



STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER May 2020

Web: www.sahs.uk.net

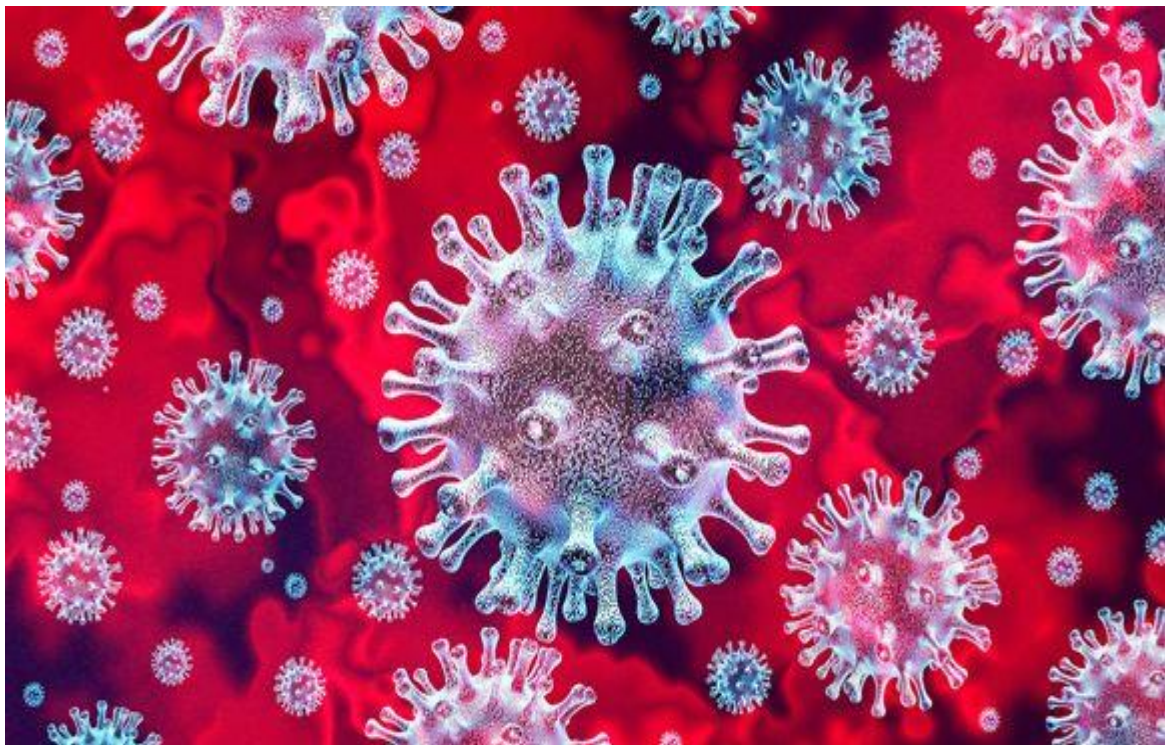
Issue No 134

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



The Corona Virus (Covid-19)

Covid-19 and Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society

This Newsletter for May 2020, which is slightly shorter than normal, has been successfully put together and issued despite the restrictions on life caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Apart from the pdf version sent as an email attachment, a limited paper print-run has taken place in-house (on home printer/scanner) with copies of the Newsletter being sent out in the post to those Memberships for whom we are unable to use an email address.

Of course - all our lectures, events and activities have had to be cancelled or postponed for the foreseeable future. Those remaining lecture evenings arranged this spring, up to and including the talk on 12th June, are not happening. Likewise the Society visits anticipated through the spring and summer months will not now be taking place. This includes the previously advertised trip to West Bromwich Manor House which was to be on Thursday 7th May. Anyone who had booked a place on the latter has been informed of the cancellation, though travel to West Bromwich on that day would have been crossed through in your diary anyway.

