



*Staffordshire
Archaeological
and Historical Society*



NEWSLETTER September 2016

Web: www.sahs.uk.net

Issue No 123

email: sahs@sahs.uk.net

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Statue of St Cuthbert at Lindisfarne Priory, May 2016

Bronze by Fenwick J J Lawson, 2000.

See Lecture for 21st April 2017!

Presidents Autumn Newsletter 2016

Firstly, it is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the 2016 – 2017 season. The Society has successfully made the transition to our new regular venue at the Guildhall in Bore Street, and arrangements are well advanced for the revised management of our website as outlined at a number of our meetings. We hope that there will be something for everyone in this year's lecture programme, which is among the most diverse and enticing that we have offered in recent years, commencing with an outstanding project in the Close of Hereford Cathedral, the report on which has been published as a book that has been nominated for an award. Other high profile themes include Shakespeare's 'New Place' at Stratford-upon-Avon, the *Mappa Mundi* and the First and Second World Wars. We move in time from the Romans in the west midlands, via Lindisfarne and Agincourt, to our industrial heritage, and introduce the relatively new discipline of Forensic Archaeology. As I said, something for everybody!

This will be an important year in other respects as well. I have often extolled the virtues and contribution that Community Archaeology can make to neighbourhoods, and I make no apology for doing so again, particularly at a time when archaeology is constantly 'under pressure', not only in securing funding, but also in maintaining the prominence that it deserves in matters of public policy, and now in sustaining international collaborative projects.

Research to be published later in the autumn has again highlighted the important part played by heritage within society, of which, of course, archaeology is a significant part. Responses to a survey have shown overwhelmingly that heritage has the capacity to make an impact on wellbeing and on the personal quality of life, particularly as it helps to make places, and to foster better places in which to live. There will be more on this when the *Historic Environment Forum* publishes its *Heritage Counts* for 2016, taking as its theme 'Heritage and Place-Making', looking in part at how heritage contributes to the 'branding' of a place, as in Birmingham and Shrewsbury, and how this influences peoples' perceptions of a place. Inevitably, such perceptions can have far-reaching consequences well beyond the heritage sector.

Not surprisingly therefore, the *Council for British Archaeology* have launched an initiative, called 'Archaeology Matters', to encourage archaeology societies in the UK to contact decision-makers to promote archaeology and what it offers; what it means to people, and what benefits it creates for local communities, society, places and the environment, and the economy. This means raising an awareness of archaeology in Parliament and among local councillors. I would hope that our Society will be able to make a contribution to this campaign, but to do so I would like to ask for your help. If you have stories or pictures that reflect how important you think archaeology and heritage are to where you live, or for the impact that it has made on your life or that of your community, please let me know. Real stories will help us make the point with conviction and authenticity, and they might even provide our Newsletter Editor with some much-needed copy. Every positive contact which demonstrates that archaeology is alive and thriving in this country is a positive influence on how politicians see archaeology in society.

Finally, two examples where community engagement is clearly to the fore. At a national level, following on from commitments made by the government in November 2013, resources have been made available to care for war memorials across the UK, a unique form of monument that wherever they are met across the UK, and indeed in Europe, go to the heart of the community, past and present, and what it has endured.

A partnership between Civic Voice, Historic England, Imperial War Museums and the War Memorials Trust was set up in late 2014 to help communities discover, care for and conserve their local First World War memorials. Their aim is to 'mark the centenary of the First World War by ensuring that as many war memorials as possible are cherished, protected and conserved so that they can stand as a testament to the enduring impact that wars have had on local people for generations to come'. A significant part of this programme, and of the activities associated with it, rest in the hands of volunteers. If you would like to know about the programme or how to become involved, have a look at their website -

<http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/war-memorials/>

In Staffordshire we can also turn to the recently launched 'The Chase Through Time' project, supported by Heritage Lottery Fund. The project is focussed on the fascinating story and landscape of Cannock Chase, well known for its role as a training area at the time of the Great War, but beyond this, it is also the largest remaining area of heathland in the West Midlands with prehistoric, medieval and early industrial sites across its landscape.

