



*Staffordshire
Archaeological
and Historical Society*



NEWSLETTER January 2019

Web: www.sahs.uk.net

Issue No 130

email: sahs@sahs.uk.net

President:

Dr John Hunt BA, PhD, FSA, FRHistS, PGCE.

Tel: 01543423549

Hon. General Secretary:

Vacant

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr K J Billington, ACIB.

Tel: 01543 278989



Sandfields Pumping Station Lichfield ; The Cornish Beam Engine by J&G Davies of the Albion Foundry Tipton installed in 1873 to replace the original Watt engines which were not very efficient. Now beautifully restored with loving care by the volunteers of the Lichfield Waterworks Trust. Visited by members November 2018

Lectures Spring 2019

Lectures are held in the Guildhall Bore Street Lichfield and unless otherwise noted start at 8.00pm

Refreshments are available half an hour before the start of the meeting

.....
22 February 2019

Henry Chapman

Bog Bodies and Sacrifice

Henry is a prehistorian specialising primarily in the archaeology of wetlands. Most recently, his research has focused on the topic of Iron Age bog bodies – human remains preserved within peatlands. Here, the debate centres on whether these remains represent the victims of murder, human sacrifice or criminal execution. Henry's research has approached this debate by investigating the landscape archaeology of these events and the exploration of the suffering that the individuals experienced in their final moments. This will be the focus of his lecture. Henry has worked for the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, the University of Hull and Channel 4's Time Team. He is currently Professor of Archaeology at the University of Birmingham and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

8 March 2019

Tim Skelton

Lutyens and the Great War

This Lecture will be a 7.30pm start

Tim is a retired chartered surveyor and, twenty years ago, started researching the various memorials that were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in connection with the dead of World War One, which included his extensive work for the then Imperial War Graves Commission - it was part of his work that had never before been investigated in detail. It led, in turn to the opportunity to write a book "Lutyens And The Great War" with Gerald Gliddon (published 2008). The illustrated talk will look at all of the aspects of this work and will include some of the stories behind the commissioning of individual memorials which is, in itself, a revealing portrait of community life in the years after the end of the War.

22 March 2019

Chris Callow

What happened in Medieval Iceland? Using sagas and other sources to assess political change.

Iceland was colonised from scratch in the Viking Age and eventually emerges as a fairly conventional-looking western European society by the fifteenth century, although always remaining a relatively poor community of pastoral farmers. The sources for its medieval history are, however, anything but conventional. Sagas form a large and interesting corpus of information which we have to make use of for the period of Iceland's history before 1300, providing significant challenges to historians for various reasons. Chris will offer his view on how we can assess the power of Iceland's 'chieftains' in the period before Icelandic leaders formally submitted to the Norwegian king in the 1260s, considering the sagas but in the light of other forms of evidence such as archaeology and more conventional documents. Chris has been Lecturer in Medieval History at University of Birmingham since 2005 and his research interests lie in the Middle Ages with particular specialisms in Iceland and the Vikings.

5 April 2019

Jane Hearn

Britain's Post-War Prefabs - Building the Post-War World

The Prefab Museum tells a story that resonates today and paints a picture of social, domestic, and working class life in Britain from 1946 to the present day. These prefabricated homes were designed to last 10-15 years when they were erected between 1946-1948 but thousands have survived, lived in and loved by their residents. Jane Hearn, codirector of the museum, will talk about the history and development of the post-war prefab, the architecture and designs, and the communities that lived - and still live - in them.

Jane is co-director of the Prefab Museum and a community development worker. Her interest in post-war prefabs dates back to 1990 when she first visited the Excalibur Estate of 187 prefabs, the last large group in London.

26 April 2019

Jenny Gilbert

The Hodson Shop Collection

Walsall Museum's Hodson Shop Collection contains over 5,000 items of mass produced clothing shop stock. Following its discovery in 1983, it began a journey from piles of dirty old clothing to a renowned museum collection. This journey has not been straightforward, with the collection's status fluctuating over the years. This talk introduces the collection, describes its history, raises important questions about the place of everyday clothing in museums and considers the risks facing collections in small local history museums.

Jenny Gilbert is a lecturer in Design Cultures at De Montfort University, Leicester. She completed her PhD at University of Wolverhampton in 2016. The research built a detailed biographical case study of the museum life of Walsall Museum's Hodson Shop Collection. Jenny's research focuses upon every day, and arguably mundane, experiences of dress, fashion and retail.

