



*Staffordshire
Archaeological
and Historical Society*



NEWSLETTER January 2018

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The Torcs saved for Staffordshire!

This newsletter edited for the Society by Richard Totty richard.totty4@gmail.com

Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Society.

Leekfrith Torcs ; the jewellery that could be the oldest Iron Age gold found in Britain can be permanently displayed after £325,000 was raised to buy it.

Three necklaces and a bracelet believed to be about 2,400 years old were discovered on Staffordshire farmland in December 2016 by two metal detectorists.



The items will be displayed at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent. The city council can not say when they would return to the museum but hopes arrangements can be made for them to come back early in 2018. They attracted 21,000 visitors in a month earlier last year after being unveiled at the museum, but they have recently been on display at The British Museum in London. The campaign to save them began in September 2017 and in December grants of up to £165,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and £80,000 from Art Fund took the total raised to its target. This follows on from a £40,000 grant fund provided by Arts Council England and managed by the Victoria and Albert Museum, and £25,000 from The Headley Trust – one of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts – received in November.

Sir Peter Luff, Chair of NHMF, said: "The Leekfrith Torcs are absolutely exquisite. The trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund had the privilege of seeing up close the craftsmanship of these mysterious pieces of jewellery pulled from the Staffordshire soil. They offer so much insight into a period of our history we know little about and we felt it imperative they should be saved so everyone has the opportunity to see them."

Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund director, said: "These ancient and beautiful torcs have captured the imagination of museum-goers around the country. We're so pleased that our grant has enabled this treasure to be preserved and displayed for everyone to enjoy for many years to come."

Teresa Gilmore the local Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme gave a talk on the subject to members of the Society last October in which she described the torcs in detail and told us how the torcs were discovered in a field in Leekfrith.

[illegible]

The Minton Archives in Stoke continue to provide stunning images of Minton ceramics and original designs ; December's blog featured the unique Ceramic staircase at the V & A in Kensington made from della Robbia ware, mosaics and majolica. For more detail see: <http://www.themintonarchive.org.uk/in-depth-the-ceramic-staircase/>

Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society

Advocacy Guidelines

Introduction

1.1 Over the last two decades or so there has been an increasing emphasis on the vital role to be played by communities in understanding and consequently valuing and overseeing the fortunes of their heritage and historic environments. This was integral to then *English Heritage's* concept of *Power of Place*, embraced also by national and regional interest groups such as the *Council for British Archaeology*, and community funders and facilitators like the *Heritage Lottery Fund*.

1.2 Central to these developments has been an increasing awareness of the important part to be played by the advocacy of interested and appropriately informed local groups; that is, groups with suitable expertise and knowledge of their locality or region, and representative of a constituency or special interests, who might monitor the maintenance, presentation and wellbeing of their local heritage assets and historic environment, to be prepared to make representation when they are compromised or threatened. The West Midlands Group of the Council for British Archaeology has a particularly longstanding commitment to this policy, not only for itself, but also in encouraging local societies to play a more active role.

1.3 Such advocacy is well established among some voluntary and community organisations, such as Civic Societies, but is less well developed among the archaeological and historical societies of the west midland region, among them the Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society. However such a role, as a facet of its activities, is entirely within the scope of the Society and entirely consistent with its current Constitution (2012).

1.4 Within the second clause of our Constitution, the objectives of SAHS are defined as 'the promotion of the study, awareness, interpretation and care of the historic environment, including its buildings, sites, antiquities and historical records, particularly, though not exclusively, in relation to the County of Staffordshire (historic boundaries*); for the interest, education and benefit of its Membership and the General Public, by:

- a) Arranging lecture meetings, visits and excursions of archaeological and historic interest, and other events and gatherings.
- b) Sponsoring and undertaking archaeological and historical research, including fieldwork and site excavation work, and subsequently publishing the findings and conclusions. Including publication of Volumes of its *Transactions*.
- c) Encouraging the preservation of buildings of historical interest and significance, sites of historic and archaeological importance, and other local antiquities.'

The preamble, and more specifically, sub-clause (c), directly enjoins the Society to recognise an advocacy role. This document therefore seeks to outline how such a role might be taken up by SAHS and establish key guidelines on how this should be applied.

2 Our Guidelines

2.1 While SAHS is enthusiastic in its commitment to develop and maintain an effective advocacy role, these guidelines seek to balance this ongoing commitment against ensuring a consistency of approach and an ability to sustain and implement our policy.