At risk of stating the obvious, all events in the months coming with which SA&HS is associated on the sidelines in any way at all, are cancelled. So, including all promotions, exhibitions and lectures organised by Staffordshire Archives and Heritage at Staffordshire Record Office (but see below *). Also - the annual Staffordshire History Day event which this year was arranged for Saturday 2nd May. And anything which Friends of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archives (FoSSA) were planning. Etc.

Then in September we are due to start the next programme of SA&HS lectures. The dates are booked and speakers are being identified and provisionally put in place. However, we concede that the likelihood of any lectures now before the end of 2020 is

minimal. As you'll know, it has recently become manifest that the lockdown and social distancing will very probably continue through to this December, and possibly beyond. Our intention will be to continually review the position. And, we will aim to keep you the Membership informed so that you know our intentions, regarding the lectures, and all else. It may turn out that we start to issue more Newsletters and there certainly will be an increase in email updates sent to you. The website may well be enhanced, with more information and features. And, we are putting our minds to what else we can do. The more information and detail we can provide, the better.

Further - SA&HS Transactions Volume LI is printed and has been delivered to us. This is a major 180+ page issue, regarded as the 'Lichfield Legacy' Volume, and has much noteworthy and valuable content. We hope to be able to attend to postal distribution to the Membership (including to subscribing academic institutions) as soon as we can. However, in view of the current situation, this may well be subject to delay. We ask you for your understanding if necessary.

Please note though - very shortly (if not already) Volume LI will be added to the Transactions Archive feature available on the Society website

<https://www.sahs.uk.net> Select 'Transactions' and follow the links to Volume LI. You will need to use the exclusive Member password as advised to you previously. If the Volume is not there yet, please be patient. You can of course find all the Transactions in the Archive, Volume I onwards. Exclusively to Members only.

When normal service does resume, we are still looking to fill a vacancy which we have in our ranks for the position of Publicity Officer. Reference to this was made by an article contained in the January Newsletter, where you can find more information about the role. We ask anyone who might be at

all interested to please get in touch. Thank you.

In amongst your emails, you may have noticed the occasional 'Update' passed on to you as received by us from Staffordshire Archives and Heritage (*). Whilst the state of lockdown prevails, these 'Updates' will now be issued very regularly we understand, and as such we will aim to pass each of them on to you, for your enlightenment and interest. Please therefore expect to continue to receive these from us in your Inbox.

Your Committee is currently not convening, not physically at least. We are all self-isolating, only venturing out for essentials, the same as everyone else. We are however conducting all necessary business via email exchange between us. In that sense the Society continues to operate and function. In these unprecedented times.

We hope that you are all safe and well, of course following and taking the established procedures and precautions. We will eventually get through this pandemic crisis and things will then return to normal, when we look forward to seeing you at our Friday evening lectures and other events, and out and about generally. In case of need please contact us at sahs@sahs.uk.net or view our website <https://www.sahs.uk.net> where you will find more information.

Please stay safe. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Keith Billington
for Committee of SA&HS

See <https://archaeology.co.uk/articles> for a note by Carly Hilts on the excavations by HS2 at the roundhouse at Curzon Street Birmingham. It is in the April 2020 edition.

Wall Roman site museum closed open 24/7 !

As you might expect, the small museum at Wall (*Letocetum*) Roman site is now closed until further notice because of the current crisis, but it is open 24/7 online, thanks to Sue Whitehouse and Emma Preston, members of the National Trust volunteer group the Friends of Letocetum, who have developed a virtual museum at



Cheese squeeze

<http://www.wallromansitefriendsofletocetum.co.uk/>. Sue and Emma are gradually adding additional items to the online collection, so please visit it frequently, and follow us on Facebook at Wall Roman Site.



Wall museum is managed by English Heritage and is manned by the Friends of Letocetum. It contains a wide range of items, including pottery, glass, metalwork, painted plaster and stonework, found in excavations on the nearby baths and mansio

in 1912-1914, on a cemetery west of Wall in 1927, and on a site in the village in 1980-1981. English Heritage have temporarily moved the contents of the physical museum to secure storage off-site while it is closed.