10 May 2019

Della Hooke

Water and the Environment in the Anglo-Saxon World This Lecture will be a 7.30pm start

Water was a dominant feature in everyone's lives throughout history and the Anglo-Saxon world was no exception. In this period, river names, rights to water etc. are recorded in documents and more known about its cultural and symbolical role. An attempt will be made to relate much of this discussion to Staffordshire. Here some major rivers such as the Trent, and even some smaller streams, continued to bear names of British origin; other names display their nature as perceived in this period, whether describing their flow or the animals and birds that were found in the vicinity, providing an insight into the Anglo-Saxon countryside. Some rivers also gave their names to adjoining settlements. On a spiritual level, water had been revered since at least Mesolithic times and springs or wells might enjoy a special mystical or sacred role. In this period many were Christianised by becoming associated with a Christian saint and their presence might influence the siting of a new church or cathedral – the water used in liturgical practices. Water had a liminal quality, separating the everyday world from the sacred (although wetlands might sometimes be regarded as places of danger), and might influence the location of early minsters and monasteries, often established on 'islands' formed in a braided river. However, such locations were to prove immensely beneficial as trade expanded and markets were established, often by the monasteries themselves.

Della Hooke pursued a career as a university research fellow and lecturer before becoming a free-lance consultant in Archaeology and Historical Landscapes. She is an Associate Member of the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Science, in the University of Birmingham. She is editor of the journal *Landscape History*.

Looking Forward

The next volume in the Victoria County History of Staffordshire series will be about Tamworth, including the parts formerly in Warwickshire, and some surrounding areas such as Drayton Bassett. Due for publication this autumn it will be the last to be edited by Nigel Tringham.

Nigel's successor Andrew Sargent has started work on a new volume to cover Uttoxeter and its hinterland including parishes such as Leigh, Bramshall and Draycott in the Moors. Andrew's team of volunteers meet at the Staffordshire Record Office on Wednesday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00 and is looking for new recruits to join in the research.

The next volume from the Staffordshire Record Society will be published shortly and will include several articles on the early modern history of Stafford and Lichfield – see page 15.

The Chase in Time

English Heritage have issued a report on their strand of the Chase in Time Project which has been looking at the history and archaeology of Cannock Chase. The report is lengthy, detailed and very informative. It is particularly good at describing recent Lidar surveys of the Chase, and includes many excellent air photographs taken when parts of the Chase particularly around Hednesford had numerous working coal mines. There is also a very readable summary of the history of the Chase from medieval times onwards. Well recommended to all who have an interest in this area. Our one quibble is that there is a concentration on the north and west parts of the Chase with the south and east less well covered. The full report is available as a download from <http://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=16004> and English Heritage are to be congratulated on making the full report so easily accessible.

I have been looking at the 1950-52 parish rights of way survey files for Cannock recently; these show footpaths and other rights of way in the Cannock area drawn on contemporary ordnance survey maps. These maps are a reminder of the extent to which the landscape in this area has changed since the 1950s. Gone entirely are the many collieries, waste tips and railway lines that dominated the landscape, all swept away with very little trace left on the ground. The footpaths though have endured and are still there. Here is a view of Littleton Colliery closed in 1993. This view, from 1982, now seems as ancient as Castle Ring.

Richard Totty



Stafford Road Cannock in 1982 with the now demolished Littleton Colliery in the background

Society Visits

In November a group of members visited Sandfields Pumping Station in Lichfield to see the steam engine installed there in 1873. The engine pumped water through underground channels from Stowe Pool to the Black County to provide the area with a source of clean water to counteract the outbreaks of cholera that had taken place in the early years of the nineteenth century. This engine superseded the Watt engines originally used as these were very inefficient using too much fuel and it in turn was replaced by electric pumps the switchgear for which is still there. Much of the complex has been demolished and what remains is the engine house, with some attractive brickwork, and a modern structure housing the switchgear. The engine itself is a magnificent survival, one of the very few examples of its type still in existence and appears huge, rising through the three floors of the engine house. We are grateful to the volunteers who spent their time in showing us around. For more details see <https://lichfieldwaterworkstrust.com>



Visiting the top floor of the engine house at Sandfields to view the huge beam of the steam engine which operated the water pump.

The waterworks trust is restoring the site and are worthy of our full support ; this is wonderful part of Lichfield's heritage and deserves to be better known and visited.



1960s switchgear at Sandfields

image copyright Steven Billington

In October we visited Worcester Cathedral for guided tours of the Cathedral itself and the Library. The highlight of the tour was the display of very early illustrated manuscripts and printed books held in the Library, one of the best collections in the country. However the descent into the Norman crypt ran it a close second not to mention the atmospheric cloisters housing the bookshop and the coffee shop.

Those who came on our visit to Repton a few years ago will be interested in an article in the April 2018 issue of 'British Archaeology'. The author Cat Jarman describes recent investigations at the site including some new excavations, all aimed at finding new information about the winter camp of the Great Viking Army in 873/4. Finds from the excavations appear thin but a reassessment of the carbon dating evidence from the remains of 264 people discovered in a charnel house is highly significant. Initial carbon dating gave very mixed results with some of the individuals apparently having been buried several centuries before the Vikings arrived. However it is now recognised that a high consumption of seafood over a lifetime can distort carbon 14 levels and making adjustments for this it is apparent that all the burials here date from the same period, around the time the Great Viking Army were there. The results of these new investigations support the presence of a Great Army group numbering in the thousands. Research here is ongoing and there will be more to report.

