to keep alive the national feeling against the French. “Sovay” told the story of a young woman who dressed and armed herself as a highwayman, in order to test her suitor.

The Victorian period included the broadside ballad “Billy Don’t Weep for Me”, with its strong narrative. The C20th began with a rendition of “Keep the Home Fires Burning”. This was followed by a most lively medley of “Daisy Daisy/

Pack Up Your Troubles/ It's a Long Way to Tipperary", which had the large, appreciative audience singing.

In all, a most enjoyable and educational evening, described by another critic as "part concert, part music lecture, part music history, part stand up show". Certainly the preparation and research from both Chris and Sophie, together with their musicianship and wit produced a memorable and enthralling evening.

Review by Peter Evans.

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### Addendum

Why has so little Early English music survived, with other countries having a longer tradition?

Why did the crumhorn have a curved end, whilst the shawm and rauchspfeife were straight?

Why did the guitar develop in Spain, whilst the rest of Europe continued to favour the lute?

These and many other fascinating questions were answered on the night. They may, however, be of interest for others to debate.

P.E.

## **Autumn 2013 S A H S Lectures-An Appreciation.**

Having had some small experience of finding and booking good lecturers to give interesting and stimulating presentations, may I express my thanks and admiration to our own Brian Bull for a particularly good set of lecturers and lectures this last Autumn.

The process of:

Researching and locating suitable people and:

- a) Agreeing a topic
- b) Agreeing a date to fit in with our meeting dates
- c) Organising the meeting and greeting of each presenter, making them feel welcome
- d) Carrying the stress of a last-minute postponement or change of lecturer because of illness or bad weather requires a great deal of time and energy.

We tend to take all this for granted sometimes.

This last series of lectures has been varied in topic, covering an historical range of dates from the Neolithic through to 1916, via the Stone Age, and 16<sup>th</sup> Century England.

We have been entertained with the court plays of Charles I, their political meanings, a study of a Catholic house which played such a prominent role in the flight of Charles II, how to recognise the sites of Neolithic longhouses in the landscape and a dramatic interpretation of the newest archaeological finds of burials at nearby Fin Cop. A recent similar discovery of women and child burials at Stonehenge confirmed the interpretation. Our nearby Peak District site of Fin Cop is really up to date!

The Zeppelin raid on Walsall was so out of our experience it took most of us by surprise. How could the centre of England be in such danger? Surely an invasion force had to land on our shores first! It was amazing to taken through the processes by which our very recent ancestors dealt with an attack for which there was no precedent.

The crowning glory was the account of the well publicised finding of the skeleton of Richard III under a car park in Leicester. Brian excelled in giving us the actual person who recognised the significance of skeleton

on site. Matthew Morris skilfully set the scene for us in Leicester and led us through the archaeological processes of this delicate investigation within what is now a built up area. No wonder we queued up to buy the book.

Thank you Brian Bull

Jean Norris

## **Field Trip to Northampton to Visit Three Medieval Churches**

Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2013

Northampton rose to national significance during the Middle Ages, with the establishment of Northampton Castle. This was built under the stewardship of Simon de Senlis, the first Earl of Northampton in 1084. Nothing remains of the castle bar a postern, that has been dismantled from its original position and rebuilt into the wall of Northampton Railway Station. The Town Walls, built by Simon de Senlis, as well as the Priory are also absent from the townscape. However, his legacy can be traced in Northampton's historic churches.

St Peter's Church in Marefair was included by Alec Clifton-Taylor as one of the best English parish churches. The church is constructed in reddish ironstone and a yellow oolitic limestone. These two colours of stone are used alternately and to great effect both internally and externally for decorative purposes.

The capital sculptures are most certainly one of the highlights of the Romanesque in England. These are carved into a variety of designs, including faces, foliage, animals, birds and abstract motifs. In the south aisle is a Saxon grave slab carved with birds, beasts and a Green Man. George Gilbert Scott restored the church in the 1850s. His son, John Oldrid Scott carried out a scheme of decoration using stencils on the east wall.