2.2 The Society will only consider offering comment at a strategic level, addressing such as area, development, strategic and infrastructure plans. Furthermore, it will only engage with matters that relate to the core activities and interests of the Society, as defined in our Constitution. Nonetheless, it is recognised that this will embrace broad themes; the Society will only engage with matters relating to the historic environment and heritage, including archaeological sites, historic buildings, townscapes, landscapes; the accessibility, curation, presentation and management of heritage assets and resources of all kinds, including archives, museums and interpretation centres.

2.3 SAHS will not normally comment on individual or site specific planning and development issues or other low level planning issues, such as domestic or commercial alterations and plans, unless the committee of the Society determine that wider strategic issues are involved.

2.4 The SAHS committee will determine by vote which proposals and plans it wishes to respond to; however, a pre-requisite to pursuing this will be to clearly determine and minute how and why the matter under consideration may be regarded as strategic in nature and therefore eligible for a response within the spirit of these guidelines. However, as a voluntary group, it cannot be guaranteed that the Society will be capable of pursuing all of the matters brought to its attention; our approach will generally be reactive and selective.

2.5 A member or members of the committee may be delegated to make further enquiries and draft recommendations for consideration and adoption by the committee.

2.6 Responses made on behalf of the Society must be administered and implemented by members of the SAHS's committee and can only proceed to submission once they have received the approval of the committee by means of a majority vote. Only written submissions will be considered to represent the official view of the Society, and these only when they have been signed by either the Chairman (President) or the Honorary Secretary on behalf of the Society.

* 'historic boundaries' refers to local authority areas that historically were a part of the county of Staffordshire, such as Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Stoke-on-Trent. Plans affecting such areas might therefore attract comment.

These guidelines were approved in a committee meeting of the Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society held on Tuesday, 21st November, 2017.

[illegible]

Sound System - Audibility of Lectures at the Guildhall

We know that unfortunately there have been occasional difficulties with the sound quality at the Society's lectures held at the Guildhall. Whilst the latter does provide a superior venue the level of audibility has been causing some disquiet.

Those Members who use a hearing aid should be aware that the Guildhall auditorium does have automatic hearing loop facilities, switched on at all times when the microphones are employed. To benefit from this, it is necessary to ensure that personal hearing aids are tuned in to the hearing loop when attending our talks. If unsure about this, please check any instructions held or alternatively hearing aid supplier.

We have invested in a microphone headset, providing hands free mic to mouth. This will henceforth be available in addition to the lapel mic facility, and also the two hand held mics. We recognise that we must ensure the invited speakers adopt correct speaking to mic practice when presenting to audience to maximise their audibility, so all can hear without too much difficulty.

The room sound system does have a volume control. We know now to adjust this, probably to maximum sound level each time.

We, your Committee, have taken this sound issue really seriously. Steps forward have been taken to find resolution. This will continue as necessary. We thank the Membership for its forbearance.

Keith Billington

Vacant Position – Website Co-ordinator – <https://www.sahs.uk.net>

The Society's website and hosting arrangements are these days in the hands of professional specialists Beachshore Design Limited. The much improved change of presentation and format evident when viewing sahs.uk.net online has resulted from our involvement with this firm; following recommendation to us. Beachshore undertake the day to day maintenance and management responsibilities on our behalf.

Much of this successful change has been seen through by our now outgoing Website Officer Paul Norris. Paul has in fact stepped aside from a number of responsibilities, taken on 'temporarily' a few years ago when the previous incumbent left us. We are very much indebted to Paul for all he has achieved whilst in post – he's done a great job. At the December 2017 AGM he retired from Committee completely – we wish him well as a Member 'on the back benches'.

We now need a replacement for Paul, in particular to look after the website. Someone to act as website co-ordinator, to be able to liaise with Beachshore Design regarding updates and changes. It is probable that a place on Committee for the individual concerned will be appropriate. The task should not be that onerous and guidance will be provided as necessary.

You are likely to recall that we have sounded out the Membership on this previously, in fact fairly frequently whilst Paul has been holding the reins. If you think you have the capacity to fill the vacancy we will be very glad to hear from you.

As things stand, from this moment in time January 2018, the website will have no-one to update it. This clearly has implications. **Should you be interested in stepping forward please let us know. This piece is unashamedly written as a plea, so someone please get in touch !**

Thanks.