Something for Everyone: Why you should read Transactions Vol L

Mike Hodder

The recently-published fiftieth volume of Transactions contains articles on a wide range of archaeological and historical subjects from throughout the county: prehistoric gold objects; Anglo-Saxon buildings; a medieval friary; medieval grants of arms; a sixteenth-century inventory; and the 1918 General Election. It also includes summaries of recent archaeological work in Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton and Walsall (all historically part of Staffordshire), and two book reviews. In addition, there are two overviews of the whole series of Transactions.

Richard Totty's "Transactions: a celebration of fifty volumes of Staffordshire's archaeology and history" is an extremely readable history and review of the sixty years' span of the Society's publication. It notes the durability of the journal, continuing while others have ceased publication, its changing format and contents, the range of authors, and the deliberations of the former editorial committee. Points of debate have rarely been included, and in recent years the reluctance of authors to publish short notes and articles on research in progress may have resulted from the advent of the internet. Particular volumes such as that on Lichfield are highlighted. Since the *Transactions* have been made available online, volumes I and XXXIX are the most popular downloads. The wider impact of *Transactions* is assessed from citations of individual papers in other publications. As the article says, "There is something in *Transactions* for everyone".

John Hunt and I, in our "Staffordshire's past in fifty volumes: a microcosm of British Archaeology" review the archaeological papers of *Transactions* by period and draw attention to their contribution to regional and national research, as well as to Staffordshire itself. Changes in approaches and perceptions over the years include a greater appreciation of the extent of prehistoric and Roman sites and finds in the county. Publication of the *Transactions* corresponds to the time over which medieval archaeology has been recognised as a discipline in its own right, and papers include Anglo-Saxon and medieval towns and industries, castles, rural settlement and religious sites. From the very first volume *Transactions* has included papers about historic buildings of medieval and later date, but other aspects of post-medieval archaeology are less well covered.

Karen Francis and Andy Richmond's article "Anglo-Saxon settlement and textile production at Tucklesholme Quarry, north of the Trent-Tame confluence" describes excavations in advance of gravel extraction in this archaeologically rich landscape, which also contains prehistoric ceremonial monuments and barrows, and Iron Age and Roman boundaries, field systems and livestock enclosures. The article reviews nearby Anglo-Saxon sites, including sixth-century cemeteries and the seventh- to ninth-century settlement at Catholme. The Tucklesholme excavation revealed a characteristic *Grubenhaus* or sunken-featured building, the infill of which produced an unexpectedly early radiocarbon date of the fourth or fifth century date, but overlay fifth- to seventh-century pottery. On one side of the base of the *Grubenhaus* there were 46 clay loomweights indicating that weaving was taking place inside it. The structure was either contemporary with or slightly earlier than the Catholme settlement.

A relatively small excavation which has contributed to our understanding of the thirteenth-century Lichfield Friary is described in Ashley Tuck's article "A medieval boundary of the former Franciscan Friary, Lichfield". The excavation located a substantial ditch which is interpreted as the precinct boundary. Its lower fill contained thirteenth- and fourteenth-century pottery but nothing earlier, suggesting that there was no significant activity in the site before the Friary's foundation, and two leather shoes, one of which was high fashion when new but had been repaired and used for a long time. Near the ditch there was a rough surface of roof tiles, possibly a path. The upper fill of the ditch contained fifteenth and sixteenth-century pottery and sandstone blocks, probably from the Friary buildings.

John Titterton's well-illustrated article, "Three early grants of arms with Staffordshire connections: John Mackworth (1404), John Bruggeford (1415) and Robert Whitgreave (1442)" describes grants of coats-of-arms by lords as a personal reward for good service. The original 1415 grant is now in the William Salt Library. It was made by Edward, Duke of York, to his esquire John Bruggeford (probably from Great Bridgeford near Stafford), during the siege of Harfleur (the Duke was killed a few weeks later at the Battle of Agincourt). A space left in the document for the capital E of Edward, was probably intended to be filled later by a skilled scribe. Robert Whitgreave, granted arms by Earl Stafford, was a lawyer and MP who was entrusted with the delivery of money to support French campaigns. John and Thomas Mackworth, esquires, were granted arms from Lord Audley that were probably already used by their father.