The project is making use of state-of-the-art LIDAR (light detection and ranging) technology to survey the area from the air, which was undertaken in May 2016. This will now be followed by a team of trained local volunteers, working with specialists, visiting potential sites identified by the LIDAR to investigate and record their findings. There is much to look forward to here, not only for what we can learn about the Chase itself, but also in how it may be compared with other landscapes in Staffordshire and further afield.

Dr John Hunt.
President, SAHS.

REPTON VISIT

We visited Repton on a fine and sunny Sunday afternoon in July. Our guide Andy Austen is from the Repton Historical Society and has an excellent knowledge of the history of the village. He took us around the complex at the north end of the village, on a rise above the old channel of the river Trent which now bears the buildings of Repton School with the parish church of St Wystan in the centre. The church is most interesting with a fine spire and some interesting internal features, for example grotesque heads carved on the wooden beams of the roof of the nave. But the finest part is the unique mausoleum of the eighth century Anglo Saxon kings of Mercia built below the chancel. Originally built for king Aethelbald it also houses the remains of king Wiglaf and his grandson St Wigstan. Pevsner describes it as one of the most precious survivals of Anglo Saxon architecture in England. One descends through a narrow winding stone staircase into the small dark space with carved pillars – said to copy those in St Peter's, Rome – and niches where the remains of the kings would have been placed. There is a similar winding stone staircase on the other side as an exit, allowing pilgrims to move freely through the mausoleum. It is a distinctive and remarkable survival.



The school was deserted. We were able to admire the fine facilities there and Andy described some of the finds made when the new Science block was built a few years ago. We then went into the more select areas of the school – an attractive courtyard and the remains of Repton Priory around which the school was built. Finally, we admired the cricket field, once part of the Viking encampment here but now very carefully watered and mown. We all had an enjoyable afternoon and learned a lot about Repton and Anglo Saxon and Viking history.

Richard Totty

CALLIGRAPHY

Calligraphy is not very valued as a skill these days and although there are some excellent practitioners at work it is not easy to see their work. In Lichfield we are privileged to have access to numerous examples of first class medieval calligraphy. Some of the best is to be found in the Registers of the Bishops of Coventry and Lichfield, all well preserved volumes which start with that of Bishop Walter Langton in 1296. The Bishops would not have kept the registers themselves but used clerks or scribes to do so. The fifteenth century registers in particular are full of fine examples of writing, most obviously in the many ornate capital letters in the texts. The registers are working documents recording important events in the diocese; they are not illuminated in that there are no entries in colour, or any pictures but the scribes have introduced these capitals and decorated them, at times profusely. One of the best examples occurs in the register of Reginald Boulers bishop here from 1453 when he was translated from Hereford, until 1459. It is the first letter of the first word in his register, the R of Registrum, and can be confidently dated to 1453. It is of very fine quality and the skill of the scribe can be seen in the entire opening paragraph. A very similar letter R occurs in the opening paragraph of the register of the next bishop, John Hales, appointed in 1459, so similar that we can be confident that the scribe was the same, although the fine detail is subtly varied.



Interest in writing skills is fading and there are suggestions that cursive handwriting no longer be taught in schools but be replaced by tuition in keyboard skills. If so in the future when scribes have all turned into web designers such calligraphy as shown here will be seen as a lost art and people will wonder how it was done.

R Totty

PORTCULLIS HISTORY COURSES

Portcullis History are running a series of course with Dr J Hunt as Tutor.

Saturday October 22nd 10.00 - 4.00 at Tythe Barn Polesworth: Lords, lands and people: medieval Polesworth.

Tuesday October 25th to 29th November, Ansley Church Hall, People and Places: reconstructing medieval communities.

Saturday November 5th, Berkswell, Jordan Room, Patrons, Fiefs and Fonts: the Twelfth Century Herefordshire School of Sculpture.

