



STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER January 2020

Web: www.sahs.uk.net

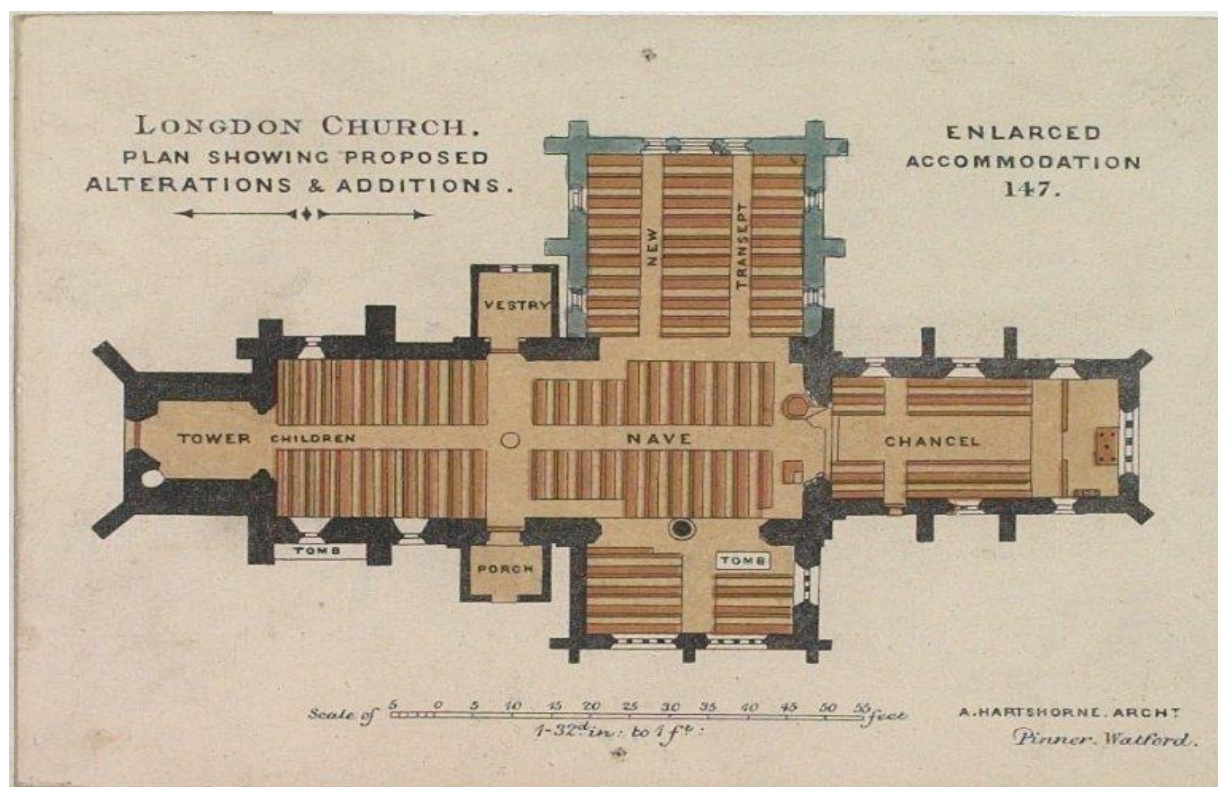
Issue No 133

email: sahs@sahs.uk.net

Hon. President: Dr John Hunt B.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S., P.G.C.E. tel: 01543 423549

Hon. General Secretary: Steve Lewitt B.A. (Oxon.), M.A., P.G.C.E., P.G.C.R.M., F.C.I.P.D., F.R.S.A.

Hon. Treasurer: Keith Billington A.C.I.B. tel: 01543 278989



Plan for the new transept to be built at Longdon Parish Church 1869-71 by A Hartshorne, Architect, of Pinner (From the records of the Incorporated Church Building Society in Lambeth Palace Library). Lambeth Palace Library has a very extensive collection of nineteenth century plans for building or altering Anglican Churches. Some of these include drawings of the exterior, both before and after alteration or rebuilding, and a few include drawings showing details of the designs. All are beautifully drawn and most are in colour. Here in Longdon the purpose was to expand the accommodation. The collection is available on line and includes many Staffordshire

churches: images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk. This is an invaluable resource for church historians as many churches were much altered or totally rebuilt in Victorian times. The Collection is from the records of the Incorporated Church Building Society. Note that the children's seats are placed as far away from the chancel as possible.