The memorials in the church include one to the famous geologist William Smith, who died in the town in 1839 and is buried in the church yard. The memorial consists of a bust carved by Matthew Noble.

Lunch was taken at All Saints' Church in the town centre. Simon de Senlis's church was destroyed in the Great Fire of Northampton in 1675, when three quarters of the town was destroyed in just 24 hours. Charles II gave 1,000 tons of timber for the rebuilding and Henry Bell of King's Lynn was the appointed architect. However, the comparison between All Saints and Sir Christopher Wren's churches in London following another well known Great Fire cannot be ignored – barrel vaulted with a huge dome and columns with Corinthian fluting. The eating techniques of SAHS members could also not be ignored. The homemade tomato soup was served inside a large hollowed out and freshly baked bread bun. Watching the different methods of consuming the meal was akin to a trial in experimental archaeology!

A few members spent the midday break at the Charles Rennie Mackintosh house in Derngate, though Betty Fox and myself discovered the delights of the old Court House before paying a cursory visit to the museum with the world's largest collection of historical footwear.

In 1096 Simon de Senlis would have seen the Holy Sepulchre on the First Crusade to the Holy Land. On his safe return to Northampton he built a round church approximately half the size of that in Jerusalem. It is the largest of the few remaining in England. The round nave has eight columns supporting a triforium, which was being set up for an evening concert. In the C19th a conventional nave, chancel and aisles were added and the ubiquitous Sir George Gilbert Scott extensively restored the church in the early 1860s. A more recent restoration costing £1.2m has just been completed.



St Seps, as it is known affectionately by local people, is also the Garrison church of the former Northamptonshire regiment. There are a large number of military memorials preserved within it, the significance of which were expertly explained to us.

Finally, we were well supplied with tea, sandwiches and cake by the parishioners in the adjacent church hall, before returning home after a full day in a town that few of us had previously explored.

Trip organised and reviewed by Peter Evans

N.B. Please rest assured that I contacted the Churches Conservation Trust on the Monday following our field trip to Northampton. I asked that the two volunteers from St Peter's Church should be personally thanked for their valour and good humour on the day. I thought that their effort was magnificent and much appreciated by our members.

P.E.

## **The Future of Staffordshire Archives.**

Major changes are being planned for the Staffordshire Archive Service (SRO).

Firstly a contract has been signed for the digitisation of all parish registers held by the Archives together with all original wills and marriage bonds. These are expected to be available on line in the summer of this year.

Secondly a new extension is planned for the Record Office in Stafford, which will house an enlarged reading room, a room for refreshments and new archive storage areas. When this is complete – and there is no clear timescale as yet – the William Salt Library (WSL) in Stafford and Lichfield Joint Record Office (LRO) will close and their contents transferred to the Stafford Record Office. These plans have been approved following public consultation last year and more consultation is in progress.

What will remain in Lichfield is the Local History Collection in Lichfield Library, enhanced with the microfilm and microfiche items now in Lichfield Joint Record Office, forming a small but well equipped facility for local history research.

The main driver for these changes is financial with savings coming from the closure of two facilities and a revenue stream coming from the digitised records. For the first time all material held by Staffordshire Archives will be under one roof and this will be of real benefit to those interested in historical research. However we will lose the use of two long standing reading rooms in the process. However it is expected that actual use of reading rooms will decline sharply when the digitised material becomes available later this year.

Richard Totty January 2014

## **Further Information about the Archive Service Proposals.**

I went to the Consultation Morning at the Lichfield Library on Friday 17 January in the morning. I was able to have about an hour's talk with Joanna Terry, Head of Archives and Heritage. She has been an Archivist for 20 years or so and has been in post at Stafford for three years. This would be the third building project she has had to oversee. I also met Tina Nixon from Strategic Property. She has been advising JT how to process the requirements through the Council System and get the Site plans produced by Entrust, a Council Subsidiary! There were two other men attending, one from 'Community' or something like and the other was something to do with the project I think.