For more details and costs contact Portcullis History at portcullishistory@gmail.com

STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LECTURES for SEASON 2016-2017

23rd September 2016

Andy Boucher

Recent Excavations and Investigations at Hereford Cathedral and the Cathedral Close

Andy Boucher is Director at Headland Archaeology and is based in Hereford. Archaeology for Andy has been wide ranging with myriad projects. He has an extensive knowledge of scientific techniques used on site and is also a recognised expert on geophysical surveys. The subject for the talk this evening covers the recent works carried out at Hereford Cathedral and in the Close where nearly 3000 medieval burials were discovered.

7th October 2016

Professor Gary Sheffield

The Morale of the British Army in the First World War?

Gary Sheffield is Professor of War Studies at Wolverhampton University previously at Birmingham University and his talk this evening is a different take on World War 1 in that it is looking at the evidence relating to the morale in the British Army and the 'Lions led by Donkeys' line that has been used a few times over the years.

21st October 2016

Dr Simon J Harris

Agincourt

The talk this evening is about Agincourt. Simon has previously presented the talk at the Staffordshire History Day but we will be privileged to hear about new research and material since then. Simon is currently an honorary research fellow at Keele University, and freelance researcher working on various projects. He has worked on several important national research projects at the universities of Durham, York, Liverpool, Bordeaux and Keele. Current interests are on patterns of military service in the first half of the fourteenth century and on the editing of medieval records. Simon is also chairman of the Ranulf Higden Society, and a trustee of the Chetham Society.

4th November 2016

Dr John Hunt

Faith and Society in medieval France:

Looking at churches in the High Saintonge

The Saintonge in south-western France, most readily defined by the medieval diocese of Saintes, is a region renowned for the survival of hundreds of Romanesque churches, many richly decorated with sculpture. With particular reference to the *Haute-Saintonge*, we will consider the character of these buildings and what they convey about the life, culture and mentalité of local society, especially in the eleventh and twelfth century.

18th November 2016

Dr John Wilcock

Staffordshire Salt Industry

John Wilcock is Emeritus Honorary Fellow at Staffordshire University, previously Reader in Computing. During the 1960's and 1970's he was an early pioneer in applying computers to Archaeology. John has a very wide range of interests and the talk this evening will cover the British Salt Industry with the emphasis on Staffordshire.

2nd December 2016

The Annual General Meeting followed by

Kevin S Colls

New Place, Stratford Upon Avon

Kevin is a professional archaeologist working for the Centre of Archaeology at Staffordshire University as the lead Archaeological Project Manager. He has directed and published archaeological projects throughout the United Kingdom and Europe and hold over 15 years' experience in professional development-led archaeology. Specialist subjects include field archaeological field techniques, urban archaeology and forensic archaeology, with a project portfolio that includes major archaeological excavations in many of the UK's urban centres including London, Birmingham, Manchester and Bristol, archaeological survey and remote sensing on Scottish Islands, and rural archaeological surveys in central Greece.

The talk this evening will cover the high profile excavation work at New Place Stratford Upon Avon, this being the final residence of William Shakespeare. Also being covered is the work undertaken with Shakespeare's grave at Holy Trinity Stratford.

17th February 2017

Dr Caroline Sturdy Colls

Forensic archaeological approaches to the German Occupation of Alderney of the British Channel Islands.

Very few people are aware that the Holocaust occurred on British soil. This is because the history of the Occupation of Alderney, an island located in Channel Islands 60 miles south of the English coast and 8 miles from France, is not widely known. In June 1940, the British government decided that Alderney was too difficult and expensive to defend. This led to the evacuation of the island's 1500 inhabitants and paved the way for a period of occupation by the Germans that would last until the 16th May 1945. During this period, thousands of workers were sent to Alderney from across Europe. Individuals from 27 different nations – including Jews and political prisoners - were forcibly interred in within a network of labour camps and the SS camp, Lager Sylt. The purpose of their transportation to the island was to facilitate the construction of heavy coastal and anti-aircraft batteries, tunnels, bunkers and earthworks along the Atlantic Wall. This talk will discuss a programme of historical and forensic archaeological work that has sought to re-examine Occupation of Alderney in order to re-evaluate the crimes perpetrated there. It will outline how the remains of the camps and mass graves have been located and recorded, and how the history of the Holocaust on British soil is being rewritten as a result.

