



# *Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society*



## NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

Web: [www.sahs.uk.net](http://www.sahs.uk.net)

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Society visit to Fauld Mine, May 17, 2014

All nice and clean! You should have seen us when we came out!

President: Dr. J Hunt

Tel: 01543423549

Hon. General Secretary:

Position Vacant

Hon. Treasurer: Mr K Billington

Tel: 01543278989.

## **Presidents Notes on Changes to your Committee**

Many of you will be aware that after some twelve years serving the Society as our General Secretary, Mr James Debney has now stepped down from the role and resigned from the Committee. These changes will be noted formally at the time of our next Annual General Meeting, but it seemed appropriate to place on record at this point a preliminary acknowledgement of the debt of gratitude that the Society owes to James. As our Secretary, his role went well beyond that of keeping records of our meetings and dealing with enquiries to the Society. He has been at the forefront of the Committee's commitment to making SAHS more effective, broadening its appeal, and in generally modernising our approach. Times are hard for community organisations and local societies, which has spurred your Committee onwards in working to ensure that we do not suffer the same fate as some other societies. Apart from encouraging us in the clarity of our mission and approach, James has been the mastermind behind our excellent website and the digitisation project that we commenced a few years ago.

James is indeed a 'tough act' to follow, not least because of the range of tasks that he undertook for us. So, how will the Committee respond to this challenge? We have decided to take this opportunity to pursue a restructure within the Committee, in that we are looking to recruit both a new General Secretary for the Society and, as a separate role, a Website Manager.

The Committee has initiated a search to fill these roles, but we would also like to invite any interested members of SAHS to let us know if you would be interested in taking on either of these functions on behalf of the Society. If so, please contact either me or any of the committee members and let us know. In the meantime we have interim measures in place, with Paul Norris working hard to keep the website functioning as well as producing our Newsletter, and other committee members dealing with matters as they arise. We hope that we will be able to keep service almost as normal until these vacant roles are picked up.

We are anxious that we have these plans in place by the autumn session, so please do let us know if you think that you might be interested and able to help!

John Hunt. President, SAHS.

## **Editors Notes**

Once again Summer is with us (we hope) and it's time again to prepare for the new season of lectures. Our stalwart Lecture Meetings Secretary has been hard at work to collect another brilliant season of lectures for the forthcoming session. It's also the time (I hope) when members will take holidays to exciting archaeological and historical places that they can then describe to Members through the Newsletter! This Newsletter is mainly reports on events that have had some interest to the Society and various other snippets that members have culled from their reading.

Yours truly has taken on the running of the Society's Website on a temporary basis, following the resignation of Mr J Debney, our General Secretary, who had been running it on the side, so as to speak. If there is any other younger members who have some experience with this and can offer some help I shall be glad to accept any help available. I have just about understood the fundamentals of how it is created and altered and I have been going through updating many pages that needed correcting, updating or just changing. I hope soon after you receive this Newsletter I will be confident enough to launch the update into the open world!

I have restored and improved (I hope) the Paypal payments system to allow the Treasurer to receive any monies paid via Paypal to come straight to him. When he has told the Hon. Sec. that the money has been received it will be actioned accordingly. You will be able to pay your subscriptions and non-members will be able to purchase access to the Transactions. They are now Password protected again and will be available to download again. The link was unfortunately broken when certain volumes were withdrawn from the system. If you find errors or links not working I apologize and ask that you let me know by email. That way, things may get corrected sooner!

Paul Norris Hon. Newsletter Editor

email: [pm.norris@btinternet.com](mailto:pm.norris@btinternet.com)

## Visit to Fauld Mine 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Millions of millions of years ago, when the land mass which is now Britain lay only 10 degrees north of the equator, Earth was going through a global warming period. There were warm shallow seas between the hilly areas of our islands. Evaporation of these shallow seas varied in intensity with the climate. Soluble salts in the sea water gradually precipitated out, the least soluble first. Hence, underground, Britain has deposits of limestone and chalk, (calcium carbonates), gypsum and alabaster (calcium sulphate), halites such as rock salt (sodium chloride), and finally potash (potassium chloride, in increasing order of solubility. Deposits are currently being formed in the sabkhas along the coastlines in the Persian Gulf.