Keith Billington

New Scientific Techniques applied to Parchment

It is not often that we read in *Farmers Weekly* of the latest advances in the scientific study of historical documents, but this journal has reported that 'Scientists at the University of York and Trinity College Dublin have found that by extracting DNA and protein from tiny samples of parchment they can establish the species type of the animal from which the parchment was made. This means that documents are an important resource to tracking changes in livestock husbandry in the UK across the centuries, a subject about which relatively little is known.' There is potential here for wide ranging studies on the development of agriculture in the British isles. A pilot study showed that one sample derived from an unimproved northern sheep whereas another derived from an animal from an improved flock bred by Robert Bakewell in the Midlands in the eighteenth century. Matthew Collins professor of archaeology at the University of York said that the project suggests that parchments are an amazing resource and that there are millions stored away in archives and elsewhere. Furthermore most parchments are dated unlike any other historical source of DNA. The technique is said to use only tiny amounts of parchment but most archivists would object to even this amount of damage to a valuable document; however it has now been shown that DNA can be retrieved from the residue on erasers used to clean old parchments which seems to be an opening to the non destructive testing of documents. This technique has been used to look at the parchment on which the York Gospels were written ; mostly cattle but some pages were made from sheepskin usually derived from female sheep. Another text- a 12th century Gospel of St Luke in

Another project will look in detail at medieval seals using modern forensic analysis paired with detailed historical research to reveal new insights into medieval British society hidden within the wax seals of thousands of historic documents.

Professor Hoskin says that 'these wax seals have the potential to give us so much information about medieval people, but they are often set aside as less important than the document itself. This will be the first time that the information the handprints found on those seals will be examined, and it could really offer historians new understanding of the period.'

The images can tell us what things actually looked like, and provide glimpses of humour, piety and family pride. They also enabled otherwise illiterate men and women the means to 'write' their name.

Lichfield Joint Record Office

Desiderium: b. conventum & Rich Epi a festo pui: anno dñi
m. c. c. nonagesimo sexto: & consecrationis eiusdem Epi: primo:
Archidiaconat conventus:

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The Record Office has been well used in recent months with volunteers and regular users predominating but with many individuals visiting to research their family history or an aspect of the history of Lichfield or the Diocese. The closure of the Lichfield Record Office is a real loss to the City and is much to be regretted even though the archive material will be well cared for in its new home. It is less clear as to what will happen to the very extensive collection of printed material that is held in the former Record Office; some items will transfer to the small History Centre in St Marys when the County Library moves there later this year *but* much will be dispersed or disposed of.

SOCIETY VISIT TO HEREFORD CATHEDRAL

September 14th 2017

After a slightly delayed start we had an uneventful journey and were deposited in Broad Street close to the cathedral to begin our visit. The first part of the day we were left to our own devices, the only instructions being to meet our guides at 2.15 prompt. Diana and I began by exploring outside and looking at the various gardens and open spaces surrounding the cathedral but a heavy shower soon sent us inside.

It is thought that Christianity came to Hereford with St. Dubricus, who was born at Madley in the middle of the 7th century. You may remember we visited that church to admire the medieval glass on our whirlwind tour of Herefordshire churches led by our President a few years ago. Several buildings rose and fell before the earliest surviving structure that can be seen today was in place. This is the eastern wall of the south transept built in 1080.

The martyrdom of King Ethelbert in 794, whose body was buried at Hereford, was the start of a thriving cult of pilgrimage which brought riches to the church. The Ethelbert Shrine, created in 2007, stands at the entrance to the Lady Chapel. The building was ransacked in 1056 but later a new cult surrounding Thomas Cantilupe arose. He was an academic who became Bishop of Hereford in 1275 but died in Italy in 1282 having been excommunicated. His bones were returned to Hereford to be buried and in 1287 a series of miracles began. A Commission held in 1307 sifted the evidence and he was eventually canonised in 1320. His shrine has been recently restored and his story is told embroidered on two panels.

We met at the appointed time and had an hour long tour of the cathedral with our very informative guides. It is not possible in this account to detail all the wonders of this beautiful building, you must go and see it for yourselves. Our primary aim of course on this occasion was to see the Mappa Mundi, the subject of an earlier talk to the Society. Housed in a splendid new (1996) building, it has a very interesting exhibition attached, displaying chests created for carrying books, the preparation of vellum and early printing. We also had access to the Chained Library with its attendant exhibition.

Mappa Mundi dates from the late 13th century and is thought to have been created by Richard of Haldingham or Lafford (a cleric from Lincoln or Hereford). It depicts the world with Jerusalem as its centre. Among the many illustrations of buildings, people, animals both recognisable and fantastic, one thing that really stands out is the Red Sea, appropriately coloured and parted. When you finally discover England, low down in the south west corner, a misshapen oblong, you find just a few towns marked. Chester, Winchester, Carlisle, Ely, Lincoln, London, Glastonbury, Oxford, the R. Humber; Hereford has been touched so many times it is virtually rubbed out.