New Book

Churchyards, Roger Bowdler, Amberley Publishing, 2019, 64p, £8-99. ISBN 9781445691114

This book is dedicated to the memory of Frederick Burgess, the author of **English Churchyard Memorials** [1963], from whom many of us learned to study and understand what we find in churchyards. This carefully developed study by Roger Bowdler is different in scale from Burgess's mammoth volume but it is a valuable resource in its own right. It is very carefully illustrated, thereby giving the reader a clear sense of what to expect to find; and varieties of design and shape are very carefully explained. These strengths are supplemented by a very helpful and strong section on the need to care for, and protect, churchyards and their memorials.

However, like Burgess before him, Roger Bowdler is really just offering us an extended, more modern, insight into graveyard memorials. Whilst this is very positive, it does not fully embrace what might additionally be found in a churchyard, in the sense that it is rather more than just a graveyard. For example, no reference is made to the former market crosses, of which there are many across England; and no reference is made to other churchyard structures, whole or ruined, such as the ground level bell chamber in East Bergholt churchyard or the evidence of a possible second tower in the grounds of Salthouse Church, part of a complex harbour signalling system. Equally, like Burgess, this study seriously understates the significance of timber graveboards.

Nonetheless, this is strongly recommended as a handbook for local historians planning to explore and study the variety of memorials to be found in English churchyards. Trevor James

SERENDIPITY

Some of you will know that I am a volunteer and tour guide at Middleton Hall. We are always trying to find out more about our buildings and the people who lived there. Sometimes information turns up in the most unlikely places.

I was browsing through the January Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Update from Stafford Record Office (kindly forwarded by Keith) and came across a preview of their latest exhibition on the theme of death and dying in Staffordshire, "Pushing up Daisies". One of the items was a page from the journal of Dr Richard Wilkes of Willenhall. I knew of him from my years at Walsall Local History Centre. To my great surprise he had noted the death in 1738, of Henry Willoughby, son of Lord Middleton, at The Hattens near Shifnal 'of a fever caught following fishing'.

Further research showed Henry to be the son of Thomas, 1st Lord Middleton and his wife Elizabeth, baptised 28 July 1706. Was he living in Shropshire or just visiting? Intriguingly, in his will proved in 1739, he left everything to Elizabeth Cox. Now we need to find out who she was.

Betty Fox

The Lecture Programme 2020-2021

Setting the programme for the next season is proving exceedingly difficult given that as a nation we are in lockdown and are likely to be so for some time yet. Added to this, we had to change a speaker, for the talk given on 21st February, due to industrial action taking place by university lecturers, and because of the lockdown we then had to cancel four lectures at the end of the 2019-2020 season, the Guildhall having closed its doors for the duration and until further notice.

Thus the uncertainty for the start of the next season in September does remain, though we are ever hopeful that we will be back to some sort of normality eventually, enabling us to take our place in the Guildhall on Friday evenings.

We do have a set of twelve dates booked, commencing Friday 25th September and at the moment (as at 16th April) we have speakers for three of the evenings. With a number of the remaining dates, invites have been sent out but responses as yet are not forthcoming. This could be for any number of reasons but it does cause a delay in the proceedings as until there is an acceptance or refusal received from a speaker, it is difficult to send out fresh invites for the dates in question. So we will be showing TBC (to be confirmed) dates in the programme for the time being.

Some of the second half is being held over at the moment to provide alternate dates for any of the early lectures we may have no choice but to postpone, particularly those in September/October. The TBC dates will be updated via the website as they are confirmed and of course whatever we have will appear in the September Newsletter.

Finally the published programme is at the moment extremely basic in information provided, but will be expanded with more detail as we move forward.