JT was very open and forthcoming about the drivers behind the proposals.

1 Public use of the reading rooms is falling, especially at the William Salt Library (WSL) (possible result of reduced hours?).



- 2 Rising cost of WSL due to old building and equipment, especially equipment like the Air Conditioners.
- 3 WSL does not meet the requirements for long term storage of records.
- 4 Increasing demand for on-line access requiring digitisation of records.

The proposals that are out for comment are the result of much detailed work by her staff to reach a working compromise between the Council's demands that Archive and Heritage reduce their Budget (amount not mentioned!), to enable the existing document Storage at Stafford to be used to greater extent, to respond to users demands for more on-line access and at least produce a more accurate Index of total content!

When WSL were asked how big their Archive was, they didn't know so it had to be measured! The current volumes are SRO 800 cubic Metre, (cM), LRO 280 cM and WSL 110 cM. At present just to handle the SRO volume they have had to build a Document Archive 'pod' inside an industrial unit at Beaconside. This Unit has now been certified by outside assessment and has been given an award, along with SoTRO.

The LRO would be closed (eventually) and replaced by a separate Local Family History and Heritage Centre which will have On-line and Microfiche readers as now. There will be no access to original documents. This will be Library run and keep Library Hours. In addition ALL Staffordshire Libraries will have free access to the Find My Past website (see Digitisation Project on Staff CC website pages.). Apparently there has been an outbreak of thefts of Microfiches! How you can read them at home I don't know! They have master copies which will be used for the Digitisation, for which the contract has been let for seven years with an extension for a further three. All scanning will be done at Stafford!

Quote:

*'• At all libraries and record offices in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent: you will be able to use Find My Past to view the 'Staffordshire Collection' and download images free of charge. '*

Private access at home is quite expensive, really only for enthusiasts and professionals: Minimum £80/12 months for Census & Birth, Marriage & Deaths. PAYG options are available as well. The rates go up to £160 for World Access which includes US, Aust., NZ and IRL.

SRO will have flexible opening hours: Tues & Thurs 9.00-5.00, Wed 9.00-7.00, Fri 9.30-4.30, Sat 9.00-1.00, ie 30 hours/week. Monday is Staff catch-up day and day-off-in-lieu of Saturday working.

They hope to fit over 50 working seats in the new building. How big the Lichfield Family History and Heritage Centre will be is up to the Library.

At the new SRO they will aim to supply document requests within 20 min., with a maximum of three requests. Last order will be 1/2 hr before closing. Advanced order will be preferable. I believe this time is to include documents held at Beaconside though how this will be achieved was vague!

The changes to the Diocesan Records Office have been discussed last week with the Dean, result not disclosed.

The Project as outlined is NOT dependant on the sale of WSL building which anyway is owned by the Trustees, not SCC.

They have reached 11% of estimated funding from Archives and SCC match funding. They are going for Heritage Lottery Stage One in this April. If this is approved some time before the end of 2014, this will give them the money to produce fully useable designs and go to Tender some time in 2015. Stage Two would be Full Grant with construction starting 2015/17. This would take about a year at least so earliest occupation is 2017/18. A further consultation is promised before the Final Design is commissioned for the project.

The important thing from our point of view is that she wants our input and we can send it after our next Committee Meeting.

Anybody wishing to add their own input to the Consultation can either do it at Lichfield Record Office or on line at [staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultationandfeedback](http://staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultationandfeedback) by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

There is a lot more to this proposal that needs teasing out into the open but any alternative proposals have to produce similar results with no more costs!

A very tough position.