Skip to about 2000 or so years ago. The British Isles is now at about 50 to 55 degrees north of the equator. A lot has happened since the deposition of these evaporated salts. Sedimentation of insoluble sand occurred, giving sandstone with heat and pressure partially converting some of our sediments to metamorphic rock, and lastly, erosion, allowing some of our evaporated deposits to come to the surface where our ancestors could see them.

The people soon spotted rock salt in Cheshire. Those living in the Dove valley could plainly see white rock glittering on the hillsides to the south. Soon surface excavation of the pretty rock, alabaster, was taking place on the hillside we know as the Draycott to Tutbury ridge. (Travel north on A515 and turn right at the Marchington roundabout heading towards Tutbury.) The main church of St. Marys in Tutbury and also Hanbury church contain fine examples of carved alabaster. This metamorphic form of calcium sulphate was, and still is, highly prized by sculptors all over Europe. As industry developed, the main deposits of sedimentary hydrated calcium sulphate, gypsum, became increasingly important and Fauld mine was opened in 1838 to extract the gypsum from underground. Its main use is in the making of plaster. Think Plaster of Paris, plasterboard and now principally cement. Some modern uses are in fillers for tablets and pills, toothpaste etc.

Peter Evans arranged for a small group of us to go on a day's tour based on Fauld Gypsum Mine. So 11 of us arrived at Reception all eager for the day's activities. It was the hottest day of the year so far. We found that because of Production requirements the mine was working that morning so the program would have to be modified as we would be unable to visit the working face. We were given a great welcome by Jacquie with coffee and biscuits who then helped us into the kit needed for the underground visit.

Safety is of the utmost importance when taking a trip underground. We were thoroughly instructed in all safety procedures, and kitted out with hard hat and head lamp and the self protector which allows you to breathe in safety, when in a carbon monoxide rich atmosphere. This latter device is rather like a gas mask containing catalysts which convert any poisonous carbon monoxide to carbon dioxide. We all had to watch a safety film and then answer five questions on an Exam sheet to prove we had understood the instructions! Although compulsory to wear, we were assured by our leaders, Noel and Joe that this device had yet to be needed. Hi-Vis jackets completed the ensemble. Laden with identity tags and buttons, we set off, led by our guide and geologist Noel with Joe the Mine Manager bringing up the rear. He had to leave us shortly after the entrance as they were working in the mine until 1.00pm and he was the only person outside to deal with any situation that might arise.



The entrance to the working mine is as big as a London Underground tunnel, not a bit claustrophobic. Long poles glowed in the light of our head torches, showing us the route to follow. These would be essential to guide people out of the mine in an emergency. We left our tokens at the entrance on the "we counted them in and counted them all out again" principle and strode into the dark. Side tunnels went off left and right, the junctions stacked with out-of-date sacks full of gypsum powder. This was partly to block access and partly to control the flow of fresh air throughout the tunnels. Altogether we walked into the mine for a distance of about a mile, heading south.

As you drive up the A515 from Lichfield to Sudbury,



about 4 miles south of Fauld, is the small settlement of Newchurch. Jackson's Bank is a lovely nature reserve just off to the west of the road, heading for the Meynell Ingram Arms at Hoar Cross. We were astounded to be told that the working face of the Fauld gypsum mine is now directly under Jackson's Bank, and growing.

Several stopping points along our main entrance tunnel show the visitor the main features of the rock deposits and how they are excavated.



There are alabaster mushroom- shaped formations, from which circular saws can cut out very large blocks of wonderfully marked alabaster for monumental sculpture. Since Alabaster is soft (2 on the Mohs hardness scale) steel saws are sufficient. We saw 3 types of gypsum mineral. The most valuable, Alabaster, being soft and workable, also has the property of taking up light falling on it and being able to reflect that light, making it translucent. Alabaster is well on its way to becoming a metamorphic rock, while retaining water of crystallisation. The mine does contain the much harder, anhydrous Anhydrite but those deposits were out of reach to us, deeper in the mine.

Gypsum exists in several crystalline forms. The Alabaster is microcrystalline. We saw and were given samples of forms with bigger crystals, notably Satin Spar and Selenite.