Dr Caroline Sturdy Colls is an associate professor of Forensic Archaeology and Genocide Investigation at Staffordshire University. Her research focuses on the investigation of Holocaust and contemporary conflict sites. Dr Sturdy Colls is also the Research Lead and co-founder of the Centre of Archaeology at the same institution. Her most recent monograph, *Holocaust Archaeologies: Approaches and Future Directions* was published by Springer in March 2015.

24th February 2017

Dr Roger White

A Clash of Arms: The Romans in the West Midlands

Roger White has visited us on previous occasion the most recent was a talk about Wroxeter Roman City.

This evening's talk is centred on the West Midlands and the Roman occupation thereof.

17th March 2017

Sarah Arrowsmith

Mappa Mundi: Hereford's Curious Map

Sarah Arrowsmith is the Education Officer at Hereford Cathedral and is responsible for communicating the history and archaeology of the Cathedral and its environs to the visitors and schools in particular. She has also become an author having written a volume about Mappa Mundi, once seen as an example of cartographic naivety, in fact provides an extraordinary insight into the Medieval world view and is the subject of the talk this evening.

31st March 2017

Beryl Holt

Brocton German Prisoner of War Camp

Beryl's talk "Broctonlager" tells the story of Brocton German Prisoner of War Camp on Cannock Chase from April 1917 until it closed towards the end of 1919. Using original documents from the Imperial War Museum, the National Records of Scotland and Staffordshire Record Office together with many letters, newspaper reports and the unpublished diary of the Camp Commandant, she has compiled an account of the daily lives of the prisoners, of the Commandant and his family.

Beryl came to Staffordshire from South Yorkshire with her husband 50 years ago and immediately wanted to know more about the area. She joined Berkswich History Society when it was formed in 1992 and has been Chairman of the Society for 8 years. The research has always been based on the Parish of Berkswich, which includes Brocton, hence the desire to discover what she could about the PoW Camp.

21st April 2017

Deidre O'Sullivan

The Christian Monastery on Lindisfarne

Deirdre O'Sullivan is Lecturer in Medieval Archaeology at Leicester University and her research work has been extensive and includes Christian Archaeology of Cumbria (MPhil), the Dissolution and Friaries. Fieldwork projects include St Bees (last season talk), Lindisfarne and Post Medieval pottery manufactory at Ticknall Derbyshire.

The subject of the talk this evening is the Christian Monastery on Lindisfarne (Holy Island) and will include the earlier work with the emphasis being on the current further work and research being undertaken.

5th May 2017

Jon Goodwin

Excavations at Three Hanley (Stoke on Trent) Pottery Factories

Jonathan Goodwin is Senior Planning Officer (Archaeology/HER) at City of Stoke on Trent. The recently published volume XLVIII of the Society Transactions included the report of the extensive investigation and is the background for the talk this evening.

Annual Membership Subscription Renewal – The PayPal Option

Annual subscriptions were due for renewal @ 1st September 2016. The rates again remain unchanged and are: Individual Membership £20.00, Joint Membership £30.00, Concessionary Membership (Students and Unwaged) £15.00.

Many of you will be paying by cash or cheque (a number have already paid), or indeed for some it is taken care of automatically via bank standing order.

There is another option though, which is a convenient way to renew, if you choose to do it using your PC, laptop, tablet or other device. Log on to the Society's website www.sahs.uk.net and from the home page follow the links for subscription payment using PayPal (you don't need to have a PayPal account). Select the type of Membership you are renewing and with your bank card details to hand make the appropriate payment to SA&HS electronically – it goes through to our PayPal Account.