Paul Norris

## **Charles Charlesworth and Frank Swingewood**

The one hundredth anniversary of the start of the First World War comes this year, and there will be memorial events throughout. As it happens I have been researching the history of two Staffordshire lads who served their country in this conflict, and it's fitting to consider their experiences. One survived, one did not, leaving a young widow and child. Both came from the area north of Burslem and a little to the south of Biddulph; both were miners. Their service records have not survived (Most WWI Army records were destroyed by German bombs in the next war), but in any case would have been brief summaries of where they served.

The Museum of the Staffordshire Regiment at Whittington near Lichfield has a wealth of material relating to the Regiment going back to the Peninsular War. The material it holds is about the regiment and its units as a whole and contains little if any information about individual soldiers.

But it is possible to trace what units were doing in most of the major wars, from the War Diaries, and from this one can put together a picture of what the individual soldier experienced.

Both Charles Charlesworth and Frank Swingewood joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion (The Prince of Wales's) North Staffordshire Regiment.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion was formed in August 1914 and later in that year moved to Salisbury Plain. In January 1915 they were in Basingstoke, in February 1915 in Blackdown, basically training and waiting to go abroad. In June 1915 the Battalion sailed for Gallipoli and landed there in July, staying until January 1916 when they were in Egypt, moving to Mesopotamia in February 1916. They remained in Mesopotamia for much of the rest of the war but ended it Persia in 1918.

Frank Swingewood must have enlisted quite early as he wrote a letter to his sister from Basingstoke where the Battalion was in January 1915. His medal card says that he entered conflict at Gallipoli. He would have landed at Cape Hellas in the Dardanelles on 11 July 1915. At that time the British and Allied forces were still confined to a narrow coastal strip, having landed in April, and all British soldiers were within artillery range of the Turkish Forces. The Battalion's War Diary records that it was mostly solid trench warfare with the Turkish soldiers sometimes in their trenches only 10 to 20 yards away. The weather was often poor, in November and December it was very cold and they often had heavy rains leading to much mud and later on to frosts and snow. The campaign was a failure and the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion was evacuated, whilst under attack from the Turks, on 8/9 January 1916. It must have been a gruelling experience for Frank, for which he was awarded the 1915 star.

At some time after that Frank was transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and his connection with the Staffordshire Regiment ends. His service record has been destroyed so we do not know where he was or what he was doing for the remainder of the conflict, although he did survive.

Charles Charlesworth must have enlisted later as he entered the war for the first time when the Battalion was in Mesopotamia. The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion arrived in Mesopotamia on 29 February 1916, almost as soon as possible after its evacuation from Cape Hellas and a brief period of recuperation in Egypt and moved northwards through the country, some small scale fighting, some periods of training – there were new drafts arriving to replace the losses at Gallipoli – and periods of recreation when sports and games took place. The summer was hot and there were complaints about equipment, particularly the soldier's tents which were bell type and unsuitable. Camps were guarded, partly against the enemy but just as much to prevent thieving by local Arabs. The winter was very cold and wet and they were often in marshy areas by the rivers.

The Battalion moved back into the front line on 17 January 1917. On the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> at 9.45 am there was a major assault on the Turkish positions before Kut el Amara, on the banks of the river Tigris in the east of Iraq, approaching the Iranian border. The North Staffs were on the left and the Worcester Regiment were on the right, both going in with bayonets. Initially successful the attack took the first line of enemy defences but there was a fierce counter attack which stopped the advance. Fighting continued until 3.00pm, when the Turks launched a massive counter attack, and being overwhelmed by enemy bombers (these would be infantry throwing bombs, not an aerial bombardment) the Battalion evacuated the line and fell back to the position where they had started, leaving many casualties on the field. Overall when all the field ambulances and dressing stations had been checked the final casualty figures were 55 killed, 163 wounded and 46 missing. (Initial figures had included far more as missing and fewer killed.)

During the night the Battalion was withdrawn and replaced by another unit who the next day succeeded in taking all the Turkish positions, the backbone of resistance having been broken the previous day.