For those of you interested in Roman Roads, Lez Watson has written an article in the Roman Road Association's latest Newsletter, (No9 May 2019) on the section of Ryknild Street RR18c from Wall to Little Chester. This provides a new description and commentary as well as maps and references.

Queries to Lez at watsonlv1954@gmail.com

Visit to JCB Rocester

In September 2019 a small group of members visited the JCB factory at Rocester. This was a fascinating visit as we explored the history of this very successful Staffordshire enterprise which was established 70 years ago in a shed as a three man operation and now is a large international company. The HQ and main plant are at Rocester on the site of an old cheese factory. The company's success is based on dedication to innovation and quality; the latter extends to the afternoon tea that we all enjoyed.



Visit to the JCB factory; admiring one of the company's earliest products made mostly from recycled materials.

The Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps

∞

The Society holds its informal Midland Group meetings at the Village Hall in Wall, the Roman town of *Letocetum*, near Lichfield, (WS14 0AW).

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7.30pm and will be a 'Show and Tell' evening.

Everyone interested in Ordnance Survey maps is welcome. Bring along any Ordnance Survey maps or products that you feel are of interest for discussion.

For more information, please email the organizer Lez Watson at watsonlv1954@gmail.com.

The following meeting on Wednesday 13th May will be a **Thematic** evening, focusing on a particular aspect of Ordnance Survey mapping.

A further meeting on Wednesday 9th September will feature a **Guest Speaker**. *Details to be confirmed.*

∞

Admission is free to guests and refreshments will be available.

We are a self-supporting group.

For more information about the Charles Close Society see

www.charlesclosesociety.org

Vacancy – Position to be filled – Publicity Officer

There is currently a vacancy within SA&HS for the position of Publicity Officer. Principal responsibilities are the promotion of the Society's activities in the local/wider community, such as periodic placement of details of the lecture programme in 'through the door' publications, so as to bring ourselves to the attention of a wide and hopefully new audience. You will also likely be involved in preparation of in-house printed material, including posters and leaflets, using the services of a printing company where necessary, and the distribution of such promotional items to places of display, e.g. the tourist information facility at the new library at St Mary's in Lichfield, etc. Other Officers currently help out with this distribution work and this will continue. The position does not necessarily require appointment to or sitting on SA&HS Committee. Please let us know if you might be interested in helping 'spread the word' about your Society. Guidance and help will be given as required. Contact any Member of Committee.

Thank you.

Keith Billington

<https://finds.org.uk> is the website of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Teresa Gilmour is the contact for Staffordshire and she regularly updates the database on the website with details of finds reported in Staffordshire. The latest updates are mostly for coins dating from the iron age to the Tudor period. The website database is worth browsing occasionally to see what has been found locally. Teresa's book '50 finds from Staffordshire; Objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme' was published in 2018.

Two metal detectorists were given lengthy jail sentences in November 2019 for failing to disclose to the Portable Antiquities Scheme the finding of a Viking Hoard in Herefordshire containing large quantities of Anglo-Saxon coins. Only 30 of 300 coins have been recovered amongst them this magnificent and very well preserved double emperor coin of Ceolwulf, last king of Mercia, whose short reign ended about 880.



LL

Society Lecture Programme 2019/20 continued

31st January 2020 Jim Andrew

The Lunar Society Welcome to a Scottish Inventor - James Watt

Watt was born in 1736 and grew up in Greenock, west of Glasgow where he trained as an instrument maker. In about 1763 he was asked to repair a small Newcomen steam engine. He did and eventually went on to become the greatest steam engineer of his time. In 1774 Watt arrived in Birmingham where in partnership with Matthew Boulton, he dominated the designing of powerful steam engines for some twenty years. Jim is a chartered engineer who worked in industry and then public health before moving to the Birmingham Museum Service as a Keeper in 1974.