Most of the production from the mine is, however, the crushed up gypsum, white but coloured pink and brown by the iron oxide content. We saw mountains of this powdery mineral, waiting to be shipped off all over Europe to be used in the manufacturing of plasterboard and speciality cements, cosmetics and pharmaceutical products.

When we returned to the heat of the open air, we were taken to see the outcrops of the alabaster that had been mined since the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. Tutbury Church has Fauld alabaster used in the Norman entrance arch which was built c.1160 AD and is the earliest known example of English carved alabaster.



After lunch most of the party went off for a tour of Hanbury Church and some of the rim of the Fauld crater so as to see this awesome crater created by the biggest non-nuclear explosion in this country. In 2006 the Society had a lecture on the History of the Fauld explosion. Our visit was a wonderful opportunity to see the crater nearly 70 years after the event. The memorial to those who died is particularly poignant especially as it was erected by the Italian Government! We enjoyed seeing examples of the carved alabaster Memorials at St Werburgh's Church, Hanbury reputed to be some of the earliest ones in England. Here we were kindly provided with an excellent tea and home-made cakes!

Finally, if anyone is inspired to see gypsum in situ and the Fauld crater, drive into Hanbury village and park at the pub. It does very good food. Follow the sign-posted path across the fields to the rim of the crater. A path takes you to the memorial. The crater itself is security fenced for safety but there are several places where you can look down into it.

Jean Norris

## MEETINGS FOR THE NEW SEASON 2014-2015

All our Meetings take place at St Marys Heritage Centre, Market Square, Lichfield at 8.00pm (except for the AGM). They are free for members and £3.00 for visitors. Membership Applications are always available at the Meetings.

### Notes

The lecture season this coming year is different. I do hope that it pleases everyone and we all find something to our taste and comes up to the Society expectations. There are a few talks related to World War One and they are I think not mainstream subjects that will be out there for the next few years – maybe next year we will have a mainstream subject.

At the moment there are three talks at the back end of the season still to confirm (both speaker and subject matter) but I will get on the case and report back soon.

Brian Bull

**26<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Tony Habberley**

**Neolithic Farm to Roman Villa Estate**

Acton Trussell in Staffordshire is a Romano-British Villa site that has known occupation since Neolithic times and Tony Habberley will update the Society with the more recent work that has been carried out.

**10<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

**Trevor James**

**St Wilfrid: The First English Saint**

Wilfrid of Ripon is believed to have been the first English saint and he has important links with Lichfield and Mercia. Trevor James has identified, using topographical evidence, the pilgrimage route to his shrine at Ripon. The timing of this lecture has been chosen to coincide with St Wilfrid's day on 12 October

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

**John Bishop**

**Chinese Labour Corps**

What did the world's most populous nation do in the Great War Daddy? Nothing?! Well, not quite. 140,000 Chinese came to Europe - to work as labourers.

John Bishop's grandfather was a sergeant with the Chinese Labour Corps in France from 1917 and this connection led eventually to the novel *The Chinese Attack* (2012). John, who was a College principal in Birmingham in an earlier life, will outline some of the features of this little-known aspect of WW1.

**7<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**Rev Michael Fisher**

**Pugin: The Staffordshire Connection**

Michael Fisher is a widely-recognised authority on the art and architecture of the English Gothic Revival, particularly the life and work of A.W.N. Pugin, the dominant figure in 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture, whose works figures so prominently in the Midlands. He is the author of several critically acclaimed books.

**21<sup>st</sup> November 2014**

**Kirsty Nicol**

**Operation Kiwi**

The model of Messines Ridge was built during World War 1 on Cannock Chase as a training aid for the New Zealand forces in readiness for the assault on German lines and the talk will cover its history and rediscovery with a full excavation during 2013.

5<sup>th</sup> December 2014

**AGM Dr Michael Hodder The Archaeology of Sutton Park**

The basis of this talk is Mike Hodder's long term work on Sutton Park which culminated in the publication of the book which provides the title of the talk.

Mike Hodder is Planning Archaeologist (Planning Control) with Birmingham City Council.