There is no information as to how or just when Charles was killed but it was during this assault. He is buried in the British cemetery in Amara. This cemetery is still there, described as a peaceful garden with many flowers but has effectively been abandoned by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Amara War Cemetery contains 4,621 burials of the First World War, more than 3,000 of which were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice. 925 of the graves are unidentified. In 1933 all of the headstones were removed from this cemetery, when it was discovered that salts in the soil were causing them to deteriorate. Instead a screen wall was erected with the names of those buried in the cemetery engraved upon it, and there is a single memorial cross.

In 2003 during the Iraq war a unit of the British Army rediscovered the cemetery; still cared for by the original Iraqi custodian. In 2011 his son, still there, appealed on the internet for help saying that no one had visited the cemetery for eight years and he didn't know what to do.

This summer thousands will visit the cemeteries and memorials on the Western Front; no one will visit Amara.

Richard Totty December 2013



# Spoilt For Choice

I found the article below, listing the hotels, inns and pubs of 1833, in a copy of the Lichfield Mercury from 1913.



## LICHFIELD 80 YEARS AGO.

### Public Houses Then and Now.

It is always interesting to be able to take a glimpse into the past, and particularly the past of a place with which one happens to be associated either by birth or long residence. We have just come across a volume which, prosaic though it be, throws an interesting light on the life of Lichfield eighty years ago, and of the trades and callings then pursued. Those were the days before the great breweries came into existence, and when good "home brew" was the favourite beverage. It is remarkable to recall that eighty years ago there were no less than 19 malsters carrying on business in Lichfield, and the list of these included the name of the late Colonel John Gilbert, V.D., one of the founders of the Lichfield Brewery Company, Limited, which has had such a unique and prosperous career in the City. Others in the list, which is as follows, may also be well remembered:—James Binns, Stowe Street; John Bond, Greenhill; Chas. Bond, Bird Street; John Coxon, Greenhill; Francis Dean, Greenhill; John Gilbert, Greenhill; Richard Greenough, Bacon Street; Joseph Hawkins, Bacon Street; Jas. Hawksworth (who was also a corn and hop merchant), Frogmorton Street; Wm. T. Higgins, Tamworth Street; Geo. Kennedy, Tamworth Street; Jas. Nevill, Lombard Street; Chas. Riddell, Lombard Street; Francis Smith, Lombard Street; Richard Tooth, St. John Street; Chas. Webb, Boar Street; Chas. Willey, Lombard Street and Grange Farm; George Wilday, Bacon Street; and James Woolley, Boar Street.

Bacon Street, it will be observed, was then Bacon Street; Frog Lane was Frogmorton Street (of which there is still a reminder in the residence of Alderman Walmesley which is styled Frogmorton House); and Bore Street was Boar Street. In those days the "Mercury" was published in Boar Street by James Amphlett, "the Father of the Press," an excellent portrait of whom adorns the walls of the Editor's room at the present time.

A comparison as to the number of licensed houses then and now will not be without interest. In 1833 there were 72 licensed houses, including 17 beerhouses, and the population was 6,408, giving one licensed house for about every 38 persons. At the last Licensing Sessions for the City it was reported that there were 65 licensed houses, including three beerhouses, and the population of the City was 8,617, giving an average of about 133 persons to each licensed house. Since then the Ring o' Bells, Stowe Street, and the Wheatsheaf, Bird Street, have been closed.