21st February 2020 Tom Devlin

Staffordshire and West Midlands Accents and Dialects

Tom is a sociophonetician with interests in variation and change in English accents and dialects. His PhD examined levelling of traditional accent features in former coalfield communities in County Durham in the North East of England. He is a lecturer at Huddersfield University and teaches modules related to sociolinguistics and phonetics and phonology.

3rd April 2020 Nick Daffern

The Ice Age and Palaeolithic: West Midlands Safari Park

The talk will look at the fascinating Ice Age history of the West Midlands covering its climate and landscape over the last one million years and the animals and humans (both archaic and modern!) who lived and hunted here. An overview will be given of the results of a 2013 English Heritage-funded reassessment of the Palaeolithic in Worcestershire. Nick Daffern is an archaeologist, palynologist (pollen specialist!) and environmental archaeologist. He is an Associate at Dalcour Maclaren specialising in Archaeology and Heritage.

17th April 2020 Catrine (Cat) Jarman

Lecture 7.30pm commencement to be confirmed

The Viking Mass Grave at Repton and Investigations at Foremark

Cat as she is generally known is at Bristol University and carried out a large excavation at Repton in a back garden where a mass viking grave had been discovered. This excavation has been on television. Additionally extensive work was carried out at Foremark (about 2 miles from Repton) following a geophis. investigation which showed some possibilities.

Dr Cat Jarman, originally from Oslo, is a bioarchaeologist in Vikings and Viking women. She uses forensic techniques like isotope analysis, carbon dating, and DNA extraction on human remains to untangle the experiences of past people from broader historical narratives.

22nd May 2020 Robert Early

The HS2 Railway Project

Rob is currently the lead for the Historic Environment section North. He has over 30 years of experience in archaeology and heritage and has a number of publications of his work that range through the prehistoric periods through to Second World War. He leads the heritage team at the design engineering company WSP but formally worked for Oxford Archaeology.

The talk this evening should cover Staffordshire particularly the Streethay and Handsacre sections but the project being a moveable feast other parts of the Midlands route may be included.

(This lecture postponed from November 2019)

12th June 2020 Jonathan Goodwin

Recent Works in Stoke on Trent

Jonathan Goodwin is Senior Planning Officer (Archaeology/HER) at City of Stoke on Trent. The Lecture tonight will bring the Society up to date with the activities during the last couple of years within Stoke on Trent. The majority of the work is in the ceramics industry but other investigations have taken place.

Lectures are held in the Guildhall in the centre of Lichfield and start at 8.00 except where noted. Refreshments are available half an hour before the start of the meeting.

|||||
|||||

Friends of Sutton Park Association: Sutton Park Archaeology Walk
Saturday 14 March 2020



Start 10am, Jamboree Stone SP 098970 (enter Park at Streetly Gate off Thornhill Road, nearby postcode B74 3EW, and drive to end of road, gated just before Jamboree Stone. Roadside parking). Finish by noon.

A walk of approx. 2.5 miles, led by Mike Hodder, around well-preserved archaeological remains of various dates in Longmoor Valley including prehistoric burnt mounds, subdivisions of the medieval deer park, and First World War practice trenches. This walk will include some of the sites mentioned in the lecture to the Society in November, “Finding more in Sutton Park”.

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/>

News from the Past: the latest archaeological discoveries in the West Midlands (Council for British Archaeology West Midlands)

Saturday 7 March 2020, 10.00am – 3.30pm

The Church Room, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX

This year's event includes presentations on the Staffordshire Hoard, including the recreation of the helmet; an update on the HS2 excavations at Park Street Burial Ground; research on Offa's Dyke; excavations at Shrewsbury Castle; and excavations on the site of the Battle of Worcester.