20<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**Terry Cudbird**

**Walking the Retreat**

The opening month of the Great War ended in the Battle of the Marne (6-9<sup>th</sup> September 1914). The French and British army's were forced into a long retreat subsequently regrouping to mount a successful counter-attack. During the retreat to the Marne over a million soldiers marched twenty miles a day carrying 60lb packs in temperatures above thirty degrees. Often short of food and only managing short snatches of rest, they fought a series of engagements over two weeks which ended in a battle from the plains of Lorraine to the gates of Paris. The march tested them to the limits of endurance and beyond. Terry's talk will recreate the March and battles for us by word and picture.

Terry Cudbird read history at Cambridge and subsequently studied French history at University College London and in France.

6<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Simon Buteux**

**Newman Coffin Fittings Works**

Simon Buteux is Director at Birmingham Conservation Trust and the landmark project currently is the 'time capsule' known as Newman Coffin Fittings Works which ran from 1894 to 1999. The Works is located in the Jewellery Quarter of Birmingham. The talk will cover the discovery of the works including what was found and the subsequent conservation of the works.

20<sup>th</sup> March 2015

*To be Confirmed*

10<sup>th</sup> April 2015

*To be Confirmed*

17<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Dr Simon Davies**

**Aston Hall, Birmingham**

The Jacobean mansion of Aston Hall is one of Birmingham's often overlooked historical gems. Its early history and the lives of the Holte family, who had it built, often seem not unlike a modern soap opera with tales of treachery, disinheritance and even the involvement of the King on the eve of the English Civil War. This talk seeks to introduce the hall's early history, explain why it was built where it was, and how architecture was used to influence visitors, and also relates the sad story of Sir Thomas Holte, its first inhabitant.

1<sup>st</sup> May 2015

*To be Confirmed*

## Offa's Dyke

Recently there was a very short article in The Times , just a few lines really , which announced that a Welsh archaeologist had found material in Offa's Dyke that could be dated , and that it came from about 200 years or more before King Offa's reign here in Mercia in the second half of the eighth century. The dated material apparently came from an ancient layer of re-deposited turf underneath the bank suggesting that this material was laid down as part of the construction process. Carbon dating tests revealed a 95% probability that this section of the dyke, near Chirk, had been built between 430 and 652. The archaeologist said that it is now likely that parts of the dyke were in place before Offa's time but he might well have repaired an already existing structure. So far these are the only details available of what sounds to have been a significant scientific study, and I eagerly await further publication of details of the project and its findings.

Richard Totty

## I AM A WYSIWYG PERSON REALLY

I was told by one of the Committee Members at a recent talk that a Society Member had asked who I was as my name has appeared quite frequently within the pages of the Newsletter. So this got me thinking and considered maybe the Member was right, I do appear in the Newsletter rather a lot - and yes 'who am I'. These appearances are really the result of helping to keep the newsletter rolling off the presses. It is hoped the members enjoy what they read of mine. This notion can only be presumed as no adverse comments as far as I am aware have made their way to either the Newsletter Editor or any other Committee Members.

Anyway about me – At the time of writing I am the Meetings Secretary at least until the next Annual General Meeting. Up to that point then I am the one to blame if you do not like the talks. Yes I know there have just a few hiccups during my time thus far and I do sincerely apologise for those. I do try to get a variety of speakers with a similar variety of subjects. However this does not always come off and there are folk out there who I would like to invite to speak to us, but coinciding dates have for a few have eluded us thus far – I am still trying though (and some of you might say very trying!!!).

My background – I was born at New Oscott Sutton Coldfield. Paternal family Staffordshire people through and through at least back to 1725, that is apart from one 'blow-in/off comer' from Oxfordshire and the incursion just into Warwickshire when I arrived. Maternal family were a bit more nomadic though – Montgomery/Bishops Castle, Isle of Man, West Yorkshire, East Yorkshire, Lancashire and finally Warwickshire. I think Central London is in the gene pool on the maternal side as well although this not yet fully confirmed.