Many of the houses in existence eighty years ago we have still with us, these being marked in the following list with an asterisk. The Lord Nelson, in St. John Street, was kept by Thomas Roberts, who was appointed Town Crier of Lichfield on July 16th, 1822. A fine portrait of him is to be seen in the Reading Room, at the Free Library. The list of licensed houses is as follows:—

- Hotels, Inns, and Taverns.**
- \* Acorn Inn, Tamworth Street, William Marklow.
  - \* Angel Inn, Market Street, Cath. Wagner.
  - \* Bald Buck Inn, Greenhill, Edward Maddox.
  - \* Bowling Green Inn, Alex. James.
  - \* Britannia Inn, Stowe Street, Thomas Smith.
  - \* Bull's Head Inn, Tamworth Street, James Dabbs.
  - \* Castle Inn, Market Street, John Cox.
  - \* Chequers Inn, Stowe Street, John Acton.
  - \* City Arms, St. John Street, John Cooper.
  - \* Coach and Horses, St. John Street, Thomas Cork.
  - \* Coach Makers' Arms, Tamworth Street, Jno. Heap.
  - \* Cross Keys, Lombard Street, James Gee.
  - \* Dolphin, Boar Street, Thomas Durham.
  - \* Duke of York, Greenhill, Thomas Haywood.
  - \* Duke of Wellington, Birmingham Road, Lydia Summerfield.
  - \* Fountain Inn, Bacon Street, Thomas Gough.
  - \* George Hotel, Bird Street, Robert Sharp.
  - \* George and Dragon, Bacon Street, Isaac Brabbins.
  - \* George IV., Boar Street, George Aldritt.
  - \* Goat's Head, Breadmarket Street, Margaret Slater.
  - \* Gresley Arms, Gresley Row, Katherine Hitchinson.
  - \* Holly Bush, Tamworth Street, Jno. Pickering.
  - \* Horse and Jockey, Sandford Street, John Meacham.
  - \* King's Arms, Tamworth Street, Thomas Stringer.
  - \* King's Head, Bird Street, Thomas Philip.
  - \* Levett's Arms, Frog Lane, Edward Cook.
  - \* Lemon Tree, Bacon Street, Sarah Whitaker.
  - \* Lord Nelson, St. John Street, Thomas Roberts (down cryer).
  - \* Lord Rodney, Wade Street, George Griffin.
  - \* Malt Shovel, Butcher Row, James Shingler.
  - \* Marquis of Anglesey, St. John Street, Sarah Richardson.
  - \* Mitre, Tamworth Street, W. Brevitt.
  - \* Old Crown Inn, Bore Street, Benjamin and William Mansell.
  - \* Queen's Head, Boar Street, George Sharman.
  - \* Robin Hood, St. John Street, J. Page.
  - \* Rose and Crown, Bird Street, William Wheatley.
  - \* Royal Oak, Sandyway, John Sadler.
  - \* Royal Oak, Sandford Street, Charles Houldcroft.
  - \* Scales, Market Street, William Hill.
  - \* Seven Stars, Stowe Street, Edward Arblaster.
  - \* Ship, Sandford Street, John Walker.
  - \* Shoulder of Mutton, London Road, Rd. Bird.
  - \* Swan Hotel, Bird Street, T. Dunn.
  - \* Talbot Inn, Bird Street, Anna Jones.
  - \* Tally-ho, Wade Street, Jas. Naden.
  - \* Tankard, Sandford Street, J. Slater.
  - \* Three Crowns, Market Place, Joseph Cato.
  - \* Three Tuns, Sandyway, Geo. Ely.
  - \* Turk's Head, Sandford Street, Jane Goodwin.
  - \* Waggon and Horses, Greenhill, Geo. Burton.
  - \* Wheat Sheaf, Bird Street, Jno. Gough.
  - \* Wheel, Bacon Street, John Benton.
  - \* White Lion, Gallows Wharf, David Wood.
  - \* Windsor Castle, Dam Street, Wm. Moore.
  - \* Woolpack, Boar Street, Wm. Simnett.
- Beer-houses.**
- \* Anchor New Road, Thos. Baker.
  - \* Bear, Bacon Street, Robert Green.
  - \* Board, Birmingham Road, Henry Genders.
  - \* Blue Cock, Gresley Row, James Thacker.
  - \* Blue Man, St. John Street, Jas. Brooks.
  - \* Blue Bell, Gay Ln., John Horton.
  - \* Blue Boar, Greenhill, J. Burton.
  - \* Boot, Stowe Street, John Acton.
  - \* Bricklayers Arms, Gresley Row, Wm. Smith.
  - \* Eight Bells, Stowe Street, Thomas Walton.
  - \* King William, Greenhill, Daniel Proudman.
  - \* Masons Arms, Butcher Row, Francis Middleton.
  - \* Paul Pry, Sandford Street, E. Woldren.
  - \* Plough, Grange Ln., Thos. Sherratt.
  - \* Scotts Arms, Dam Street, F. R. Wakelin.
  - \* Spread Eagle, Greenhill, Thos. Thornecloe.
  - \* Yew Tree, Burton Road, William Sharrod.