25th September 2020	TBC (Invite out)
9th October 2020	Dr Trevor James - Much Wenlock Olympian Games
23rd October 2020	TBC (invite out)
6th November 2020	TBC (Invite out)
20th November 2020	TBC (Invite out)
4th December 2020	AGM and Lichfield and Hatherton Canal Trust
19th February 2021	TBC
5th March 2021	TBC
19th March 2021	TBC
9th April 2021	Philip Modiano Reverend John Louis Petit
23rd April 2021	TBC
7th May 2021	TBC

Lectures are held in the Guildhall, Lichfield at 8.00pm, refreshments available 7.30pm

Brian Bull

Robert Rae writes ; If you use the Find My Phone app for iPhone or iPad, you'll know that it gives detailed satellite images along with a dot showing the exact location of your phone. The satellite image of my area has been updated and is now showing an image from the drought in 2018. Using the app, you can scour the whole area for crop marks. The area in question runs from Rocester to Cannock, Wall and Tamworth. The detail isn't brilliant but you can see crop mark outlines of old field systems, buildings, etc for the whole area.

For anyone willing to look, I think there will be a lot of marks, eg you can follow Watling Street from Burntwood to Tamworth. Even in my field, I can see shapes that didn't show up in the drone footage.

West Bromwich Manor House: an under-appreciated gem

The Society's planned excursion to West Bromwich Manor House has inevitably been cancelled in the current crisis but it will be rearranged when things get back to normal. In the meantime members may be interested to read more about this remarkable building and its context, particularly in reports published in Transactions which are available online to members at <https://www.sahs.uk.net/transactions-> volume numbers are given below.



The manor house is a timber-framed building surrounded by a moat, located a couple of miles from West Bromwich town centre in what is now an incongruous setting in a modern residential area. Following restoration in the 1960s it became a pub and restaurant (and is fondly remembered as a favourite venue when we were excavating Sandwell Priory in the 1980s). It is now directly managed by Sandwell Council as a museum. You enter through a timber-framed gatehouse, then go across a courtyard and along the “screens passage” into the 13th century great hall, open to the roof which is supported by a massive “base-cruck”. Pottery and other objects found on the site are displayed in the chapel.

The manor house was probably constructed by Richard de Marnham who became lord of half of Manor of West Bromwich through marriage in 1275. He is also likely to have completed the church and cloister ranges at Sandwell Priory, founded a century earlier (Trans Vol XXXI), and to have been buried there under an effigy with a chain mailed head, now on display at Sandwell Park Farm. Graves found in the Priory church's south transept are almost certainly those of his family and his 15th-century successors the Freemans and Freebodys. Even in the Middle Ages the manor house was isolated, a mile from the parish church and away from the main centre of settlement at Lyndon (Vol XXVIII). The house passed to the Stanley family about 1510, then to Richard Shelton in 1622 and to Sir Samuel Clarke in 1720. In the 19th century it was divided into tenements.

Amazingly, it was once proposed to demolish the building, but when it was realised that a timber-framed medieval building survived under later accretions and divisions Stanley Jones made a

detailed record of it and interpreted its development (Vol XX), which contributed to restoration work between 1957 and 1960 under the architect James Roberts (who also designed Birmingham's Rotunda). The restoration might now be regarded as contentious because nothing later than the early 17th century was retained and lost elements were replaced, but without it we would not be able to visit and appreciate the building today.

Jones dated the phases of the building from architectural details; that dating has since been refined by dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) (details at https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/vag_dendro/index.cfm , search on West Bromwich)

The oldest part, the great hall, was built between 1270 and 1288. It consists of two bays divided by a base cruck (a pair of curving timbers running from the base of the wall to about halfway up the roof). There was originally a cross wing at one end (the solar, private rooms of the lord and lady of the manor), which was rebuilt between 1412 and 1454, when another cross-wing was built at the other end of the hall (the service wing, containing storage rooms). A chapel block added to the solar wing in the 15th century was floored with glazed clay tiles decorated with an impressed geometric design (Vol XXVIII).