But here is a real mystery: I noticed, and drew Diana's attention to it, that Clee Hills are marked on the map, in red ink. Now, if you Google the Mappa Mundi, it is not there. What is going on?

Why Clee Hills? It is hardly the most prominent high land in England nor does it, as far as I am aware, have any great significance monastically. I should be most interested to have people's comments.

JAMES FAMILY CONNECTIONS TO HEREFORD AND THE CATHEDRAL

Another reason for wishing to make this visit was that there is a family story that Jesse James, a tinsmith, my paternal grandmother's father, made some gates for the cathedral but that they were removed during a restoration. I found that in fact the gates are still there at the end of the north and south aisles leading into the north and south transepts. They are quite modest, being about 4 feet high but very decorative. A printed notice explains that they were made by a Coventry firm, Skidmore & Co.

I have two pages from a much earlier (1882) guide to the cathedral – printed incidentally by W. Henry Robinson's Steam Printing Works, Walsall - dating them to 1864. Jesse James, a tinsmith, was living in Church Street, opposite the Cathedral Close, when he got married in 1879, so I suspect it was his father, George, also a tinsmith (as was his father before him) who was actually employed by Skidmores. This firm also made a metal screen, brilliantly coloured and adorned with semi-precious stones, as a feature of George Gilbert Scott's idea to replace the medieval choir screen that had been demolished during Georgian restoration work. It is this item that was removed in the late 1960s.



Gates by Skidmore & Co in Hereford Cathedral and interior of 10 Church St Hereford

An article in *The Review* (undated) and two subsequent letters have the story. Apparently by this time the screen was in a bad state of repair and there was a choice between costly renovation or removal. It was a barrier between nave and choir when there were large congregations and as it was felt by the Chapter that brass work and Norman stonework did not blend harmoniously – a fact that Gilbert Scott himself admitted in later years. Another letter says that the cathedral was never meant to be used as one space and if it had been an original stone screen as in other cathedrals they would not have removed it.

Ultimately the screen was sent to the Victoria & Albert Museum where it was restored and can now be viewed.

I had three addresses in Hereford, taken from birth and marriage certificates, that I wanted to explore. One was long gone, replaced by a cinema that is now a Wetherspoons. Another was too far from the cathedral to walk to on that day, but Google supplied a photograph of an Art & framing shop owned by Tobias James at 64 St. Owen Street.

10, Church Street was just a few minutes away – would it still be there? The street is actually a very narrow lane, hardly wide enough for vehicles, leading directly out from The Close. It must be one of the oldest streets in the city and still has timber framed houses. No. 10 was a tiny café so we ordered tea and I told the story of

the James family and my great, great, great grandfather having lived there. The owner invited me to look round and I climbed what I believe to be the original staircase, very narrow and curved. The house was one room wide and two rooms deep and had three floors. It was not possible to see what was at the back of the house. There was a jettied building on the opposite corner in East Street, another very narrow street. I mentioned the coincidence of Tobias James at the other address, but the owner said she knew him and James was a Christian name.

All together a wonderful and satisfying visit ending with our coach driver doing his own thing on the way home and giving us a glorious drive in late afternoon and evening sunshine through Herefordshire and Shropshire with only a minimal amount of motorway.

Betty Fox

THE KNAVES CASTLE ENIGMA part 2

By Sam Whitehouse, B Sc, C Eng MICE

In **Part One** of this work (SAHS Newsletter number 126) I sought to find early historical descriptions, including maps, and provide full details of these. In **Part Two** I use these sources to develop a plan, cross-section and perspective sketch of this curious earthworks as it would have appeared in ancient times.

PART TWO – A RECONSTRUCTION

Where to start! As a civil engineer (although retired) my instinct is to produce a plan and cross section of the site, moving from the earliest to last of the useful descriptions. Having made some sense of topography, perhaps we can then proceed to some speculations as to what the site was used for. Firstly, let us list the various diameters mentioned, in chronological order;

<i>Plot, 1686</i>	<i>120 or 150ft</i>
<i>Aubrey, 1693</i>	<i>60ft</i>
<i>Rev Sanders, 1769</i>	<i>249ft</i>
<i>O.S map, 1884</i>	<i>137 ft (scaled)</i>
<i>VCH, 1908</i>	<i>140ft (scaled)</i>

The reports span no less than 222 years, so that over this period we would expect a gradual deterioration due to wind and rain erosion, and if later used for agricultural purposes such as arable ie put down to grass, (with haystacks) and grazing, then such uses would accelerate the natural tendency for the sides of the ditches and the slopes of the inner mound to evolve into very gentle profiles, to the extent perhaps that in the later years the outer features could have become virtually unnoticeable, or perhaps had disappeared altogether. We would expect the early descriptions to be the most informative as the features would be at their most crisp but the VCH report is also interesting, suggesting to me that as the site gradually flattened out, so material migrated outwards. What do we make of Aubrey, with his three ditches all encompassed within a diameter of 60 feet?