Helmet recreation from the Staffordshire Hoard



Copyright Birmingham Museums Trust

CBA WM members £15.00 Non-CBA WM members £20.00

Prior booking is strongly recommended for this popular event

Caroline Mosley, CBA West Midlands, 16 Beverley Court Road, Quinton, Birmingham B32 1HD

0778 694 1059 nftp.cbawm@gmail.com

Further information: www.archaeologyuk.org/cbawm/meetings.php

Transactions Volume 51

Members should receive their copy of Volume 51 of the Society's Transactions in Spring 2020. This is a little later than originally planned, but it will be worth the wait! The main article will be a report on excavations in Sandford Street in Lichfield and observations near Minster Pool, undertaken by Marches Archaeology. This is the first product of a new venture by the Society to bring reports on important but hitherto unpublished excavations into print. It has inevitably required some work on the reports themselves but it has also provided an opportunity for an overview of our current knowledge of medieval Lichfield. There is also a report on the excavation of a Romano-British farmstead in Tamworth, research on the money forgers of Flash in the Peak District, and an article on the Lichfield-based but widely travelled architectural writer and artist John Louis Petit (d. 1868). In addition the volume contains notes on recent archaeological work in Walsall, Wolverhampton and Stoke-on-Trent, and book reviews which include a new book on the Peak District landscape.

=====

TRANSFORMING THE TRENT VALLEY PROJECT

This project managed by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is mainly environmental but has two strands of historic interest, one is about surveying archaeological sites and the other is about locating and using pill boxes. The project covers the area around the Trent and Dove rivers in Staffordshire and Derbyshire and is generously funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

A recent talk at the project's office in Rugeley described the construction of pill boxes in May 1940 in Staffordshire as part of a defensive line across the Trent Valley designed to slow the advance of invading German troops. They were small above ground bunkers made of strengthened concrete, to hold a handful of men armed with up to seven machine guns. Boxes were strategically sited to defend bridges over canals and rivers. The example was given of two boxes built on the west side of the bridge at Walton on Trent, one to the north and one to the south. Together they would have prevented the use of the bridge by invading infantry. In reality defenders were poorly armed and trained and the boxes were not secure against attack by artillery or armoured vehicles so would have had limited effect.

Not much is known about these boxes – the project aims to determine the location of all the boxes in the area for a start. Alternative uses will be found for as many as possible.

If you would like to help with survey work or background research then contact the project at TTTV@staffs-wildlife.org.uk or visit the website: www.thetrentvalley.org.uk. There is a need for more voluntary History Rangers who will be given training and resources to check on the condition of a broad range of features from prehistoric sites to pill boxes.

+++++

Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Petitions 1589-1799

These petitions are now available fully transcribed on line at; <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/petitions/staffordshire/1599>. Here is an early example.

The inhabitants of Hatherton. Q/SR/70/11-12 (1599)

To the right honorable and there very good Lord Sir William Peryam knight Lord Cheeffe Baron of her majesties court of Exchequere and justice of the assizes within the countie aforesaid

¶ Humblie complayning shewe and beseeche your good lordship your poore daylie supplicantes the inhabitantes of the hamlett of Hatherton within the county aforesaid that whereas your seid supplicantes by order sett downe by the justices of the peace within that lymmytt by force of the late made statute for the releevyng of the poore people within the parishe where they were borne are appoynted to pay xii d everye weeke in contribution with the parishioners of Rydgley within the same countye for and toward the releevyng of the poore within the same parishe. And for that your seid orators suppose themselves greatlie oppressed by the same and for as much as they have within there seid hamlett of Hatherton fyve or sixe and twentie poore people olde impotent and unable to worke which they of necessitie by force of the same statute are bound to relevee, and they being but eyght in number to relevee them: in tender consideracion whereof your seid orators appeale unto your good lordship for some reasonable redresse therein most humble beseeching you to peruse the true names and number of the seid poore people within there seid smale hamlett, the which is hereunto annexed and that uppon due consideracion hereof yt maye please your good lordship to order yt or cause yt to be ordered by the seid justices that your seid orators shall not onlie be discharged of the seid contribucion but that also they maye receive contribucion for the better releevyng of the seid poore within them out of and from some other parish or place which is not so greatlie charged as they are and herein they shall daylie pray god for your longe contynuanace

Your good lordships humble poore orators the inhabitantes of the hamlett of Hatherton

Petic xli mo.

