



# STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER May 2022

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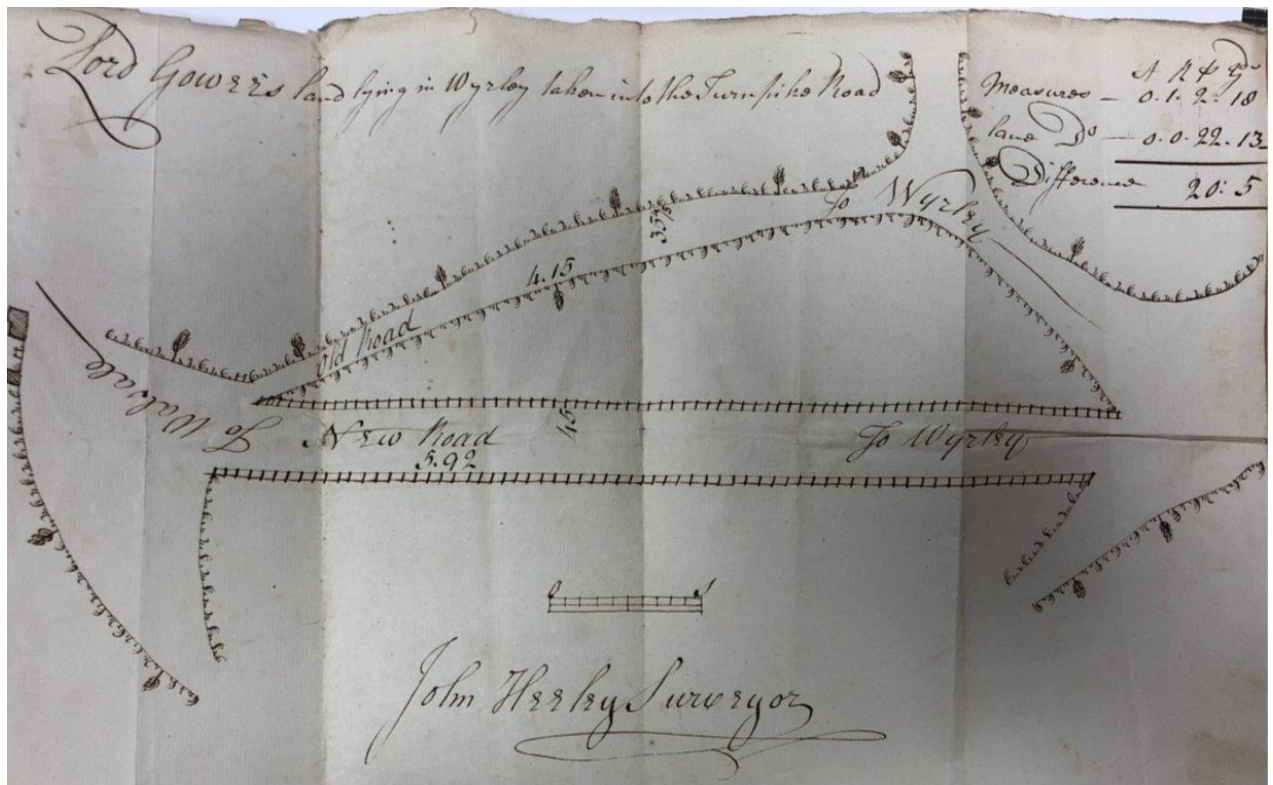
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### Map of Lord Gower's Land Lying in Wyrley taken into the Turnpike Road – what is the origin of the name 'Wyrley'? (answer inside)

Inside; Mike Hodder, Why you should read Transactions Volume LIII

Keith Billington and Bronwen Ross Update on the renovation of Shenstone Tower

John Hunt, Medieval Cross Survey

**Victorian Stained Glass**, Trevor Yorke, Shire Publications, 2022, 64p, £8.99.  
ISBN 978-1-78442-483-1

This is an extraordinarily helpful introduction to the art and manufacture of stained glass. Its extra attraction is that it offers much more than the title suggests.

Trevor Yorke provides a very succinct but clear explanation of the history of stained-glass provision from medieval times, helping me to understand the stages through which it has developed and the science behind how the glass has been prepared at various stages. This then enables us to appreciate exactly what was provided to English churches as the nineteenth century progressed.