Education was good and fun but not terribly exciting. The secondary school I attended which became a high school, in general, produced factory fodder for Dunlop, Joseph Lucas, GEC, IMI and other Birmingham based manufacturing industries and apart from a few exceptions that is where nearly all of the folk went. Being one of the exceptions I went off to the Construction Industry initially to try and become an Architect or Structural Engineer through college but due to circumstances outside of my control that actually fell by the wayside as things do. I did return to continue to study the Structural Engineering later on whilst I built or rather managed the construction of high rise flats (some of which are still standing and in use!). I gave that up eventually after the demise of the high rise flats schemes in the Midlands which followed the collapse of Ronan Point in London after a gas explosion. At this point there was a change of direction and I went off to become a Quantity Surveyor. I continued this for some time whilst working for a range of mainly Midlands' based companies as the workloads ebbed and flowed depending on the policy of the Government of the day.

1992 through to 2011 saw me working for a house builder in Tamworth initially as the Midlands Regional Estimator but in 2000 I changed departments. With this move amongst other duties I became responsible for the adoption of roads, sewers and open spaces in the Midlands Region but soon the Northern Region was added following the closure of the office in Harrogate. So now for me there was quite a large patch extending from

Moreton-in-Marsh/Northampton in the south to Stockton on Tees in the north whilst not forgetting one lonely site in North Wales, in all, totalling some two hundred or so sites to deal with.

Although my education was not terribly exciting there were two brilliantly enthusiastic teachers in school - one for History and another for Geography. They inspired the passion in both those subjects which survives till today. It had advantages at work particularly with the house builder as in addition to roads, sewers and open spaces I also became responsible for the archaeology on a number of developments. The notable ones were Moreton-in-Marsh (we had it all here – Bronze/Iron/Romans1&2/Medieval), Hinckley (Iron/Romano-British), Sutton Coldfield, Roughley (17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> farmhouses on one footprint), Syston Leicester (Roman/Medieval) and Griffin Close Birmingham (off Bristol Road South – the redundant student flats site).

The Certificate for Archaeology came via Keele, but in addition I have a City and Guilds in Woodturning as well as another in Woodcarving. As an aside I play with model trains on a very low key basis and have in the past played with to a lesser extent R/C model planes but more prominently and more successfully Free and R/C model sailing yachts which included the design of the latter.

Going back to the newsletter I do try to keep the Editor Paul Norris stocked with pieces for publication on the basis that they could be used to make up space if he is short of copy for any particular edition. I try to provide variety too. There may have been more than a few pieces in the last few editions but that is probably due to less suitable copy being available from other sources so more by luck than judgement. Sadly at the moment he has not got any stock at all from me so I had better get busy as he is shouting at me.

Being curious I write about what I find interesting but very often they are a bit odd ball (the '**Bag Seal**' piece in a recent edition is a good example). I emphasise am not writing for academic purposes. The pieces sometimes appear out of the results of other bits of research I am undertaking so if they seem a bit light hearted in approach and thus not to your taste then you know the answer – pen to paper time!!!!

Regarding the **Bag Seal** piece in the last newsletter the sixty acres of potatoes behind the house have been harvested. They took three days to clear the acreage. As soon as they harvested the fields were prepared and re-sown with a cereal crop this time but the field walking has been postponed for the moment as the ground is a bit on the waterlogged side although as I revise this piece the drying process is speeding up and the wheat growing with vigour.

Well that is enough about me - how about you!

Brian Bull

## MANOR COURT ROLLS

One of the problems for the local historian is the interface with academic historians; there is a lot of information revealed through formal academic research but it is often difficult to find. A case in point is work done under the auspices of the Department of Geography of the University of Cambridge between 2006 and 2009 on the use of personal actions in early (pre 1350) Manor Courts .

The cases discussed in this project reveal ordinary medieval people, female as well as male, engaging directly with the law, normally (as far as one can tell) without the aid of professional lawyers. Many litigants display a high level of legal knowledge and skill. Confident lay engagement with the law is seen, for instance, in an argument between Henry Hugging and Agnes Atwood at Longdon (Staffs) in 1328 on the question of whether more than one essoin (excuse for non-attendance) was allowed in a plea of 'taking and detaining animals' (or 'replevin', a special type of personal action).