Pamela Walker's article "An inventory of Burton Manor, 1580" is a transcription (begun at the Latin and palaeography summer school at Keele University), accompanied by a useful glossary, of a document in Staffordshire Record Office which lists contents of Thomas Paget's family and household in converted buildings of former Burton Abbey. It was probably made in advance of moving some items to houses outside Staffordshire when following an accusation of recusancy Thomas was ordered to stay outside Staffordshire. The sheer number of rooms, including a chamber for each family member galleries (the former cloister walks?) connecting them and several service and storage rooms, reflects the living standards of the Benedictine monastic community who previously occupied them. The home furnishings of this rich Elizabethan household included wall-mounted tapestries, carpets, cushions, curtains, wooden furniture, a few books, and beds and bedding. Detailed lists of moveable objects read like an inventory of a modern holiday let, and include alabaster mortars, blackjacks (leather

jugs), pewter and other metal vessels. Chamber pots, chafing dishes and butter pots are the only pottery vessels mentioned although much more must have been used. The Whorwood family was occupying “Priory House”, formerly Sandwell Priory, at much the same time and although no contents inventory survives the objects found in excavation included much pottery and less valuable metal objects such as the door keys mentioned in the Burton inventory.

The immediately post-war “Coupon Election” of 14 December 1918 was the first time that women were able to vote and, following hastily-passed subsequent legislation, able to stand for election and take a seat in Parliament. David Hallam’s article, “Christabel Pankhurst in Smethwick: the 1918 General Election” derived from research undertaken as part of the MA in West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham, draws particularly on newspaper accounts. Christabel Pankhurst, daughter of the suffragette leader Emily, at first became the Woman’s Party candidate in Westbury (Wiltshire) and subsequently ousted a local Coalition candidate for the rapidly-growing industrial town of Smethwick, a new constituency which was previously part of strongly Unionist Handsworth. She campaigned against Bolshevism, demanded a punitive peace treaty with Germany, and also mentioned education and social reform. But other than referring to housing schemes which included facilities to ameliorate household chores, there was little specifically for women and no reference to local issues. Pankhurst first visited Smethwick to campaign on 27 November and left after declaration of the result on 28 December. She lost to the Labour candidate, a man with local links, but attained the highest vote of any woman candidate.

The gold objects illustrated by colour photographs on the front cover of the volume, which were found by metal detectorists in the Staffordshire Moorlands, are briefly described in advance of detailed publication by Julia Farley and others in their article “The Leekfrith torcs” The hoard, which has been declared Treasure and acquired by the Potteries Museum, comprised two torcs (neck ornaments), a bracelet and part of a third torc. They are plough-damaged but can be arranged as a nested. Wear marks show that they were always worn in the same position. The closest parallels for the torcs are in continental Europe and the engraved design on the bracelet is matched by objects from Germany which date from the fourth century BC, suggesting that was the date the Leekfrith hoard was made, placing it among the earliest Iron Age gold and Celtic art found in Britain. It is older than the torcs previously found in east Staffordshire, which date to the second and first centuries. Its 75% gold content is comparable to that of other British objects but not those from the Continent which suggests that it was made in Britain. How do objects like this relate to the numerous but rather more mundane Iron Age farmsteads in the county?

Jon Goodwin’s regular summary of archaeological work in Stoke-on-Trent describes recording of historic buildings including Fenton Library and part of Middleport Pottery, excavations at Minton factory, and the Heritage Action Zone which will include investigation of surviving bottle kilns. Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society’s excavation of a site at Muckleston which was occupied from 1630-1730 revealed clay bread ovens which were more like those used by European settlers in North America than in Britain. In Wolverhampton and Walsall Ellie Ramsey draws attention to finds of prehistoric objects, the discovery of Anglo-Saxon pottery in Willenhall and post-medieval remains in Bilston.

Two books are reviewed in this volume. Teresa Gilmore’s *50 Finds from Staffordshire: objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme* includes a selection of objects reported to Finds Liaison Officers including, in addition to the well-known Staffordshire hoard, prehistoric stone implements and sixteenth-century coins. Karen Hunt’s *Staffordshire’s War: Voices of the First World War* looks at the impact of the War beyond the conflict itself, including conscription Appeal Tribunals and the employment of women.

Events

Friends of Letocetum: Wall Museum is open more often in 2019

The Museum at Wall Roman site (Watling Street, Wall (near Lichfield) WS14 0AW), which is manned by volunteers from the Friends of Letocetum, is opening more often in 2019. It will be open from 11am to 4pm on the following dates (all dates are weekends or Bank Holiday Mondays):

March 16, 17, 30, 31; April 20, 21, 22, 27, 28; May 4, 5, 6, 25, 26, 27; June 15, 16, 29, 30; July 13, 14, 27, 28; August 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26; September 14, 15, 28, 29; October 12, 13, 26, 27.

The Museum is close to the excavated remains of the baths and mansio (owned by the National Trust and managed by English Heritage) and you can buy an illustrated guide book to Roman Wall at the Museum. There is a small car park nearby, and an interpretation panel and leaflets at the car park describe a self-guided walking trail on footpaths around the village.