At the core of this book, we are introduced to the skills of the greatest Victorian stained-glass artists, such as Augustus Welby Pugin, Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and Charles Eamer Kempe. Very strong illustrations enable us fully to appreciate what they created and the designs that they adopted. Being guided to explore, for example, for the wheatsheaf symbol, the hallmark of the work of Kempe, is part of how we are being prepared to appreciate the aesthetic qualities of their art.

Because he continues his survey into the first half of the twentieth century, he also equips us to appreciate the stained-glass provision of more recent times, with the emergence of women artists such as Mary Lowndes and Mabel Esplin.

From a personal perspective, he discusses how stained glass began to be provided in public settings, beyond the confines of church buildings, but also how it became, however standardised, a feature in many private houses built between the two world wars. This gave context to my own experience growing up in a terraced house, built in that era, which had a stained-glass panel in its front door.

This book concludes with a very carefully selected gazetteer of thirty-six possible locations where it will be possible to see the very best examples of this type of artist work from the Victorian era and more recently.

Trevor James

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## **The Charles Close Society Midland Group**

The next group meeting will be at Wall Village Hall on Tuesday 31st May at 7.30pm. The topic for the evening will be *Ordnance Survey Tourist Maps*.

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**George Demidowicz, *The Soho Manufactory, Mint and Foundry, West Midlands, Historic England, Swindon, 2022. 274 pages. £40.***

Society members will remember George Demidowicz's talk in March 2022 about his excavations on the Soho sites in Birmingham. This magnificently illustrated and meticulously researched volume is the essential follow-up to his lecture for those interested in these aspects of the industrial history of south Staffordshire and the Birmingham area.

George has presented the fruits of over 30 years of research on these three sites. He presents a short history of the Soho Manufactory and Mint, followed by material on the Soho Mill, the manufactory engine works and the Soho Mint. His excellent use of archival material and illustrations is a strength of these chapters along with the clear exposition on the relationships between the sites and the wider world of social and economic change affecting this part of the west Midlands. The section on the post-demolition history of the manufactory and mint site is also fascinating as an example of how what were later to be called brownfield sites could be recycled (and indeed almost lost) in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A significant chapter in terms of its focus on rescue archaeology and the use of preserved buildings in the current context is represented by the discussion on the Soho foundry, including the influence of James Watt. The author is particularly pithy on the prospects for the future – this short section is a must read for present-day urban planners.

It is clear that the author's focus is on archaeology. He gives 20 pages for his assessment of the significance of the three Sohos, and although short, this is powerfully presented. One quote summarises his views: "The Soho Foundry is one of the most important historical and archaeological sites in the West Midlands conurbation, exemplifying a region forged by industry" (p.217). He notes on an earlier page that the buildings were "laboratories for innovation and experiment", indicating the author's constant emphasis of the significance of these buildings in terms of the activities that they supported and fostered in engineering terms.

The book culminates in 3 appendices; the archaeological excavations of 1994-6 (which many members will remember from a very early episode of the TV series Time Team); a short analysis of the businesses conducted on the site and finally a bibliographic section on the many well- and not-so-well-known engineers associated with the sites ranging from Matthew Boulton through James Rennie to James Watt.

This reviewer commends the nearly 300 line drawings, historical prints and plans used to illustrate the history of the sites and indeed the late 20<sup>th</sup> century excavations. At £40 for the hardback copy this is not a cheap volume, but an essential one for those with interests in these areas of our past, and its impact on the lives of 'ordinary' people. Overall, this book is a first-rate piece of scholarship and adds much to the body of knowledge of these key industrial sites – not just in Staffordshire or the West Midlands, but for the country as a whole.