It is easy for us to keep our subscription records up to date as PayPal always email a full details of payer, etc. advice to the Honorary Treasurer immediately on the payment transaction occurring. It is a secure and certain way of paying us. The payer also receives an email confirmation; in fact two, one from PayPal and one from ourselves.

Just another way to renew which increasingly is being taken up.

Thank you for choosing to be a Member(s) of Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society.

Keith Billington

The Archaeology of Sutton Park: Guided walk, Saturday 1 October 2016

Meet **10am** outside Blackroot Bistro, Sutton Park B74 2YU. Finish about noon, at same place.

Free, no need to book in advance.

Organised by the Friends of Sutton Park Association and led by Mike Hodder.

Blackroot Bistro <http://www.blackrootbistro.co.uk/find-us/>

Car park at Bistro; vehicular entry to Sutton Park via Hartopp Gate, off Blackroot Road.

Four Oaks station (trains from Lichfield) is approx. one mile from Bistro, via Blackroot Road and Hartopp Gate.

Please note that there is no shelter on the walk route, and the walk will be on grass and unsurfaced paths, so please wear appropriate clothing and footwear- trainers etc are ideal

Mike Hodder

SHUGBOROUGH AND THE COUNTY MUSEUM

Staffordshire County Council, who have had a long term lease on the Shugborough Estate at Milford since the 1960s, are handing back this lease to the National Trust, basically to save money, as the estate as it is now run makes a substantial loss each year. Under the agreement to surrender the lease the National Trust will take control of the estate from September 30 2016. The estate will remain closed over the winter to allow the National Trust to undertake some necessary work and will reopen in the spring of 2017 when it will be managed as a standard National Trust property. It is intended to make access to the estate more straightforward and the parkland will be open all year except Christmas day. There will be changes in the way that the property is managed and run and not all of these have as yet been announced. There will be redundancies amongst the current staff although a few will be moving to the National Trust.

One point of issue has been the status of the County Museum now housed in various buildings at Shugborough. We are really pleased to note that Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Service has now been awarded £102,000 by Arts Council England through their Museum Resilience Fund.

The funding will help support the Staffordshire County Museum service while it is relocating from its current base at Shugborough to a new home at the Staffordshire History Centre in Stafford in 2021.

This investment will help the museum to explore new ways of delivering its services and developing its audiences, particularly focusing on rural schools and older people in care. Pop-up exhibitions will test new ideas and allow the museum to engage with a wider section of the community than those who traditionally visited Shugborough. The museum team will also work with an increased number of volunteers and look for new ways to grow earned income.

Whilst this is all to be welcomed what is not clear is what will happen to the larger items in the Museum now at Shugborough, such as the collection of horse drawn carriages housed in the former stables which can hardly be housed on the Stafford site.

It is also not clear just how the housing of the Museum in the new History Centre to be built in Stafford will impact on the facilities proposed there to house the current Archive collections of the Staffordshire Record Office, the Lichfield Record Office and the William Salt Library.

R Totty



A series of talks has been arranged by

‘The Friends of Letocetum’

to be held at Wall Village Hall,

Watling Street, Wall, WS14 0AW

See below for email/phone details
to book tickets or make enquiries

All talks are on Wednesday evenings starting at **7.30 pm**. The cost of tickets for each talk is **£3.00**. The dates, titles and speakers are;

9th November 2016 Stephen Dean (Principal Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council) - ‘Training for the Trenches: Cannock Chase in the Great War’

14th December 2016 Mike Glasson (Senior Museums Curator, Walsall) - ‘Walsall: Town of a Hundred Trades’

4th January 2017 Ken Knowles (Lichfield, and World Champion Town Crier) - ‘Tales of the Town Crier of Lichfield’ It will be an education...!

8th February 2017 Wenlock and Tonks (‘Time Healers’) - Medical, Social and Beauty History of the Romans

8th March 2017 Speaker from Erasmus Darwin Museum – ‘The Life and Legacy of Erasmus Darwin’

5th April 2017 Stephen Dean (Principal Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council) - ‘The Staffordshire Hoard’

www.wallromansitefriendsofletocetum.co.uk

enquiries@wallromansitefriendsofletocetum.co.uk

or 01543 41846



WILD MEXICO?