Wall Museum

The museum displays a range of objects from excavations on the baths, mansio, cemetery and other sites in Wall, including pottery, carved stones, metalwork and glassware, and includes information about the baths and mansio and other Roman sites in the area. There is also a small handling collection. The Museum is suitable for all ages, and admission is free.

Further details: <http://www.wallromansitefriendsofletocetum.co.uk/>

Friends of Sutton Park Association: Sutton Park Archaeology Walk, Saturday 6 April 2019

Start 10am, Car park near Bracebridge Pool SP104978 (enter Park via Four Oaks Gate off Four Oaks Road, nearest postcode B74 2XX- please note that there may be a parking charge). Finish by noon.

A walk of approx. 2 miles, led by Mike Hodder, which will include a wide range of well-preserved archaeological remains including military practice trenches, wood boundaries, medieval deer park subdivisions, a medieval fishpond and a recently-discovered site that is probably a medieval hunting lodge.

Free, no need to book in advance.

Please wear suitable outdoor clothing because there is no shelter on the walk route and some paths may be muddy. Further information: <http://fospa.org.uk/>



Muddy path in Sutton Park - a fascinating landscape history to be revealed by Mike Hodder

Friends of Moseley Bog and Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country

History and Archaeology Walk in Moseley Bog, Saturday 26 January 2019

This short walk will include prehistoric burnt mounds, a pool dam and former gardens in the nature reserve. Start 11am at the car park at the Yardley Wood Road entrance to Moseley Bog. Nearest postcode B13 9JX.

Free, but please book a place at <https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk/events>

Council for British Archaeology, West Midlands

News from the Past: the latest Archaeological Discoveries in the West Midlands

Saturday 23 March 2019, 10.00am – 3.30pm, The Church Room, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX

This year's event includes keynote presentations from Helen Wass, High Speed Two Ltd, on 'An overview of the HS2 Historic Environment Programme' and Rob Early, WSP, on 'The archaeology of HS2 in the West Midlands area'. Other talks will include Mike Hodder on Sutton Park, John Hunt on Berkswell Parish Church and Janine Young, National Trust West Midlands, on recent work in the West Midlands including Attingham Park.

The event costs £15.00 for CBA WM members or £20.00 for non-CBA WM members. Advance booking is strongly advised, to: Caroline Mosley, CBA West Midlands, 16 Beverley Court Road, Quinton, Birmingham B32 1HD. Telephone: 0778 694 1059, Email: nftp.cbawm@gmail.com

See www.archaeologyuk.org/cbawm/meetings.php for more information nearer to the event.

Eighteenth century humour; One complained all the ale he drank made him fat. "I have seen it make you lean," replied his friend. "When?" "Last night--upon the wall."

ON RE-READING W. G. HOSKINS THE MAKING OF THE ENGLISH LANDSCAPE

Many years ago, when my interest in archaeology began, I was advised to read *The Making of the English Landscape*. It was, I seem to remember, a slightly scruffy paperback. I have just been given a Folio Society edition and it has been such a pleasure to re-read it.

The first thing that occurs to me is how much more we have discovered in the intervening years since the book was first published in 1955. Hoskins advised us to walk and look. Little or no archaeological work had been undertaken for 15 or 20 years but the past was there for us to discover if only we would go the right way about it.

Keith Thomas provides an Introduction to the 2005 edition in addition to the author's original and a further one from a later edition. In this latter, Hoskins admits that his earlier estimation of population and settlement was probably too low. The book is divided into seven chapters following the chronological development of the landscape and a further three looking at roads, canals and railways; the landscape of towns and the landscape today. It is plentifully supplied with black & white photographs and maps.

If you have never read it, I do recommend it, particularly if you can find the Folio Society's volume.

Betty Fox

Book Review

Staffordshire Coal Mines, Helen Harwood, Amberley Publishing, 2018, 96p, 140 illustrations, £14.99. ISBN 978-1-4456-7787-3

Having just recommended Richard Stone's **The Collieries and Coal Miners of Staffordshire** [Phillimore 2007] to the Burntwood U3A as part of their preparation for a Study Day, this work is now complemented by a new book from Helen Harwood, which has literally just appeared for review.

This new work is a very useful additional contribution to the study of coal mining in historic Staffordshire, with good illustrations, largely from the author's own collection. What Helen Harwood offers us is a brief survey of the development of mining in the county, with crucial references to evidence, followed by what is a very helpful gazetteer of all the collieries in both the North and South Staffordshire Coalfields. Her survey embraces all of historic Staffordshire, as far as the Baggeridge Colliery, near Himley Hall.