The work covered a number of counties in England , including Staffordshire , and looked at 12 Manor Courts in the county dating from 1257 ( at Alrewas) to 1350. The problem lies in the publication of the results ; the project has now been archived but there have been papers given at conferences , in the UK and abroad but unfortunately none near to Staffordshire. A full publication is promised in the Journal of the Seldon Society , the society for the study of English Legal History, but this has yet to appear.



Manor Court Rolls are difficult for the amateur historian being written using formal scripts which are often hard to read , and in Latin , using many abbreviations and obscure legal terms. Studies such as this which can be used to gain access to the detail in the Court Rolls are very much welcomed.

See <http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/privatelaw/> for a summary of the project.

One of the prime functions of this Society is the publication of the Transactions , a high quality peer reviewed journal devoted to the archaeology and history of the county and which is used to disseminate relevant research to a wide audience , both in its printed and on line versions.

## Richard Totty

Richard is presently contributing to a National Archives project for the preparation of an on line Manorial Documents Register for Staffordshire, which will for the first time provide an accurate and accessible data base to indicate which Manorial Documents have survived and where they are held.

## ‘TIPTON SLASHER’ DAY, Coronation Gardens, Tipton, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014



William Perry (1819-1880) was a bare knuckle prize fighter, who from 1850 to 1857 was the undisputed Champion of England – a considerable period of time in that era.

Born in Park Lane, Tipton, he was the third of five children, born to narrowboat parents. William also became a boatman. Queues often formed at locks and many arguments as to who had priority were settled by fights. It was at this time that William earned his nickname, the ‘Tipton Slasher’, from the manner in which he rained down his fists in sharp, sweeping blows.

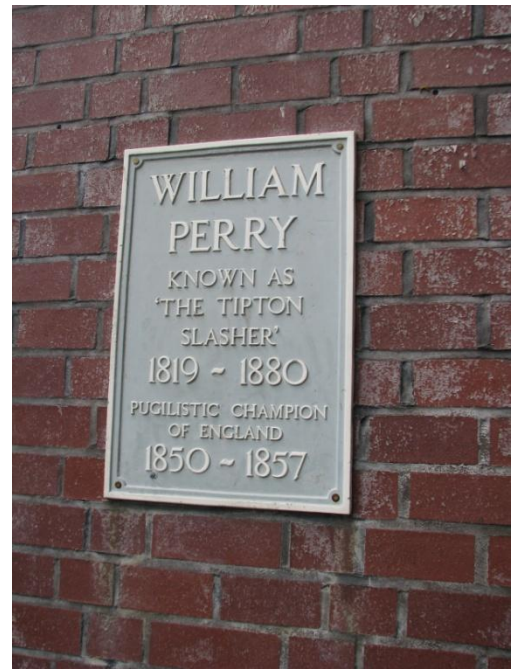
The Earl of Dudley heard of his reputation and under his patronage, a young 16 year old William went to London to fight in Chelsea. William was victorious and his pugilistic career and road to fame had begun.

Fights at this time were watched by large crowds, where a roped off ring was marked out in a field. Rules were few and far between and contests usually went to a finish, which entailed one of the boxers being unable to continue. Rounds ended when one of the boxers fell to the ground and the ‘seconds’ took their men to their corners to attend to them for a thirty second interval. If either failed to stand up after thirty seconds, the loser was said to be ‘knocked out of time’ or ‘not up to scratch’. The loser’s towel would then be thrown in. Prize fights for large purses would last for hours, between well matched protagonists.

William Perry's H.Q. was the Fountain Inn, a Grade II listed building on the side of the canal. In 1993, a statue by Bill Haynes was unveiled just across the road in the Coronation Gardens. The Tipton Slasher is wearing the traditional clothing of a bare fisted fighter – knee length shorts and ankle boots. He stands left leg forward and fists arranged in a classic fighting pose.

Twenty one years later, it was decided to hold a Tipton Slasher Day in the Gardens.