San Christabel de las Casas is a small town in the mountains of southern Mexico in the state of Chiapas about 100km from the border with Guatemala. It was founded by the Spanish in 1528 and the centre is still that of a colonial town of that era. The Pan American Highway arrived in the 60s followed by numerous travellers from the US some of whom settled so there is a substantial expatriate community; there are still many tourists but most seem to be from South America with few Europeans. The main square has on one side the Cathedral, on another the Governor's residence and on the other two sides arcaded two storey buildings now used as shops and restaurants but formerly the houses of the wealthier (Spanish) residents. Elsewhere there is a very large Monastery dating from 1537 now a museum and there are other sixteenth century churches and houses. In the late afternoon someone has set up a portable cd player in the portico of the Governor's house and plays the slow local dance music and couples dance slowly and elegantly to it. It's all very soporific and peaceful. As night fall ladies from the surrounding communes set up a night market of their handicrafts on the Cathedral steps lit by candles. The air is warm and there is no wind. The ladies wear the costume of their commune, white tops and long narrow black skirts decorated with bright embroidery. Others have set up stalls selling pastries and doughnuts. Around the square tourists dine on the balconies and are serenaded by the wandering mariachi bands.



San Christabel Square

And yet only 20 years ago San Christabel was occupied by a Sandinista army in open revolt against the Mexican government. Even now there are Sandinista communes in the remoter parts of the mountains where police and army dare not go. We were in San Christabel on International Women's Day. Sipping coffee under a shady arcade in the square we saw a procession forming up on the opposite side, eventually parading twice around the square and then off on one of the main streets. This being Mexico it was led by a small band of trumpets and drums and then followed a small detachment of Sandinista women in army fatigues bearing a revolutionary banner showing similarly dressed armed women defending their homes and families. Other slightly more peaceful groups followed but at the rear came a group of young women in white T shirts marching under the banner of Rosa Luxembourg; this rather a

surprise as it is nearly 100 years since she was shot in Berlin for her role in an uprising against the Social Democrat government there after WWI, but clearly she is seen as an inspiration here. So here in a few minutes we had a reminder of feminist revolutionary history of a kind that is quite absent from the UK. We applauded as they passed by.



Chamula Church

Near to the town is the commune of Chamula, about 10km away and further into the mountains. This commune is self-governing and by formal agreement with the state government the police and army stay away. Visitors are welcome but must pay to enter the village, leave their transport on the outskirts and walk into the centre. The square is larger and much less developed than the one in San Christobel. The ruling council sit on the balcony of their council house in their distinctive costumes including scarlet sashes and large sombreros, overlooking the varied activity in the square. We have come to see the church, nominally dedicated to San Juan, which on the outside is a small Spanish church erected in the sixteenth century. But it is a long time since a priest was in residence and regular Christian worship took place. The only services are baptisms for which a priest arrives from San Christabel. Inside the church is an extraordinary scene. There are no pews but around the walls there are large and very old wooden statues of the saints. Despite the light of hundreds of candles, it is very dim as there are dozens of incense burners, some as large as small barbecues. It is full of people, some tourists but most locals, sitting standing or kneeling in family groups or wandering around. The floor is covered with freshly cut pine boughs and their scent mixes with the incense. Also on the floor amongst the pine branches and candles are many upright empty coca cola bottles. (Consumption of coca cola per head is here higher than anywhere else.) Some people are milling around, others sit still and yet others murmur prayers in the local Mayan language, Tzotzil. In a transept a cock is sacrificed. Photography here is not allowed in the church and in the town it is only allowed if there are no local people around. The Spanish and now the Mexican veneer here is very thin.



The Division of Labour, Zincatan!