We do encounter the important memorials to this industry, such as the Chatterley Whitfield Museum and Apedale Heritage Centre; the entrepreneurial landowners who exploited the coal reserves and developed the industry; and also the many disasters that befell it, such as the Red Pit explosion at Ubbertley in 1851.

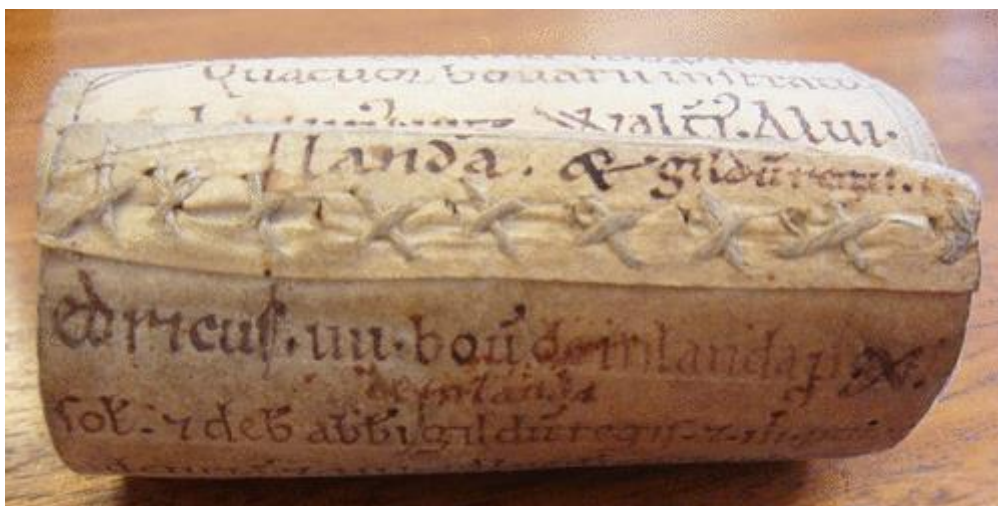
The strong images provide a good memorial to this industry and a very poignant reminder of a very important activity that dominated our landscape but which is now an historical memory, which Helen Harwood is splendidly helping to celebrate and keep alive.

Trevor James

Burton Abbey and Domesday

In a recent paper Professor Carol Symes of the University of Illinois reports on her studies of the origins of the Domesday Book which will be of interest to medieval historians. This is very technical history but part of this paper describes two documents from Burton Abbey and their relation to the Domesday Book. These are the charter of Aethelred II which is the foundation charter of Burton Abbey containing a transcript of the will of Wulfic Spot, and the other is a late 11th century roll describing the Abbey's demesne lands. Carol's main interest is in the way in which medieval documents were put together, amended, altered and handled from a close examination of the physical attributes of the document rather than from a study of the text. Her paper is particularly good at describing what she has seen in these two parchments and what she feels that she is able to deduce from these observations. This is a relatively new area of expertise for historians and one which could have many other applications. Here she describes the several additions to Aethelred's charter and the way in which it has been folded and handled. The full paper is available on line as a free download from

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/699010>. The two documents from Burton Abbey are D603/A/Add/1 & 1925 both held at the Staffordshire Record Office in Stafford where they can be examined. Carole makes the point that the last time that the roll describing the demesne lands of Burton Abbey was last examined in 1977 and therefore it has been rather neglected by modern historians.



Late 11th century roll listing Burton Abbey's demesne lands 'not examined since 1977', ravelled with later archival endorsement 'Inlanda . & gildum regis' Image courtesy of the Staffordshire Record Office



Edricus .iiii. bouatas de inlanda pro .x.
de inlanda i
solidis 7 debet abbati gildum regis 7 .iii. perticas

Edwinus tenet molendina .ii. pro .xv.
solidis 7 salmone usque ad .iii. annos.
7 postea pro .xxx. solidis.
Vasta terra est mesure .iiii. id est .viii.
de castello
bouate. De his habet Aschetillus .ii. bouatas .pro. ii. solidis.
¶ Quator bouarii in Strato-
na. Lewinus Wite. Walterus. Alui.
Elricus. 7 unus in Wismera. Leruicus.
Ailmandus faber .ii. bouatas pro .xvi. denari
quisque habet .ii. bouatas. 7 .iii. acras semina
Brand .ii. bouatas pro .xxxii. denari
tas pro officio suo. 7 uxores eorum oper
antur .i. die. Acras autem debent red
dere seminatas quando deserent boves