The names of the poore people within the towneshippe or hamlett of Hatherton as foloweth

John Trafford Rauff Alport Agnes Hande vid Thomas Hande William Hande William Hargreve Elizabeth Trafford vid Ellen Hywson Richard Hywson Johanne Hiwson William Cast Elizabeth Cast John Spencer Katerynn Spencer Amy Byrche Mary Byrche Humfrey More Elizabeth More Richard More Ellen Annesley vid Margarett Annesley Thomas Mountford Joyce Widuson William Bothe Alice Bothe Thomas Bothe Margaret Bothe Elizabeth Etherydge vid and two daughters.

Yt is agryed th that Hatherton and Collington shalbe discharged for contrybutyons to Rudgley so that the paye all that was imposed of the [Rat?] the last assyses Walter Chetwynd.

The database includes 238 of the 2,000 or so petitions preserved in the Staffordshire Record Office , one year in ten being sampled.

<http://www.dugdale-society.org.uk/documents/ConferenceProgramme.pdf>

[illegible]

The Commons Lobby, the Lords Lobby, and the Peers' Lobby are displayed in three separate boxes. Each box contains a decorative panel with a unique pattern and a descriptive card. The Commons Lobby panel features a red and gold floral design. The Lords Lobby panel features a red and gold geometric design. The Peers' Lobby panel features a red and gold floral design. The descriptive cards provide information about the history and significance of each lobby.

~~~~~

**Why did the archaeologist go bankrupt?**  
**Because his career was in ruins!!**



Item whether there be anie that sell ale without licence and whether anie licensed Alehousekeeper do suffer unlawfull games or anie drunkennes or other disorder in his house or do sell by unlawfull measures and whether there be any common drunkerds or usuall frequenters of Alehouses contrary to lawe.

Item whether the Constable do observe the statutes for keeping of watch and warde for the apprehendinge and punishinge of Rogues and Vagabonds and whether anie person hath releived such rogues contrary to lawe.

Item whether the Churchwardens and overseers of the poor doe take care for releife of the aged and impotent poor and whether they doe provide worke for the able poor and cause the children of such poor to be bound apprentices according to lawe.

Item whether there be anie unlawfull Cottages builded without four acres of landes layed thereto and whether there be anie inmates unlawfully entertained and by whome contrary to the statute of 31 Elizabeth

Item whether there be any bastards borne within any parishe for the keepinge whereof noe order is yet made by the twoe next Justices or the Sessions and who is the mother and reputed father of any such bastard, And whether any unmarried woman be begotten with childe the childe yet unborne and by whom that in those cases the delinquents may recive their due punishmentes and the parishes where such bastards shalbe borne may not be charged or burdened therewith

For the better observation of which articles and that a true accompt may be taken of the Constables and Churchwardens for the performance of their duties herein It is agreed on by the Justices of the Peace and so ordered at this Sessions That they in their several devidions shall once in every moneth meet in some convenient place and call before them at such meetings all the chief Constables petty constables, Churchwardens and overseers for the poore in their several divisions and take their several expresse answeres to those Articles in writing particularly And if it shall not stand it convenience of the Justices or ease of the Country to meet soe