Pottery found on the site during restoration work (Vol XXX) includes fragments of cooking pots, storage jars and jugs made in south Staffordshire and north Warwickshire, some vessels made further afield and a piece of a jug made in the 13th century in south-west France which has a painted decoration showing a woman with her hands clasped in prayer.

Further modifications took place when the manor house was owned by the Stanleys. A large bay window was added to the great hall between 1531 and 1539, to light the high table where the lord and lady sat with their guests. The close-studded timber-framed gatehouse was built in 1591: its front and elevation, which included a jetty, was obscured by later modifications.

Pottery dating from the 15th and 16th centuries (Vol XXX) includes hard-fired "Midlands Purple": a pitcher with a distinctive stamped decoration of quadranted circles under rim was made in Wednesbury (Vol XXVII). Most of the objects found in the moat when it was excavated in the 1950s (Vol XXX, Vol XXXIII, Vol XX) seem to have been dumped there by the Stanleys and Sheltons between the end of the 16th century and the middle of the 17th century. They include pottery made in Wednesbury- coarseware, blackware and yellow-glazed ware (Trans XXXII)- and drinking glasses, wine bottles, glass bowls and urinals, leather shoes and clay pipes.

The moat was infilled by Clarke in the 18th century. His garden contained fruit trees, and in the brick boundary wall of his garden there are four bee boles, niches which held wicker hives for the bees who pollinated the trees (Vol IV).

Mike Hodder

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

HAVE YOU HEARD OF ADAM USK?

Adam Usk was born in the town of Usk, allegedly in a room in the castle gatehouse, in the middle of the 14th century and he died in 1430, leaving a will dated January 20 1429. The remarkable thing about him is that he kept a chronicle and even more remarkably, a copy of it has survived. The majority of it is in the British Library and the final quire is at Belvoir Castle where it was discovered in 1885, 'carelessly folded up...in a loft'.

It begins in 1377 with a record of the death of Edward III and ends in 1421 with a brief description of the attack by the Dauphin on the army of the Duke of Clarence, who had been left as lieutenant of France by Henry V.

Thanks to the support of the Mortimers, earls of March, Adam went up to Oxford in 1370 to study civil and canon law. Appointed a notary public in 1381, he then became Rector of Mitchel Troy in Monmouthshire. In 1384 he was ordained a subdeacon at Sugwas in Herefordshire. He continued to exchange benefices over the next ten years whilst also reading and teaching law in Oxford. By 1393 he was Doctor of Laws and subsequently worked for seven years in the Court of Arches for the archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Arundel, his patron.

The first part of the chronicle covers historical events in England and Wales, beginning with the Peasants Revolt in 1381. He mentions the king's marriage to Anne of Bohemia in 1382 and the influence of John Wyclif. In 1386 the appointment of 14 (Adam erroneously states 12) 'magnates of the realm' to govern the King 'to curb the lasciviousness and greed of his familiars' and the subsequent battles and retribution are noted. Adam says he witnessed the army marching through Oxford. He also talks about riots in Oxford in 1389 between the scholars – the southerners and the Welshmen on one side and the northerners on the other. He says these lasted for two years.

It is not practical in this article to go into great detail but two incidents are the death of Queen Anne in 1394 and Richard's subsequent marriage to Isabella, daughter of Charles VI of France in 1396. She was a 7 year old child and brought her dolls with her (this latter information from a different source).

In 1397 the last parliament of Richard II was attended by Adam Usk, presumably as a clerk of the archbishop of Canterbury. The details of the proceedings make fascinating reading. When the company was ready to leave 'there was, as often happens, a good deal of bustle, whereupon the king's archers, who numbered 4,000,...thinking that some quarrel or fight had broken out, bent their bows and drew back their arrows to their ears, to the terror of all present; however, the king calmed them down.' There are also a number of illustrations of Richard's perfidy: the exiling of the archbishop of Canterbury and the trial of the earl of Warwick. Then Adam records that 'the king continued the parliament at Shrewsbury with a display of earthly ostentation such as ears have not heard.' He also mentions the taxes laid upon the population 'for which his people silently cursed him'.