We have noted from the OS map of 1884, and the VCH report of 1908 that a semi-circular embankment of 137 to 140 feet diameter formerly existed, and I assume there would have been a substantial ditch outside this. John Aubrey was a notable scholar who had excavated at Stonehenge, and his figure is inexplicable, unless perhaps he had measured some inner features only; however, his comments about the tiny space at the centre, the breastwork and the southern access should be given serious consideration.

Dr Plot's figures of 40 to 50 yards ie 120 to 150 feet tie up quite nicely with the OS/VCH data. Like Aubrey he comments on the very small round hill in the middle of the earthworks.

Sanders is the most plausible, and his dimensions can be made to work. He mentions a swell or rise of land and so I envisage an ascending order of ditches cut into the side-slopes.

Let us review what we now know about dimensions and other features of this ancient earthworks, but firstly I would like the reader to fix in his or her mind a general picture of its setting in the landscape - a small man made summit

platform, with a single fir tree, surrounded by three ditches and set on a modest ridge which is orientated nor-nor-west, with the surrounding land falling gently away to the west, north and east, the whole area wooded until the 16c. Watling Street follows these general contours - falling to the west but rising again to the high point where it changes direction; similarly it falls to the east before rising to the high ridge where the Staffordshire Hoard was found. To summarise from these old accounts:

- It had three concentric ditches. The depth of the ditches was five to six yards. The ditches were located within the “gradual descent” of the sides
- There were thus two embankments per side
- The 1884 OS map shows an embankment in the shape of a half circle, with its open aspect facing west; its external diameter (centre to centre of embankments) is about 137 feet
- The VCH plan (1908) suggests a comparable figure for this feature of 140 feet, but the embankments are so eroded and flattened as to make it difficult to determine quite where the summits formerly were.
- This embankment (OS/VCH) is the **outer** of the two which formerly existed
- The overall diameter of the site was 83 yards (249 feet)
- There was a very small round hill slightly south of the circle centre proper- the 1884 map indicates its base diameter as some 33 feet – this fits nicely with the Plot/Aubrey comments; its centre is 100 feet south of Watling Street in 1880.
- Watling Street itself had an altitude of 500 feet above Ordnance Datum at this location
- The site is closely embraced by the 500 foot contour but there is no 525 foot contour shown on the map. The overall height (above Watling Street) was therefore less than 25 feet – I would guess about 20 feet.
- The soil is gravelly – this is important when considering the stability of the side slopes of the ditches (I have assumed a maximum natural angle of repose of 45 degrees, which is the standard text book value for compact sandy gravel).
- There was one gate or entrance to the south

Surely anybody could draw a plan and section with all this information! The diagram below shows the result of my analysis. See **Figure 5** below, plan and cross section.