often It is ordered that in such cases the petty Constables and Churchwardens once in a moneth shall give their answers particularly unto the chief Constables whoe are by order of this Court required within four dayes after the receipt thereof to deliver the same to the next Justice of that division And that the Country may take notice of these Articles and the petty Constables and churchwardens may then better knowe what is expected from them in these particulars It is further ordered by this Court that the chief Constables shall geve out to every townshippe and parish within their hundred a treu copy of the said Articles requireinge the Churchwardens and petty Constable to make their particular answeres to the same once every moneth as is before expressed.

**Jim Sutton** *Originally published in the newsletter of the North Staffordshire Historians November 2019. QS presentations are available to read at the Staffordshire Record Office.*

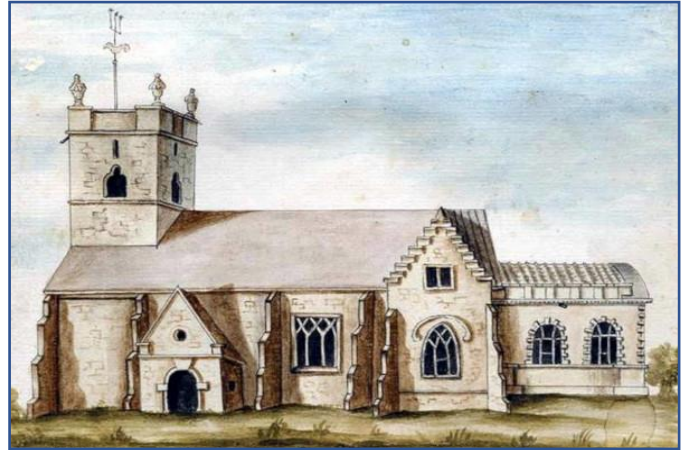
### **Friends of Shenstone Tower (FoST) - St John's Church Shenstone**

Many Members of SA&HS will be aware of the derelict overgrown old medieval church tower standing at the site of St John's Church Shenstone - see the image of the tower which accompanies this article. References appear in the Society's publication 'A landscape Survey of the Parish of Shenstone' (SA&HS 2009). You may be pleased to know that moves are afoot to bring this important church tower structure back to life and ensure its survival; it is a Grade 2\* listed building at risk and in need of significant repair and remedy.





*Tower of St John's church Shenstone*



*Ancient Image of St John's church Shenstone*

An organisation has been formed called Friends of Shenstone Tower (FoST) run and managed by a board of Trustees, the aim being to fully restore the edifice and bring it back into community use. Shenstone had a Saxon church which was referred to in the Domesday Book and eventually this was replaced in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century by a medieval church built on its Saxon foundations. Then by Victorian times this old church was proving too small for the parish's growing congregation and in 1853 the present church was built to replace it. However the medieval church tower was retained and used as a bell tower and as such it stands and survives to this day, albeit in a state of very serious crumbling neglect.

FoST intend to save it and carry out a full project of restoration, rebuilding and complete refurbishment as necessary. It will be done in such a way that it will then be brought into public use, by various means and for a variety of purposes. A great deal of money is required and much hard work has been put in to secure funding for the project. Historic England are on board and have pledged £250,000 if FoST are able to meet their criteria. FoST need to raise a further £60,000 in match funding and are currently applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Individuals and particularly heritage organisations are being asked to show support for this worthy project by registering as a Friend of Shenstone Tower. SA&HS is becoming a Friend. As such we will take great interest and will be kept regularly informed as to progress; updates will be passed on to the SA&HS Membership via the pages of these Newsletters. As a reader of this piece, you or other group which you belong to, may wish to associate yourselves with FoST. Please refer online (via Stonnall History Group) for more information (particularly about the eventual community use aspect) to:

[www.stonnall-history-group.org.uk/articles/FoST.html](http://www.stonnall-history-group.org.uk/articles/FoST.html)

Letters of support or of enquiry about joining FoST can be sent to:

Friends of Shenstone Tower, Parish Office, 25c Main Street, Shenstone, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 0LZ. Email: [admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk)

Our intention is to keep you updated about this worthwhile project. SA&HS is pleased to be associated with it.

Keith Billington

---

**Follow the blog; <https://lichfieldbawdycourts.wordpress.com/> for accounts of cases brought before the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry sitting in the Cathedral in Lichfield from 1534 to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; an ongoing project. Volunteers meet Tuesday afternoon in Lichfield Library.**

"The notes of the extremely well-attended 60th Annual General Meeting of the Society are now available on the Society's website along with the reports written by Committee members which were circulated to all members through email in advance of the AGM.

If anyone has any questions as a consequence of reading the notes do please feel free to contact me.

Steve Lewitt  
Honorary General Secretary"

New Book

Published 29 November  
2019

*Publisher: YouCaxton Publications*

*ISBN: 9781913425029*

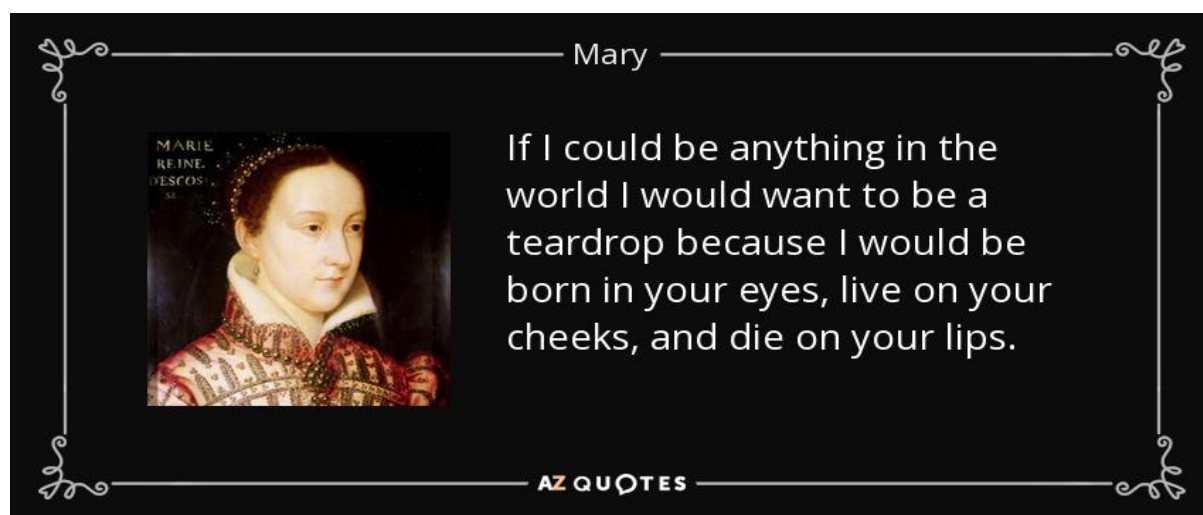
*Number of pages: 124*

*Dimensions: 229 x 152 mm*

*Price £8.00*



|||||



## SA&HS COMMITTEE 2019-2020

|                                       |                                                            |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Hon President</b>                  | Dr J R Hunt BA PhD FSA FRHistSoc PGCE                      |
| <b>Hon Vice Presidents</b>            | Mr K J Billington ACIB<br>Mrs F E Fox<br>Mrs D M Wilkes    |
| <b>Hon General Secretary</b>          | Mr S M Lewitt BA (Oxon) MA PGCE<br>PGCRM FCIPD FRSA        |
| <b>Hon Treasurer</b>                  | Mr K J Billington ACIB                                     |
| <b>Hon Transactions Editor</b>        | Dr N J Tringham BA MLitt PhD FRHistSoc                     |
| <b>Hon Membership Secretary</b>       | Mr K J Billington ACIB                                     |
| <b>Hon Institutional Subs Officer</b> | Mr K J Billington ACIB                                     |
| <b>Hon Lecture Meetings Secretary</b> | Mr B Bull                                                  |
| <b>Hon Newsletter Editor</b>          | Dr R N Totty BSc PhD MRSC CChem                            |
| <b>Hon Publicity Officer</b>          | Position Vacant                                            |
| <b>Hon Refreshments Officer</b>       | Mr P J Charles *                                           |
| <b>Website Developer</b>              | Mr L V Watson                                              |
| <b>Other Members of Committee</b>     | Dr M A Hodder BA PhD MCIfA<br>Mr R J Knowles FSAScot AMARA |
| <b>Co-opted Members</b>               | Mr P M Norris                                              |

\* Not elected or co-opted to Committee and does not sit

.....

This newsletter edited by Richard Totty [richard.totty4@gmail.com](mailto:richard.totty4@gmail.com)

Views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the Society

Visit our website at [www.sahs.uk.net](http://www.sahs.uk.net)

**Stop press : a visit to West Bromwich Manor House is being arranged for the Spring 2020. Details available at the next meeting.**