Steve Lewitt

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We should like to draw your attention to a paper published in 2017 by Thomas Klein in the journal *Anglo Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History* volume 18 pages 62 to 74 'The Inscribed Gold Strip in the Staffordshire Hoard: the text and script of an early Anglo-Saxon biblical inscription' This is a detailed study of the text on the inscribed gold sheet found in the Hoard; the conclusion is:

*To sum up, we have seen that this object, which may become known as the Hammerwich or Ogley Hay strip, is unique in many respects. I have shown that the text presented is certainly that of Num. X.35, which is unusual though not unprecedented. I have also argued that the inscriber was reproducing the text from auditory memory, and that the errors contained within the text demonstrate transcription that he was at least moderately familiar with Latin grammatical rules. In examining the writing and attempting to clarify the various palaeographic terms used by different scholars, I have suggested that it is reasonable to support a late seventh- to early eighth-century provenance. However, in accepting such a date range, we must recognize that the presence of Insular half-uncial, the use of niello and the relatively consistent word spacing are all unusual features. I have also shown that the form of the letters and the placement of the serifs in particular suggest an ad hoc adaptation for an unusual medium by someone who had seen more formal manuscript book-hands but was more accustomed*

*to working with wax tablets. For these various features and for the ways that they signal the unique creator(s) behind them, the strip remains a fascinating and enigmatic object.*



The full text can now be found at; [\(99+\) The Inscribed Gold Strip in the Staffordshire Hoard: The Text and Script of an early Anglo-Saxon Biblical Inscription | Thomas Klein - Academia.edu](#)  
control+click to follow the link

## Staffordshire Record Office

The Record Office in Stafford is now closed and will remain so for up to two years or so. This is to enable preparatory surveys to take place prior to construction of the Staffordshire History Centre. The development of the Staffordshire History Centre will create exciting and imaginative ways to connect Staffordshire people and their stories and result in both modern facilities for visitors and increase storage for future collections. You can find updates on the project here: [Staffordshire History Centre - Staffordshire County Council](#)

The staff team and volunteers will relocate to a temporary base during the construction period. Staff will provide a limited remote service including answering enquiries about the collection and providing a copying service.

From late spring we plan to provide physical access for statutory legal requirements and certain time-limited projects, where needs cannot be met through copying.

All services will be dependent on changing levels of access to the collections during the building project. We will review access on a regular basis and welcome feedback from service users.



The temporary closure is planned to last for 18 months dependent on the construction programme. This newsletter will continue to report on progress on this exciting new development. Stoke on Trent Archives remain open as usual.

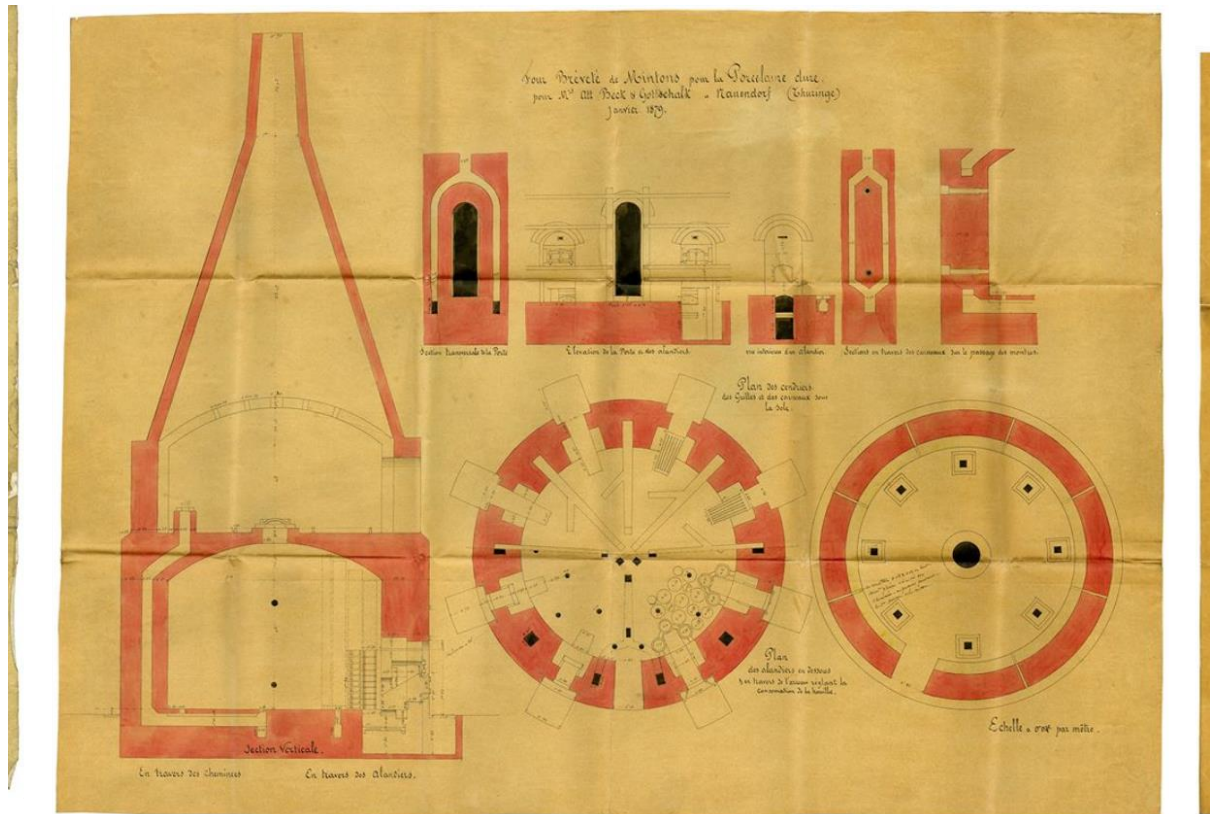
**The Staffordshire Place-Name Project** is continuing to record the origins of Staffordshire Name Places. A recent post identifies Wyrley as OE *wīr* 'bog myrtle' plus *lēah* 'open woodland' – see map on the front cover. You can follow their tweets @StaffsPNProject.