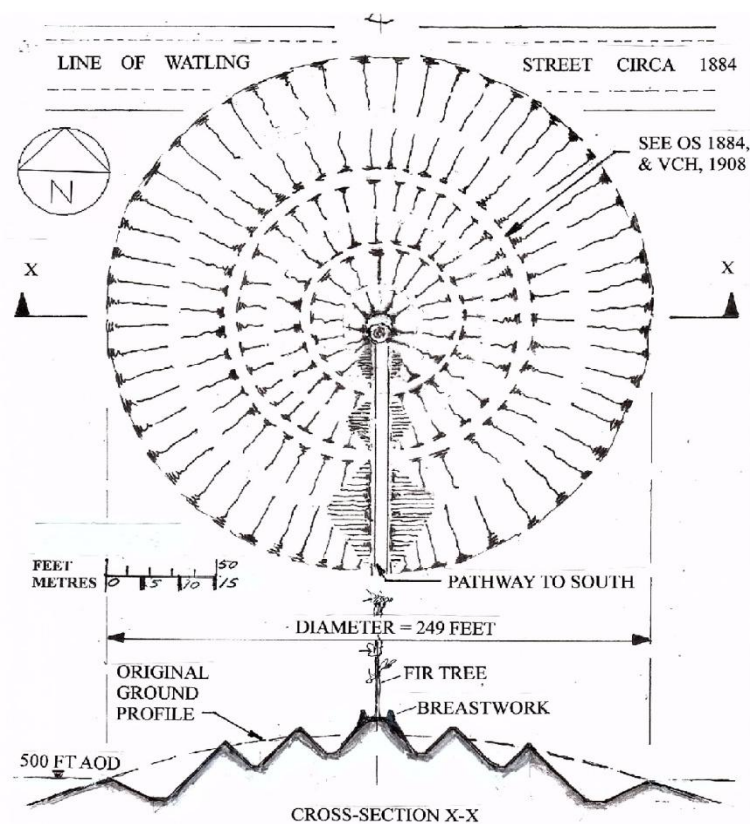


Figure 5 – Theoretical Reconstruction

Lecture Programme Spring 2018

Unless otherwise indicated, all Lectures are held at The Guildhall, Bore Street, Lichfield, WS13 6LX, starting at 8.00pm. The doors are open from 7.30pm when refreshments are available. Visitors are welcome to attend for a charge of £3.00, payable at the door.

23rd February 2018 by Dr Richard Thomas

New Discoveries at Bradgate Park - Preliminary results from the Third Season of Excavation

The park is first documented in 1241 (as a deer park) but is best known as the location of one of the first unfortified brick-built aristocratic houses in England (c. 1520), which was later the birth place and childhood home of Lady Jane Grey: the 'nine days queen'. Despite this historical significance, very little is known about the changing use of this landscape despite the richness of the archaeological evidence. The aim of the Bradgate Park Fieldschool is to better understand changing human interactions within this upland landscape, provide students with training in archaeology and promote public engagement.

Our third season of excavations concluded in July 2017 and included some major new discoveries: a late Mesolithic flint scatter, a Bronze Age enclosure and a revision of our understanding of Lady Jane Grey's home. In this talk, project co-director Dr. Richard Thomas will summarise the findings of the first three seasons of work and describe the plans for future seasons."

9th March 2018 by Andrew Fitzpatrick

In the footsteps of Caesar; The Archaeology, of the First Roman Invasions of Britain

Andrew is a specialist in later prehistory joining Leicester University as Postdoctoral Research Associate in 2014 to lead the new Leverhulme funded research project which is the subject of the talk tonight. Andrew was previously at Wessex Archaeology.

23rd March 2018 by Dr Keith Ray MBE,

Dorstone Hill, Herefordshire: A Neolithic Landscape

The talk will focus upon the range of remarkable discoveries made across now seven seasons of excavation at the site from 2011. These include evidence for three of the earliest timber and daub aisled halls known from Britain, dating from around 3850-3800BC, with possibly also the earliest evidence for structural carpentry. A deep mortuary chamber has also been investigated, sited between two of the mounds; this was later covered by a mound, with a major human cremation pyre deposit subsequently laid along its ditch. The halls were burned down deliberately, and their remains were made to form the foundation for long earthen mounds; two of these mounds were stone-fronted and capped before all four mounds in a row were encased in a massive stone façade. This remarkable complex was then revisited and commemorative acts performed at it up to 600 years later. Meanwhile a causewayed enclosure was built on the hillside above the mounds, to enclose within its circuit of segmented banks and ditches a fourth mound, surviving intact today (but so far unexamined). The 'causewayed camp' is the principal target for excavation in 2018.

6th April 2018 by Sue Whitehouse

Saving Weavers' Cottages Kidderminster

The Weavers' Cottages in Kidderminster are a group of three 18th century artisans dwellings and the last surviving examples of their kind left in the town. They stood empty for over 40 years becoming increasingly derelict and unloved but many local people fought a hard campaign to save them because of their historic importance. Eventually they were saved at the 11th hour by the intervention of the Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust.

Sue Whitehouse is the Chairman of the Trust and will tell the story of how the building was saved and the remarkable histories that were revealed as the building works proceeded. She will also explain how building preservation trusts are able to take on dilapidated historic buildings which others walk away from and how their work is becoming increasingly important and challenging in the 21st century

20 April 2018 by Dr Gavin Speed

New Light on Ratae Corieltavorum Recent archaeological discoveries in Leicester

University of Leicester Archaeological Services has recently finished the largest archaeological excavation in Leicester in over a decade in advance of a major new development. The excavation at 'Stibbe' has shed vivid new light on the city's Roman history, revealing evidence of luxurious dwellings including one of the biggest fragments of mosaic floor found in the city in 150 years. This talk reviews the recent and not-so-recent Roman discoveries from Roman Leicester, revealing much of the ancient Roman past.