Those were the days of the old stage coach, a kind of locomotion of which Dickens has written so delightfully, but to which we should scarcely like to return, at any rate during such severe weather as we have experienced during the past week. Lichfield was evidently a place of considerable importance, and residents throughout the countryside had to come into the City before embarking upon a journey of any magnitude. At the "Lord Nelson" the "Umpire" called at 10 o'clock every night, except Sunday, on the way to London. The Talbot Inn stood on the site now occupied by Messrs. Jones and Co.'s establishment, and from here the "Amity" ran to Sheffield and Leeds at 8.45 a.m. daily, except Sunday. The "Shepherd" left the Angel Inn, Market Street, daily for Birmingham at 5 a.m., and the "True Blue" from the King's Head at the same hour, while from the latter house every evening, except Sunday, the coach ran to Rugby. The coaches called alternately at the "George" and the "Swan" for London at 7.30 a.m. and Liverpool at 8 a.m., Sheffield at 8.30 a.m., Birmingham at 3 p.m., and Walsall and Wolverhampton at 3.45 p.m., and Sheffield and Nottingham at 12 noon, and Birmingham at 7 p.m. The mail for Chester and Holyhead left the "George" at 10 a.m., and for London at 4 p.m., and for Manchester at 10.45 a.m., and Birmingham at 5.30 p.m., while from the "Swan" the coach for Liverpool started at 9 a.m. and for London at 3 a.m.

In those days also the canals formed a frequent mode of transit for both passengers and articles of merchandise.

Lichfield was much frequented by travellers and was a noted coaching city. Visitors and locals were certainly spoilt for choice. However coaches ceased to run through the city in 1838, with the completion of the railway between London and Liverpool, via Birmingham and Stafford. Several hostelries closed, but the buildings are often still extant and their names betray their former identity.

Peter Evans



## Joya de Ceren, El Salvador ... the Pompeii of the Americas

Forming part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, El Salvador has a very long history of volcanic and tectonic activity, with over 600 volcanic formations and up to 50 earth tremors a week. This activity has led to the preservation of the remarkable time capsule of Joya de Ceren, a Mayan village which was buried under more than 6 metres of volcanic ash at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The site uniquely gives an insight into the everyday life of Mayan farmers rather than the elite ruling and priestly classes more usually associated with Mayan sites. It was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993.

Around 200AD, central and western parts of what is now El Salvador were buried under thick layers of volcanic ash from the Ilopango volcano. The area was then abandoned until around 400AD by which time the ash had weathered into fertile soil and resettlement began. Joya de Ceren was founded before the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century but around 600AD it was destroyed by the eruption of the Loma caldera about one kilometre away which buried the village under 5 – 7 metres of ash.

The remains were discovered in 1976 when work on a government project to construct grain silos resulted in the exposure of an adobe structure by a bulldozer. The photograph below shows the grain silos to the right of the road whilst to the left is the archaeological site, with shelters erected to protect the remains, which now occupies the land identified for the expansion of the grain storage facility.



Photo 1 Site view with grain silos.

Initially the exposed structure was thought to be a bedroom about 50 years old which prompted questions about how the building had come to be buried. As there were no Salvadorean archaeologists, Payson D Sheets, a visiting US archaeologist, was asked to give an opinion. Joya de Ceren was one of the first sites where remote sensing was used before significant excavation commenced. Site investigations halted in 1980 and resumed in 1988 following the end of the Civil War.