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**“Those who don’t study history are doomed to repeat it.  
Yet those who *do* study history are doomed to stand by  
helplessly while everyone else repeats it.”**

**The Minton Archive at Stoke on Trent** continues to produce blogs all well illustrated by images of items in this enormous collection of designs. As well as designs for pottery there are plans of technical innovations and many are for the design of Bottle ovens for firing pottery. Here is an example – see [Plans Within Plans – The Minton Archive](#) for the full version which can be enlarged to show detail



## Vacancy

The Society is in need of a Publicity Secretary to handle all publicity matters but mainly to promote the activities of the Society to the general public with a view to attracting new members and others who might enjoy attending lectures on a more casual basis without taking out membership. Please contact the Secretary Steve Lewitt at [slewitt@btinternet.com](mailto:slewitt@btinternet.com) for more details.

## Autumn Lecture Programme

**Our first meeting in the 2022/23 lecture programme will be held on Friday 23 September 2022 at 8.00pm in the Guildhall, Lichfield. (see below)**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Wall Roman site

The site museum is open from 11am to 4pm on every other weekend and Bank Holiday Mondays until October (and every weekend in August): details <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/wall-roman-site/>

**Saturday 22 October (Friends of Letocetum):** guided walk of Wall beyond the baths and mansio, including the site of the Roman forts and the late Roman *burgus*. Booking essential: <http://www.wallromansitefriendsofletocetum.co.uk/> or 01543 418464

### Sutton Park Archaeology Walks

The walks are organised by the Friends of Sutton Park Association. They are free and booking is not required, but please wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear because they include rough paths and there is no shelter en route. Details <http://fospa.org.uk/>

**Tuesday 13 September** (Part of Birmingham Heritage Week): start 10am, Town Gate, off Park Road. Including millpools and medieval fishponds, deer park boundaries, and a former racecourse.

**Saturday 8 October:** start 10am Boldmere Gate, off Stonehouse Road. Including medieval deer park boundaries, Holly Hurst wood, and remains of a First World war army camp.

### Weoley Castle: Birmingham Museums Trust

Guided walks around the remains of a fortified medieval manor house. Booking essential: <https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/weoley/whats-on>

**Friday 29 July** (part of the Festival of British Archaeology)

**Saturday 17 September** (part of Birmingham Heritage Week)

### Medieval Yardley: Birmingham Museums Trust

**Saturday 10 September** Guided walks (Part of Birmingham Heritage Week) including the church, moated sites and ridge and furrow. Booking essential: <https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/blakesley/whats-on>