4th May 2018 **7:30pm** by Dr Rob Ixer FSA

Stonehenge and the Blue Stones

The precise number, identity, geological provenance and prehistorical significance of the various Stonehenge bluestones have been, and will always remain, contentious. Petrographical and geochemical re-examination of lithic assemblages collected during the last century, plus examination of all those from 21st century excavations, found within Stonehenge and its immediate environs (over 7000 samples) combined with dedicated, geological, *in situ* collecting has allowed a greater qualification and quantification of the rock types, demonstrated their relative archaeological 'importance' and suggested some of their possible origins. These data have shown that many earlier provenancing studies are incorrect whilst also uncovering cryptic questions including: -

- Why are some orthostats not represented in the abundant and spatially quite uniform Stonehenge 'debitage' ---and *vice versa*?
- Why are the geological origins of the non-dolerite bluestone so diverse and often from 'insignificant' outcrops for example the small outcrop of Craig Rhos-y-felin?

Can finding the geographical origin of the bluestones give us the transport route?

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### **News from the Past (Council for British Archaeology West Midlands)**

**Saturday 17 February 2018, 10:00 to 3:30, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX**

This annual roundup consists of short illustrated talks and displays on recent work on sites and finds ranging in date from the Ice Age onwards, throughout the West Midlands region. This year the talks include Palaeolithic Worcestershire; prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon sites at Baginton in Warwickshire and Broadway in Worcestershire; Roman remains in Warmington, Warwickshire; and Cannock Chase through Time.

Cost (includes tea and coffee): £15 CBA WM members, £20 non-members.

To book a place, contact Caroline Mosley, CBA West Midlands, 16 Beverley Court Road, Quinton, Birmingham B3 1 HD; 0778 694 1059; [nftp.cbawm@gmail.com](mailto:nftp.cbawm@gmail.com)

For further details, see [www.archaeologyuk.org/cbawm/meetings.php](http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbawm/meetings.php)



## **Gift Aid – Members who benefit SA&HS through Gift Aid**

We are grateful to those Members of Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society who are able to give benefit to the Society by virtue of declaring for Gift Aid. For every eligible £1 received, 25p of tax is claimable back. Since year 2000, annual claims we have made on HMRC, or the Inland Revenue as it was until 2006, have been worth in funding terms an accrued total of nearly £7000 to date. This is a significant sum of money for a group of our size. As a charitable organisation, we were able to register as a Gift Aid Claimant from Scheme outset (i.e. in 2000), so that tax relief/repayment would be applicable to any qualifying subscriptions or donations made to us.

The above said, it is necessary to point something out: As Members will doubtless be aware, from time to time the HMRC tax threshold rises, as announced in the Chancellor of Exchequer's Budgets. This might therefore have an implication. Any Gift Aider, to be able to qualify, must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in each tax year (6<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities (including SA&HS), that they subscribe to or donate to, will reclaim on those subscriptions or donations for the tax year in question.

Following on from this, so that our Gift Aid files continue to be correct, you must tell SA&HS if you:

1. Want to cancel your Gift Aid Declaration.
2. Change your name or home address (correct domicile detail is very important).
3. Want to change your Membership category - say from Joint to Individual.
4. No longer pay sufficient tax on your Income and/or Capital Gains.

If in doubt please contact Keith Billington, SA&HS Honorary Treasurer. As you'll recall, it's only ever necessary to complete a Gift Aid Declaration once (to SA&HS).

Many thanks for continuing to support and be a Member of Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society.

Keith Billington

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## **New Book**

### **Staffordshire's War by Karen Hunt**

November 2017 brought the publication of a new book by Professor Karen Hunt, which provides a fascinating insight into how the people of Staffordshire coped with the challenges of everyday life during the First World War.

The genesis of the book lay in the recently discovered papers of the Mid-Staffordshire Military Appeals Tribunal in the Staffordshire Record Office. Supported by an award under the Heritage Lottery Fund 'First World War Then and Now' programme <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/first-world-war-then-and-now>, a team of volunteers from across the county were able to explore the experiences and backgrounds of those men who appeared before the tribunal, and build a picture of the economic and social life of a community at war.