But the commune is not poor although people live simply as there are many glasshouses in the surrounding fields, on the little areas of flattish ground and Chamula and other communes nearby have most of the cut flower trade in the country. It is not easy to communicate with the village people as most speak little Spanish and our guide, from Mexico City spoke no Mayan language. It is a little easier with children who speak more Spanish than their parents, but no one will talk about their beliefs or why the church is so oddly used. Chamula has a distinctive culture quite different from San Christobel which is a more orthodox catholic town. Other communes are also distinctive but in different ways. Zincatan only 3km from Chamula is very quiet although it is the same size as Chamula. The church of San Lorenzo, like that of Chamula dating from the 1500s, is empty apart from similar wooden statues and whatever religion is now practised here is neither catholic nor like that in Chamula. Zincatan has many festivals that centre on the church and it is a mark of prestige for men to be able to pay for these festivals and men acquire authority in the commune by doing so. On festive days the church is filled with flowers and the entire population gathers in the square outside. Ladies here wear violet and much of the income of the commune comes from their weaving. They earn most of the cash but only the men are allowed in the church for festivals and the women must sit outside. Quite how these communities will survive is difficult to assess; when we were there Chamula was quiet and Zincatan even quieter, but at times I suspect that the number of tourists comes close to overwhelming them. The area though is heavily populated and in the mountains there are many communes the tourists have not as yet penetrated; many are not safe and unless you learn Tzotzil or one of the other local languages you will not get very far. It's better to sit in the safety of San Christobel than to explore on your own.

A fascinating area to visit and a reminder that history here is very different.

Richard Totty

WAKEFIELD'S MEDIEVAL BRIDGE CHAPEL

In May en route from the Historical Association Conference in Harrogate, where I had led a session on evaluating documents and photographic evidence, we visited Wakefield to put theory into practice. The specific reason was to view its historic Chantry Chapel of St Mary the Virgin on Wakefield Bridge. This medieval structure stands to one side of the fast-flowing River Calder.

It was heavily restored under the supervision of the Yorkshire Architectural Society in the 1840s during which the consultant architect, George Gilbert Scott, made very substantial alterations rather than repairing it, so that the circular stone staircase and the crypt are the only genuinely medieval survivals. Scott's choice of soft stone from Bath and Caen proved disastrous, leading to continual erosion and endless repairs, from as early as the 1880s.



In relatively modern times various unsuccessful attempts were made to persuade various agencies to take responsibility for the building from the neighbouring what was now its parish church of St Andrew. However, in 1980 the Friends of Wakefield Chantry Chapel became a registered charity. Its objectives were, and are, to ensure the care of the building's fabric, to make it more widely known and to increase its use.

Now within the direct jurisdiction of Wakefield Cathedral, as the city's parish church, there have been hugely successful attempts to increase its role, in particular for educational visits for school parties and other youth groups, and with opportunities for educational workshops and displays.

Whatever has happened to its structure, it is still the case that Wakefield's Bridge Chantry Chapel represents a good opportunity to observe and inspect the setting of a medieval bridge chapel, once a relatively commonplace feature of the urban landscape and now very rare indeed. It is well worth a detour.

Trevor James



The Richard III Foundation, Inc.

2016 Annual Symposium

Registration Form



The Richard III Foundation, Inc. is pleased to announce its 2016 annual symposium *“King Richard III: Politics, Power and People”*.

Saturday, October 29

Our conference will be held at the Dixie Grammar School in Market Bosworth. Registration begins at 8:30 am with the conference starting promptly at 9 am and ending at 5:00 pm.

Our speakers and topics are:

- Nathen Amin - Rhys ap Thomas: Friend and Foe
- Anne Crawford - 'Loyalty Binds Me: John Howard and the Battle of Bosworth'
- Matthew Lewis – Richard III in Parliament: In his time were many good acts made
- Mike Ingram – The Battle of Northampton: A Battle Rediscovered
- James Mulraine - 'For by his Face straight shall you know his Heart: Revealing a panel portrait of King Richard III and exploring the popularity of Richard's image in Tudor and Jacobean houses.'
- Dr. James Ross - 'A man of so great nobilytie and knowledge in the warres'? John de Vere, thirteenth earl of Oxford and the Battle of Bosworth
- John Sadler – King Richard III and Henry Percy – Magnates of the North

For a copy of our registration form, or other information on the conference or the Foundation, please contact either Robert Grange at r.g.grange5@gmail.com or Dorothy Davies at dorothy2583@gmail.com or email our corporate office at Richard3Foundation@aol.com.