There follows a considerable item about the earl of March, Roger Mortimer, describing his summoning to Shrewsbury, death in Ireland and genealogy. The chronicle continues in 1399 with histories of the dukes of Norfolk, Lancaster and Hereford and their various battles, duels and exiles and then we hear of the landing at Spurn Head of Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Lancaster and Duke of Hereford, soon to proclaim himself Henry IV, king of England. Richard, having been captured in Flint castle and subsequently deposed, died in February 1400 in Pontefract castle. Adam was present at the coronation of Henry IV and gives a vivid description of it and the surrounding events, including the arrival of the king's Champion, Sir Thomas Dymoke. Adam wrote a letter on behalf of Margaret Dymoke, lady of Scrivelsby Manor, pleading for her son, Sir Thomas, to be allowed to perform this service. It had also been claimed by the de Freville family of Middleton Hall, both families being descended from the de Marmions. The Dymokes continued the service until 1821.

The archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Arundel, returned from exile and petitioned parliament for the return of his possessions. Adam records a number of benefices he is granted. There are new attempts by dissatisfied nobles to reinstate the former king, the battle of the apprentice boys in London in 1400 is described. The king writes personally to Adam asking for his advice on various matters including Richard's marriage to Isabella and the question of the disposal of her dowry, should the marriage remain unconsummated. She was still only 11 years old.

In 1401 Adam, together with the abbot of Leicester, visited Nuneaton priory 'to enquire into various crimes, heresies and iniquities of a heinous nature...Robert Bowland had committed'. The nun, who was not named, subsequently gave birth to a girl who resembled the said Robert.

The chronicle continues with stories of events from round the kingdom until, in 1402, having completed his three year course for his doctorate at Oxford and seven years as an advocate at Canterbury, Adam sets out for Rome on February 19th, embarking at Billingsgate. He lists the places he travels through and notes a number of sightings of the comet that appeared over Europe that spring.

He arrived in Rome on April 5th and was quickly appointed to the post of papal chaplain and auditor of the apostolic palace and judge of the city. Within a week the pope had committed thirty major cases to him. In addition he received several church livings in England which he says the Welsh war thwarted, so instead he received the archdeaconries of Llandaff and Carmarthen, the church of Llandyfaelog and prebend of Llanbister.

Adam tells of the battle fought near Knighton between Sir Edward Mortimer and Owen Glendower, citing eight thousand deaths, which Owen won. Mortimer, whose family had supported Adam's education, 'in order to mitigate the rigours of his captivity, married Owen's daughter.' He seems to be well supplied with news from England and continues to record Owen's battles and also the deaths of Sir Henry and Sir Thomas Percy, earls of Northumberland and Worcester, in 1403.

In 1404 Adam says there came a vacancy in the church at Hereford, which the pope offered him but the appointment was 'opposed out of envy by the English who wrote letters to the king and poisoned his mind against me'. Adam reports that he was 'humiliated and spent the next four years undergoing dreadful hardships, condemned to suffer like an exile by land and sea, stripped of all my benefices and goods, reduced to the depths of poverty...although I was at least paid for my counsel'.

Eventually he writes to the king, giving the letter to the bishop of Salisbury to be delivered – although it was of little avail. Pope Boniface IX died in September of 1404 and Adam describes the coronation ceremony of Innocent VII. He also comments on the state of the city 'abandoned and full of slums, thieves, wolves and vermin'.

When the church of London became vacant, the college of auditors asked the pope whether it could be given to Guy Mone, Bishop of St. David's and the latter be presented to Adam. News of the plan got out and was strongly objected to and so failed.