## Staffordshire Medieval Cross Slabs Survey, c.1000 - 1600

A request from John Hunt

Further to my appeal made at the Society's AGM on Friday, March 18th, 2022, I would like to restate my request of the SAHS membership for their assistance in a piece of research that I am currently undertaking. In the context of a wider research programme, I am currently engaged in a survey of Staffordshire's medieval cross slabs, a monument that has not previously been systematically recorded or studied within the county. These commemorative monuments are commonly found within churches and churchyards, and might be found inside and outside of churches, sometimes as discrete features, but often as fragments that have been incorporated into the walls of the church. As the weather improves, this request for assistance is aimed particularly at those members who enjoy visiting our parish churches. If, during your visits, you happen to come across such a monument, it would be extremely helpful if you could bring it to



my attention via email, and even better if you could include a photograph. My current focus is on Staffordshire cross slabs, and therefore I am particularly keen to hear about these, but looking ahead, the project will subsequently embrace Warwickshire and Worcestershire as well, so information relating to these counties will also be welcome. In case these monuments are unfamiliar, I have incorporated a couple of photographs. From left to right, they are - a slab inside the church at Gnosall, a fragment incorporated into the external wall of the church at Adbaston; and a discrete slab reused (with others) as a bench outside of Biddulph church and a fragment built into the porch of Alstonfield church. Many are less well preserved and more fragmentary than those illustrated.



If you see anything that you think represents such a monument (or might do) I would be most grateful if you could make me aware of it. I may be contacted via - [j.r.hunt@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.r.hunt@bham.ac.uk) Many thanks for your assistance. Dr John Hunt

## **Friends of Shenstone Tower (FoST) – A Further Update on Project Progress**

### **Repairing Shenstone's Old Church Tower (St John's Church Shenstone)**

Restoration work continues apace on Shenstone's surviving standalone Medieval Church Tower. The project is progressing well thanks to the efforts of the contractors and the architect, and the team of stonemasons, all under the careful watchful eye of John Tiernan from Historic England.

All the engulfing vegetation has now been removed and the external masonry has been repaired with attention paid to the mortar between the stonework. Where new stone has had to be installed it is sandstone from a local quarry, and the mortar used is traditional lime mortar.



There have however been some unforeseen problems, causing a delay to the timescale for completion of the works now estimated to be late June rather than late March. An example is the discovery that the stonework inside the Tower was in a worse state than originally thought, so it has been necessary to install additional supporting steel beams to those planned. The team are however overcoming such challenges and overall the project is progressing and the Tower is looking good.

The people of Shenstone and visitors to the village will be able to see the progress made on the day of the Village Festival on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 2.00 pm in the afternoon. The Tower itself will unfortunately not be open at that stage. The formal opening is however planned for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 3.00 pm when the Bishop of Lichfield will be in attendance. Everyone is invited to this grand opening event and it is expected it will attract a significant number of people.

Photographs demonstrating progress as at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022:



Hatch to the top



Window in place

## **Friends of Shenstone Tower (FoST)**

**April 2022**

The above detail has kindly been supplied to SA&HS by Bronwen Ross, FoST Project Team Member. Following on from previous reports appearing in these Newsletter pages

Keith Billington



**"Listen, we know your dream is to become an Archaeologist, we're just asking you to consider a career with more job security, like a street performer, or a poet."**

### **Why you should read Transactions Vol LIII**

#### **Mike Hodder**

Volume 53 of the Society's Transactions will be issued in May. It contains the usual mix of archaeological and historical articles on sites and topics ranging in date from Roman to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Cameron Moffett's article, "The lead figurine of a sub-Saharan African from Wall (*Letocetum*): an updated interpretation", demonstrates the value of continuing research, in this case on an object which has been on display in the site museum for many years where it was interpreted as a wrestler, possibly enslaved. The figurine has been distorted by heat, but details still discernible include facial features and hair which indicate that the individual is a black African, arm rings and a necklace. A newly-identified socket in his clenched hand is likely to have held a spear, leading to re-interpretation of him as a warrior standing upright and holding a spear. The figurine may have accompanied a cremation burial in a cemetery to the west of Wall; cremated bones poured over it would have resulted in distortion. It is comparable to other Roman metal figurines of black Africans, representations of whom were prized as attractive and exotic artworks for display. Although some such figurines were made in Britain, this one is likely to be of continental origin and reflects the composition of the Roman army units garrisoned at Wall. The figurine is now more prominently displayed and explained in the site museum.