2016 Conference Registration Form

	Number of Tickets	Prices Per Person
Symposium Package (includes ticket for symposium and membership for one year)		£45
Symposium (ticket price on the door)		£45
Symposium (without Membership)		£35
I enclose a cheque for full amount		£

Celebrations 2016

To reserve your seat, please mail your registration form along with your check payable to “The Richard III Foundation, Inc.” and submit to Ms. Dorothy Davies, Half Moon House, 32 Church Lane, Ryde. Isle of Wight PO33 2NB. For further questions, please email us at Richard3Foundation@aol.com. Website: www.richard111.com.

RETIRING NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE!

As I said in the last Newsletter I have been editing our Newsletter since December 2007. So this forthcoming AGM will have seen me doing the job for nine years. During this time, I have been ably supported by many members of the Committee. They have all been cajoled, pressed, chased, to write something or point out something in a small paragraph that is of general interest to our Members. I would like to record my sincere thanks for all their efforts. For this issue I would specially like to thank Dr. Richard Totty. In some instances, my wife and I have been able to write something about places we have visited, which has helped.

You may have noticed that the picture on the front is the same as the same as the previous one. Well, I thought, it's still relevant for the lecture in April 2017 and I'm still very pleased to have taken such an iconic picture of Lindisfarne. So since I didn't have any better one in hand, it stays! You see what power the Editor has! It's the same running the Website. You're basically in final charge to show what you can do and the world sees it! If you would like to experience the power the job is yours! (see below).

What is been missing still is any input from the general membership. In spite of many appeals over the years nobody so far has come forward from the general membership with even a short item for inclusion. Your membership of the SAHS really comes with an inferred understanding to involve yourself and help those members who have spent time and energy in providing the entertainment and information for you on twelve Friday evenings in the year! I can only remember one year when I found I had to hold over an article because of lack of space!

As most of you will know I was also persuaded to take over the running of the Societies Website in April 2014 when our General Secretary left rather suddenly. As much of the information on the website comes from having the newsletters included for download, with the Lecture programme and new Transaction to be included, there is a sort of a link between the two jobs.

As I have said at the last few meetings this year, I will retire from all posts at the December 2016 AGM. By then I shall have reached my 85th Birthday! One person had agreed to produce the Newsletters but has been prevented from taking part so far by personal circumstances.

The Committee has decided that the job of running the website (our window to the outside world) will be partially taken over by a professional company to enable us to raise our profile and attract new members. We have now placed an Order with this company and are hoping to proceed shortly. We will still eventually require somebody to be responsible for updating the material on the website a three or so times a year. Somebody will also be needed to run the Societies' Email Account, again quite a simple job.

Regards

Paul Norris

Footnotes!

This is late information which will be of interest to you.

Abbots Bromley Horn Dance Day is Monday 12th September and the Abbots Bromley Nostalgia Team will be displaying old photographs and documents relating to the dance. The display is in the function room at The Crown public house from 9am till 8pm. Come along and see us.

Berkswich History Society will commence the 2016 -17 season on 20th September at 7.30 p.m. with a visit from author & journalist Tessa Boase who will talk about the sad story of Dorothy Doar, Housekeeper at Trentham in the 1830's. Our meeting on 15th November will see a visit from Dr Richard Buckley, Lead Archaeologist during the Richard III dig.

STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Membership fees: Individual £20, Joint £30, Student/Unemployed £15

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

I/we enclose £..... for my/our subscription for the year 2016/17 for Individual / Joint / Student / Unemployed.

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