In 1405, Adam presented a petition to the pope on behalf of the monastery in Usk, in which the nuns had fallen into extreme poverty. The petition was granted.

Adam describes the Roman games held around Quinquagesima Sunday and other special observances, including Maundy Thursday and Easter. News comes from England of the beheading of the archbishop of York, Richard Scrope and Thomas Mowbray, Earl Marshall, it being claimed that they had rebelled against the king.

On 7th August 1405, fourteen of the chief citizens of Rome, who had ridiculed the pope, were slaughtered by the pope's nephew. The populace rose up, crying out for the death of the pope and all foreigners. Adam says he was stripped of everything, down to his shoelaces and stayed in hiding for eight days disguised as a Dominican friar. He eventually escaped to Ostia and then to where the pope was at Viterbo. He claims he was poisoned there and laid out for dead.

He had lost all his money and goods but was reinstated along with his co-auditors. There follows a description of the papal procession returning to Rome. The next part of the chronicle has little detail of Adam's life until he says that on 11 June 1406, being now unable to pay his expenses, he left the curia and went by Siena, Genoa etc. then on through Savoy, Burgundy...Beaune (cradle of the best French wine)...to Bruges where he met Richard, Lancaster king at arms, who advised him not to return to England without obtaining a pardon from the king who was threatening to put him to death. He wandered through Flanders, France, Normandy and Brittany for two years, making enough to live on by giving his counsel to bishops, abbots and noblemen but was twice stripped clean by Welshmen in whom he had placed his trust, once even losing his breeches.

News continues to reach him from England and eventually, by 1408, he decides he will turn his coat and make his way to my lord of Powis, hoping for a pardon from the king and the kingdom. In Bruges he meets the earl of Northumberland and Lord Bardolph and presumably travels with them to England where they subsequently raise an army to fight Henry's forces at the Battle of Bramham Moor. They lose and both are beheaded. Adam says he gave thanks to God for having stayed behind.

While in Bruges, he describes a mysterious event 'a ball of fire, bigger than a large barrel, came flying through the air from the direction of England...it crashed into the belfry of St. Mary's, where it split into two pieces which then flew off in different directions and landed at the doors of the aforesaid earl and lord – a terrible portent of disaster for them, as later became apparent.'

The next part of the chronicle is concerned with religious writings from the 14th century. Then we go back to the story of how Adam returned to England, Lancaster king at arms having told him the king was not willing to pardon him, he decided to pretend to be one of Owen's supporters and make his way to Wales, landing at Barmouth. He could not meet Lord Powis, who was in Devon having just married the earl of Devon's daughter. [Here the Editor has an interesting footnote concerning the veracity of this statement] In 1409 Adam makes his way to Welshpool, where he becomes 'a poor chaplain in the parish church'. Finally, in 1411, he receives a letter of pardon from the king. This is proclaimed at Shrewsbury and he sets out, on foot, to visit old friends there. They give him two horses and a hundred shillings so he hires a servant and begins slowly, 'like a man reborn, to rebuild the life I had led before my exile'. By now Adam must be in his mid 50s. He went back to Wales but did not receive the welcome he expected, so went back to Canterbury where the archbishop reinstated him to the living of Merstham and he began to settle to a comfortable life.

On the 20th of March 1413 Henry IV dies and fourteen days later Henry V is crowned. Adam records the new king's taxes and his decree that all Welshmen and Irishmen should go back to their own countries or pay large sums of money for licence to remain. He also tells of strife between Oxford University and the archbishop of Canterbury, delegations from France concerning the king's marriage and trouble between the Lollards – followers of Wyclif – and the established church. On the nineteenth of February, 1414, Lord Thomas Arundel, archbishop of Canterbury dies. Adam was in London at the time and claims to have had a vision of his death. Parts of the chronicle deal with the medieval mind set concerning omens, visions, portents, prophesies and so forth.