The photograph below, taken at the time of the initial excavations, clearly shows the layers of ash which buried the settlement.



Photo 2 structures at time of excavation.

Joya de Ceren is the best preserved example of a prehispanic village in Mesoamerica. Described by UNESCO as a 'time capsule of unprecedented scientific value', the exceptional condition of the remains provides an insight into the daily lives of the people who worked the land at that time.

Eighteen structures have been identified and ten of these have been excavated, together with three maize fields, an orchard with a variety of trees and a small garden. The excavated structures include living quarters (bedrooms), storehouses, workshops, kitchens, religious/ceremonial structures and a communal sauna.

The kitchen building has mud pillars at the entrance and a raised base with fire marks on the floor; the walls have not been preserved. To the rear of the kitchen lie the remains of a warehouse and ridges and furrows for agriculture are clearly visible to the left of the structures.





Photo 3 Kitchen, storehouse and ridge/furrow



Photo 4 Duck skeleton

Remains discovered in the warehouse include the skeleton of a duck.

Another intriguing structure, shown below, is thought to have been a ceremonial building used by a shaman. The complex structure has a low doorway which would force those entering to bow low. However, it is unlikely that many people were allowed to enter as the compacted path leads to the lattice grille which provided light and air for the building in addition to enabling communication with the shaman.



Photo 5 Ceremonial building .



Articles found in this structure include vessels, spindle whorls, marine shells, minerals, grinding stones, a painted gourd, a human figurine and a deer headdress.

Perhaps the most unusual structure is the sauna or sweathouse (temazcal). The photographs below show the original and also a modern replica which visitors to the site may enter. The hole in the dome of the original sauna was caused by a volcanic bomb; this allowed ash to enter and thereby protected the dome. There is one entrance, accessed by crawling, and the bench inside provided seating for six people. Hot rocks were heated on a fire and carried inside the sauna where water was added to generate steam. The circular feature above the entrance provided a thermostatic control; a plug of wood/stone in the hole enabled the steam to be regulated.



Photo 6 Sauna / sweathouse.



Photo 7 Replica sauna / sweathouse.

This replica shows how the original would have looked prior to the volcanic eruption.

It is thought that an earthquake gave the residents time to flee before the village was buried by ash. The eruption was so sudden that artefacts covering all aspects of daily life were found in situ and perishable organic materials which would normally deteriorate in tropical conditions were preserved as carbonised material or casts. Many of these are exhibited in the museum.

As yet, no human remains other than teeth have been found. However, the former residents have left their traces in the form of food residue and fingerprints in a bowl and also a cast of a footprint (see below).



Photo 8 cast of footprint.



Photo 9 maize cob.

A wide variety of crops was grown and the remains of maize, cocoa beans, manioc roots and beans have been found. The size of many of these reflects the fertility of the volcanic soil. Based on the crops remains found, it is thought that the eruption which buried Joya de Ceren probably occurred in August.



Photo 10 Manioc root.



Photo 11 Beans.

Beans are still a staple food throughout much of Central America.



Photo 12 Large polychromic pot, small pots containing pigments and jade counters.



Photo 13 Finely worked obsidian blades.

The people of Joya de Ceren used a variety of high quality articles including polychromic bowls and pots, obsidian blades, and jade counters (used in games). It is not known whether these items were made in the locality or whether they were brought in along Mayan trade routes which are thought to have been extensive throughout the region.

This article provides a brief overview of an amazing Mayan site which is on a very human scale compared to the huge temple complexes which are more familiar from the better known Mayan sites in Mexico and Guatemala. Payson D Sheets has written several books detailing the excavations and finds at Joya de Ceren. Information is also available on the UNESCO website [whc.unesco.org/en/list/675](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/675)

Susan Lupton

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