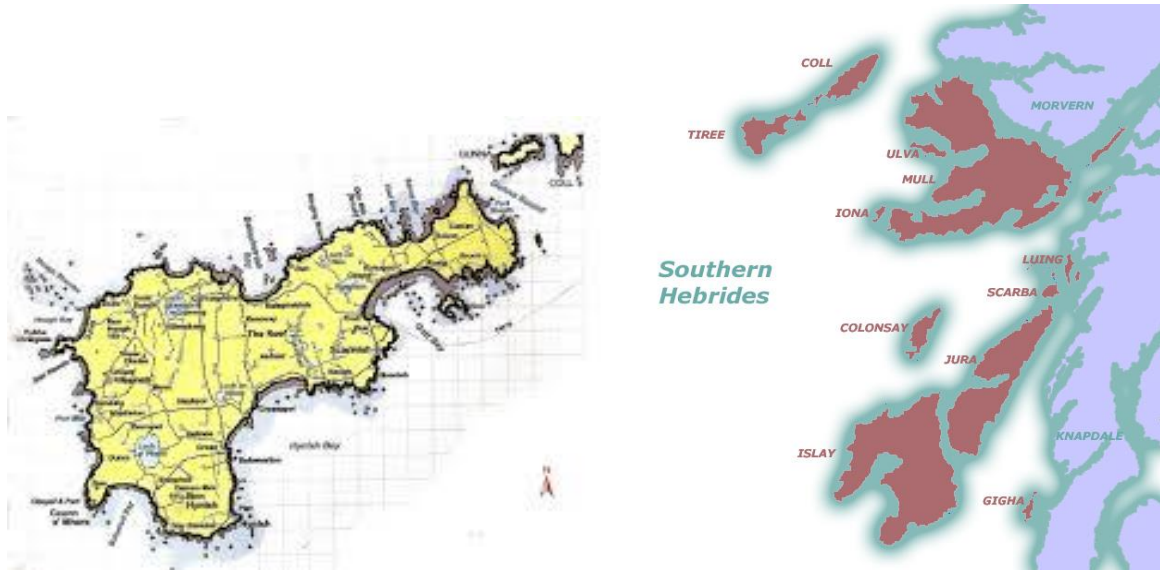
The roll unraveled ; entries for Stretton near Burton showing entries accumulated over time. Photograph courtesy of Staffordshire Record Office, transcription by Professor Symes.

Richard Totty

Your Committee has agreed to make a donation of £100 to the Young Archaeologists Club based at Hednesford for the purchase of Archaeology Skills Passports .

ROCK AND ROGUE: The Tiree Pink Marble Quarry and Rudolf Erich Raspe

The Isle of Tiree is the most westerly of the Inner Hebridean Islands of Scotland. Only 10 miles long and 5 miles in width, the population of about 750 enjoy a maritime climate which makes it one of the sunniest, if albeit windiest places in Britain.



Isle of Tiree and its location in the Inner Hebrides

Geologically the island's bedrock is part of the Lewisian Gneiss Complex, a suite of Pre-Cambrian metamorphic rocks and the oldest in the British Isles. Of particular interest to geologists, archaeologists and historians is the small overgrown Balephetrish Marble Quarry, which is a Scheduled Monument according to Historic Scotland.

The monument comprises of an area of outcropping, silicate rich, pink marble at the foot of Balephetrish Hill. Originally deposited as a limestone, the sediments were subjected to a granulite grade metamorphism, where temperatures reached 800 C at depths up to 30km during the Laxfordian orogeny (1800-1600 Ma). Abundant dark crystals of diopside and hornblende within the fine grained carbonate groundmass greatly enhance its appearance.

The monument is of national importance to Scotland, having the potential to contribute to the understanding of small scale industrial activities, associated with large estates owned by Clan Campbell (the Dukes of Argyll from 1701) in post medieval and recent times. The quarry measures only about 18m from east to west and 15m transversely and stretches up to 3.5m in height. Clearly visible is evidence of extractive techniques, including wedge marks spaced at 0.9m intervals and impressions left by the removal of blocks of stone from the working face.



The Balephetrish Pink Marble Quarry



The Pink Marble with distinctive marble 'clots'

History of the quarry is extremely well documented. Commercial quarrying began in 1791 and ceased after only three years in 1794. John Campbell, 5th Duke of Argyll had replaced the 15th century castle at Inverary, with a build that was one of the earliest examples of Gothic Revival architecture, together with Strawberry Hill House in Twickenham. Work had begun in 1743, but the discovery of the unique Tíree Pink Marble in 1791 initiated a change of interior design, notably for a large ornate fireplace. The stone was also used at Roseneath House and the Duke's properties in Edinburgh. Inquiries and orders through his factor, insisted that the cut, dimension and colour of each block should be noted before shipping. Documentation also shows that quarrying began under the supervision of one Rudolf Erich Raspe, best known today for being the author of his collection of tall tales, 'The Surprising Adventures of Baron Munchausen' and a man called by his biographer John Patrick Carswell, a 'rogue'.