Of local interest is the story of brother John Burghill, bishop of Lichfield (an inordinately greedy man) hiding away a large sum of gold in a hole in his chamber...but since the hole also had an opening on the other side, two jackdaws, building a nest, cleared out the hole and scattered the gold amongst the trees and garden, thereby providing a lot of people with a windfall.

At a parliament in Leicester in 1414, the question of the many abuses and malpractices of the clergy was raised and this part of the chronicle makes interesting reading. Henry sent a delegation to France, demanding the return of lands and asking for the king's daughter's hand in marriage. Their requests were refused. Henry therefore, the following year, left London for France on June sixteenth prepared for war. He headed for Portsmouth but there were ambassadorial meetings which delayed the embarkation. Eventually Henry landed near Harfleur on August

third. The rest- as they say- is history. Adam gives details of the further taxes raised to pay for the war. Henry returns to London on the twenty-third of November 1415 and Adam gives a detailed description of the scenes.

In 1416 Owen Glendower dies, after being in hiding for four years. Adam continues to record ambassadorial and warlike comings and goings between various European countries and parliamentary taxes laid upon the clergy and the country in general. He also comments on the plurality of popes. Henry returns to Normandy in 1419 and is successful in his battles. He is still there in 1420, having married Catherine, daughter of the King of France and finally returned to London on February first 1421.

The chronicle ends with the description of the Dauphin's attack, supported by some Scottish forces, on the English contingent left in France under the command of the Duke of Clarence, the king's brother, and the subsequent call for cash 'fleecing everyone with any money' to enable the king to return to France with great force.

I was fortunate to be offered the opportunity to choose books from Jim Gould's library and this is one that I have been so delighted to have. It is, of course, annotated in Jim's inimitable style in the margins and underlined, in biro. If any member of the Society would like to read it, I would happily arrange an extended loan. For any Latin scholars the original is on the left hand page and the translation on the right. It is edited and translated by C. Given-Wilson, published by Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1997.

Betty Fox

The internet is awash with blogs and tutorials of interest to historians and archaeologists so now is the time to explore. Here are some recommendations to while away the hours:

Worcester Cathedral Library <https://worcestercathedrallibrary.wordpress.com/> Posts written by researchers in Worcester Cathedral Library – the Society visited this wonderful Library recently and the posts are usually about items in it.

Lambeth Palace Library <https://lambethpalacelibrary.wordpress.com> Posts written by researchers in Lambeth Palace Library – a very large library containing the historical papers of the Archbishops of Canterbury. The writers are making a sustained effort to keep writing this blog during the closure of the Library.

Staffordshire Asylums Project <https://staffordshireasylumrecords.wordpress.com> Posts written by researchers in the Staffordshire Record Office working on the papers of the Staffordshire Asylums.

Staffordshire Poor Law project <https://staffspoorlawbiography.wordpress.com/> Posts written by members of the group that have been working on Staffordshire Poor Law records for several years now.

Staffordshire Place Names project <https://staffordshireplacenames.esdm.co.uk/> Another long running project; this one is to establish a data base of Staffordshire place names. Now available and searchable.

Lichfield Bawdy Courts project <https://lichfieldbawdycourts.wordpress.com/> Posts written by members of the team transcribing the records of the Diocese of Lichfield Consistory Courts. Very wide ranging in spite of the unfortunate title of the project.

The Minton Archives project <http://www.themintonarchive.org.uk/blog/> Posts written by researchers at Stoke City Archives about the extensive Minton Archives, includes texts on the history of the company and many images of designs and produce. Has been running for several years now.

Council for British Archaeology <http://blog.archaeologyuk.org/> The official blog of the CBA

Roman Archaeology <http://romanarc.blogspot.com/> Frequent posts of articles on Roman Archaeology throughout Europe

Our next newsletter is due on September 1 2020. This newsletter edited for the Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society by Richard Totty
richard.totty4@gmail.com We welcome contributions, letters, thoughts etc. from readers.
Website www.sahs.uk.net

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society.