Paperback £14.99 Amberley Publishing

Karen Hunt is Professor Emerita in Modern British History at the University of Keele

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**Tim Cockin's new book the 900 page Atlas of English Parish Boundaries 'A Parish Atlas of Britain' is now available directly from the author at the bargain price of £45.00 [timcockin@yahoo.com](mailto:timcockin@yahoo.com)**

**STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2017-2018**

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

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Names(s).....

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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 2017/18 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 PayPal™ option 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.

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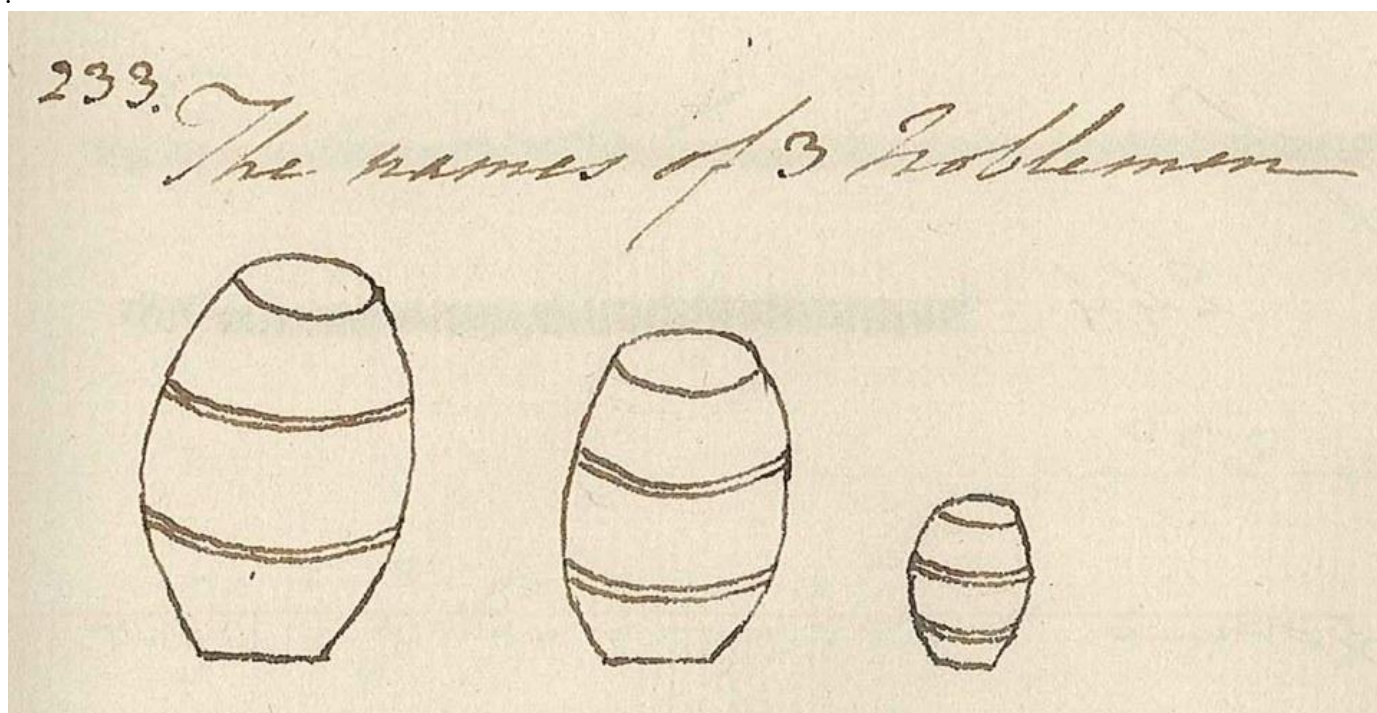
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I would like the Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society (SAHS) to treat as Gift Aid all Subscriptions and Donations I make from the Date of this Declaration.

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

To finish here's a nineteenth century riddle posted by Staffordshire Archives and Heritage on their Facebook page;



Stop Press

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Lichfield Civic Society**  
*- followed by -*  
**A SPOTTER'S GUIDE TO MEDIEVAL GRAFFITI**  
**Joss Musgrove Knibb**  
**Tuesday 20th February 2018 7.45pm**  
**in WADE STREET CHURCH COMMUNITY HALL,**  
**FROG LANE, LICHFIELD**  
**Non-Members welcome - Admission £ 3**

Answer to riddle ; Lord Talbot ( Tall Butt), Lord Middleton ( Middle Tun), Lord Littleton (Little Tun)

Edited for the Society by Richard Totty (richard.totty4@gmail.com)

Comments views photographs and articles for the next issue welcome!