Rudolf Erich Raspe was born in Hannover in 1737 and studied natural sciences and philology at Gottingen and Leipzig. He was known as a versatile scholar and worked in several university libraries. In 1763 his first geological publication 'Specimen Historiae Naturalis' promulgated a hypothesis on the history of the Earth and the morphogenesis of the Earth's surface. The biblical myths were not for Rudolf Raspe, there was science backed by fossil discoveries. Rudolf Raspe also published the first collection of Gottfried Leibnitz's philosophical works, translated James Macpherson's Ossian poems and a treatise on Thomas Percy's 'Reliques of Ancient English Poetry'.

In 1767, Rudolf Raspe was editing his own periodical and appointed professor at Cassel. He was also responsible for the coin, gem and jewellery collection of Frederick II, Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel. In 1769, a zoological paper that he had contributed to the 'Philosophical Transactions' led to his being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London. Rudolf Raspe's star was clearly on the rise.

In 1775, Rudolf Raspe was sent to buy curios for the Landgrave and was found to have sold the items for his own profit. When it became known, he fled to England in a precarious financial position. He was ejected from the Royal Society for his 'divers frauds and gross breaches of trust'. He did keep his high connections, Horace Walpole giving him money to publish an 'Essay on the Origin of Oil Painting'. Walpole refers to Raspe as a 'Dutch savant' who continued to publish books.

Employed in 1872 by the industrialist Matthew Boulton, Rudolf Raspe became assay master and storekeeper at the Dolcoath mine in Cornwall. There is speculation that Rudolf Raspe may have smelted tungsten at this time at the Happy-Union mine in Pentewan. Rudolf Raspe certainly wrote to Matthew Boulton suggesting tungsten should be added to iron to improve the casting properties of anchors.

The famous printer, John Nichols, also asked Rudolf Raspe to work on several projects. The most notable was an exhaustive, descriptive catalogue of the works of James Tassie, best remembered for miniature medallion heads, portraying the rich and the famous of Britain. 16,000 pieces were enumerated and described in both French and English by Raspe.



Rudolf Raspe next found work under the patronship of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Caithness, a benevolent gentleman of an inquiring disposition to exploit the supposed mineral wealth on his lands. Ores were indeed found, but subsequent enquiries revealed that they had been imported from Cornwall and the land 'salted'. Amazingly after funding Rudolf Raspe and being so deplorably duped, the Sinclairs saw the funny side, appreciating the 'wide intelligence and facetious humour of Raspe's conversation'. He absconded, only to reappear on Tíree.

The Isle of Tíree was Rudolf Raspe's last commission in Scotland. Interestingly he is referred to as a 'Swiss' geologist. It appears that a change of nationality was part of Raspe's complex persona. Whether Rudolf Raspe presented himself to the 5th Duke of Argyll, or whether he was recommended will require further research, but sitting in the small marble quarry at Balephetrish is a fitting location to reflect on the life of this most intriguing of characters, whose story is almost complete.

*A James Tassie miniature medallion
head of Rudolf Erich Raspe*

Rudolf Raspe's final resting place is an unmarked grave at Killeaghy near Killarney. Henry Arthur Herbert, a major landowner in County Kerry was amassing a fortune by exploiting the copper mines of the Muckcross Peninsula and Ross

Rudolf Raspe was listed in 1788, as a 'foreigner of merit and reputation' in a 'Catalogue of 500 Celebrated Authors of Great Britain'. He received a detailed contribution in the Dictionary of National Biography (XLVII, 1896). In Germany he was long under a moral verdict and never returned after 1775. One book of fabulous stories and a wretched reputation as a 'rogue' seems poor standing for such a man who made innovative contributions to art, literature and the sciences and who was one of the greatest polymaths of the 18th century.

[illegible]

edited by Ann J. Kettle

Price to non-members is £25. Orders to be placed with the Society's honorary secretary:

The New County Library at Lichfield opened in December 2018 in the former church of St Mary latterly known as the St Mary Centre. Located on the first floor is a local history access point managed by the Staffordshire Archive Service, as a replacement for the Lichfield Joint Record Office. Here you will find a selection of books on local history together with microfiche and microfilm records which may be viewed using the equipment provided and access the online records of county parish registers, Lichfield diocese wills and other databases such as Ancestry and Staffordshire Past Track. The conversion of the church to library has given us an attractive facility in the heart of the City. There is a feeling of light air and warmth here and one can admire the architecture of the old building whilst undertaking serious historical research. Visit today!

Page 15 of 16

STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2018-19 NEW MEMBERS

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

Title..... Names(s).....

Address.....
.....Postcode

Email
Phone.....

I/we enclose £..... for my/our subscription for the year 2018-19 for Individual / Joint / Student / Unemployed.

SignedDate

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 NEW MEMBERS

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.

Signed.....Date.....

This newsletter is edited for the Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society by Richard Totty richard.totty4@gmail.com

The contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Society.

Visit our website at www.sahs.uk.net