In "Patrons, priests, and parishioners: the Norman Conquest, parish churches, and Staffordshire's changing religious landscape", John Hunt explores the background to the construction of parish churches in the honor of Stafford in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, using documentary architectural and

sculptural evidence. The Stafford honor, created soon after the Norman Conquest, included land in central and north Staffordshire. Half of the churches in the honor that were recorded before 1200 are likely to have existed by 1150, and some apparently 13<sup>th</sup> century churches may have originated in 12<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. Shared decorative motifs of c1100 in Gnosall and neighbouring churches include details on fonts. The adoption and dissemination of stone fonts, in particular, indicate shared aspirations between lord and local community. Plainer fonts possibly reflect earlier acquisition of baptismal rights, but they could have carried a painted decoration. Three periods of parish church construction are suggested, the first in 1100-1130, by the baron himself, followed in the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century by churches promoted by a wider spectrum of local lords. There is some evidence for a similar development in the honor of Dudley. The churches mentioned in this article, particularly those with significant architectural or sculptural features, are well worth visiting.

Nicholas Orme's article, "The foundation of Rolleston School, Staffordshire, in 1524" includes translation of a text describing the school's statutes, and a discussion of the background. The founder, Robert Sherborne Bishop of Chichester, was a native of Rolleston who had a successful and prosperous career, and also made other religious and educational endowments. (The foundation echoes that of this reviewer's old school which was founded by John Vesey, Bishop of Exeter, in his native town of Sutton Coldfield in 1527). The school basically taught Latin; reading was taught by the better pupils, and less able boys learned reading, writing, and arithmetic. The statutes refer to the overseeing churchwardens and the school master's salary. The master was required to have a good education in medieval and classical Latin texts. He was to follow good practice elsewhere, and ensure care and encouragement in his teaching. The school offered free tuition but payment was required for materials. The pupils would be from the middle and upper classes. The school day of, seasonally, 6 or 7am to 5 or 6pm, albeit with a two-hour lunch break, would no doubt alarm modern pupils and teachers alike.

Staffordshire's white cattle are perhaps less well-known than the extant herd at Chillingham in Northumberland. James Alsop's "The wild white cattle of Chartley in 1592" quotes and discusses two letters referring to a the gift of cattle from the Earl of Essex to the Earl of Shrewsbury and the provision of men to convey them to the latter's park in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, along with the other cattle that they were accustomed to graze with.

In "Excavations at Ford Green Hall, Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire, 1995–1997", Noel Boothroyd deftly interweaves archaeological and historical evidence into a continuous narrative, placing both sources on an equal footing, which is all too rarely seen. Excavations at this were run as a training excavation for volunteers. Medieval occupation of the site is indicated by pottery, brick and tile but the bulk of the article relates to the timber-framed yeoman farmhouse which was built in 1624 and subsequently modified. The social and economic history integrated into the article is derived from a variety of sources. It includes family- and site-specific information, and the local, regional and wider context. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery types and other artefacts are discussed in relation to the lifestyle of the Quaker owners of that period. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the setting of the house rapidly changed to an industrial landscape, described in a contemporary poem, which included a colliery and ironworks, and 19<sup>th</sup> century artefacts reflect literacy and numeracy. This article will make you appreciate Ford Green Hall even more when you visit it.

"Josiah Wedgwood's women designers: Emma Crewe (1741–c.1795) and Elizabeth Templetown (1745–1823)" is a posthumously-published paper by the late and much-missed Margaret O'Sullivan. It is a reminder that Wedgwood was not just a technical innovator and a commercial entrepreneur who cultivated a network of people of influence, but he also had a long-standing interest in education, including that of women. These two women were established artists from landed gentry families and they worked for him voluntarily, specialising in stylized scenes of everyday life and jointly producing designs. Their employment was related to challenges in creating the Green Frog service for Catherine the Great, which was decorated with topographical scenes

and prompted owners of great houses and gardens to send Wedgwood illustrations of their own properties. The women's designs were used on Jasper ware cameos, seals, medallions, brooches plaques for architectural details.

In addition the volume contains notes on recent archaeological work in Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Walsall and Wolverhampton, by Shane Kelleher, Jon Goodwin and Ellie Ramsey respectively.