The Society was cheerfully welcomed by Karen Simms from the Tipton Community Association and a marquee had been set up for us between the Black Country Society and the embankment, where the Dudley Canal Trust was operating boat rides throughout the day. Several other marquees and gazebos for other associations and societies transformed Coronation Gardens into a lively and exciting area, much appreciated by the enthusiastic people of Tipton and South Staffordshire. The local M.P. gave an opening speech, a cake depicting William Perry was cut and 'Slasher' fight re-enactments and historical talks were well received throughout the day in the main marquee.



Peter Evans

It was a most enjoyable day; sunny but with a gentle breeze. The good folk of Tipton made us feel most welcome. As Keith, Betty and myself packed away, a Tiptonian said "I hope you've had a good day. We have. And by the way we don't condone fighting, but we are proud of The Slasher. He was born a boatman. He was unable to read or write, but he got to the top. We can all achieve things if we really want to".

Quite. I'll drink to those sentiments and to Tipton and their famous 'Slasher'.

## STAFFORDSHIRE HISTORY DAY held on Saturday 15<sup>TH</sup> March at Stafford

The Society was once again asked to provide a stand at this year's Staffordshire History Day event, a full day's programme of lectures, held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March at the Kingston Centre in Stafford, organised by the County Council Historic Environment Record Office with help from FoSSA. We duly attended first thing in the morning and this year were allocated a prime position to show off our 'wares', being able to use and spread across three tables, in the coffee and refreshments area adjacent to the cafeteria. Betty Fox and myself arranged a substantial table display, which can be judged from the accompanying photograph, and a great amount of interest was shown and attention paid to us during the day, as event attendees milled round when emerging between the various lecture and presentation sessions. We were kept busy as new Memberships were signed up,





Transactions DVDs and Volumes were sold, and many leaflets, Newsletters, Transactions articles off-prints and other 'freebie' material were eagerly taken away. We feel most certainly our aim, to promote the Society and attract new Membership, was very readily achieved and it was once again a very worthwhile day for us. To definitely be repeated as long as the annual event continues to be organised and we are invited.

Keith Billington

## **HOLY WRIT EXHIBITION**

"Holy Writ: modern Jewish, Christian and Islamic calligraphy" is a major exhibition at Lichfield Cathedral which brings together work by 18 internationally renowned calligraphers, including ten pieces loaned by the British Museum. FOSSA members might be particularly interested to see the ancient documents which are included in the exhibition to give historic context. These are the Cathedral's own St Chad Gospels, along with an 11th/12th century Torah and an 11th/12th century Qur'an both of which have been borrowed from the British Library. The exhibition is open until 15th June, 09:00-17:00 on Mondays- Saturdays, and 12:00-15:00 on Sundays and admission is free.

For anyone interested in finding out more about the exhibits, there are guided tours of the exhibition led by the exhibition curator, calligrapher Peter Halliday. Again, details are on the attached leaflet. Advance booking is necessary and, at present, there are still places available on the tour on Tuesday 13th May, as well as on the later dates.

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**STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2014-15**

Membership fees: Individual £20, Joint £30, Student/Unemployed £15

Title.....

Names(s).....

Address.....

Postcode .....

Email .....

Phone.....

I agree to allow the Society to contact me/us by email and telephone.

I/we enclose £..... for my/our subscription for the year 2014/15 for Individual / Joint / Student / Unemployed.

Signed .....

Date .....

Please send to Ms S Lupton, 71 Birchwood Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9UN

Note: Direct Payments can be made using the PayPal system on the Web site.



**GIFT AID DECLARATION**

TO: STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Choosing to Gift Aid the Subscription or donations you make to the SAHS will allow the Society, which enjoys Charitable status, to reclaim from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs the basic rate of Income Tax paid on the amount of those subscriptions or donations without any cost to you, the Member. It is only necessary to fill the form in once.

To do this you must be a UK Income Tax/Capital Gains Tax payer and have paid an amount at least equal to the tax the Society reclaims in the Tax Year concerned.

Declaration:

Members Full Name .....

Address .....

..... Post Code.....

I would like the Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society (SAHS) to treat as Gift Aid all Subscriptions and Donations I make from the Date of this Declaration.

Signature .....Date .....

Please return to the Honorary Treasurer, Keith Billington, 4 Gainsbrook Crescent, Norton Canes, Cannock. WS11 9TN or by hand to me at a Meeting.

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