## **Zoom meetings are just modern seances**



"There's someone who wants to join us."  
"Elizabeth, are you there?"  
"We can't hear you."  
"Can you hear us?"

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### **Society survey on lecture preferences**

Some 96 members of the Society took the opportunity to vote in this survey, which came about following a proposal from a member at the Society's AGM in March. Of those who voted, 39 (41%) voted to keep to the *status quo*, that is, arrange Zoom lectures on an *ad hoc* basis. 15 (16%) voted to have 3 of the usual 12 lectures as Zoom-based, and 42 (44%) voted to make half of all lectures Zoom-based.

The Committee wishes to thank all those members who took the time to vote and also provide some additional useful views on the Society's lecture programme and how it is delivered.

As the number of those who voted fell short of the threshold declared to mandate the Committee to change the lecture programme (60% of the membership, or 104 votes) a recent Committee meeting of the Society decided to note the outcome and allow the Programme Secretary, Brian Bull the maximum flexibility in arranging lectures to suit the needs and requirements of the presenter. This means that we will stick with the current arrangements, delivering the majority of lectures 'live' at the



Guildhall in Lichfield, with others through Zoom as circumstances dictate. Brian will announce the lecture programme for 2022-23 as soon as possible.

The principle of 'matinée' or afternoon lectures was also discussed. It is likely that a trial arrangement will be considered to assess membership interest and take-up. There will be more news on this in due course.

Finally, a large number of comments were made by members concerning the possibility of 'live streaming' or recording lectures as many larger, national, societies are able to do. To achieve this means that the Society has to buy the equipment to record the lecture and any slides presented as well as the expertise to use all the kit and software. We will also, if we are to live stream, have to have access to a reliable Wi-Fi signal at the Guildhall, as well as the speaker's permission to record or broadcast. Whilst none of these particular issues in themselves are insurmountable, the combination, especially that of speaker agreement, is presently inhibiting any further action. However, members should be assured that we are working to overcome these obstacles.

Steve Lewitt, Honorary Secretary

### **Society Periodicals**

The Society subscribes to a number of magazines including Current Archaeology, Current World Archaeology, British Archaeology amongst others. As members may know, these are usually available at lectures for members to borrow. As a result of storage issues it has been decided that only the last two years of any publication will now be kept, with the older issues now offered to members. Anyone interested in acquiring these back numbers is invited to contact Diana Wilkes via email.

## **Live Lectures at The Guildhall September to December 2022**

23rd September Dr Tara Hamlin

A Day at Home in Early Modern England 1500-1700

Tara works on the social and cultural history of Britain in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (the Tudor and Stuart periods). She is interested in how the profound changes to religion and society over the course of this period played out in domestic life and practices of belief, with particular focus on the role of visual and material culture (images, objects, built environment) in shaping people's experience of everyday life.

Tara is Reader in Early Modern Studies at Birmingham University.

7th October This lecture is still to be confirmed.

21st October Lucy Smith

Staffordshire Asylums - Stafford, Burntwood and Cheddleton

Lucy graduated in 1991 with a BScEcon(Hons) in Politics from the

University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Since then she has been employed in various roles within Education and Adult Social Services. In 2019 Lucy completed a part-time Open University MA in History and was awarded ESRC funding for a NWSSDTP CASE Studentship at Keele. Working in collaboration with the Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Service on their Wellcome Trust funded Asylums Project, currently Lucy is exploring the history of mental health care in the Asylums at Stafford, Burntwood and Cheddleton which is the subject of this evening's lecture. Information regarding the project is available on the blog <https://staffordshireasylumrecords.wordpress.com/>.

4th November

David Moore MA

### The Purton Hulks of the River Severn

Dave Moore's association with history began inauspiciously. He was thrown off the History CSE course at secondary school for failing to show an interest and failing to hand in any course work. His working career started with an apprenticeship in the construction industry with an upward path leading to management in the private sector. Despite his worst efforts in school, Dave has always maintained an interest in history. He travels widely in pursuit of his passion for industrial heritage and social history. Early retirement allowed Dave to deepen his interests by studying public history at Ruskin college, Oxford, for which he was awarded an MA. Dave's other skills of photography, film-making and information technology support his work in the public history arena.

There are a number of abandoned boats and ships, deliberately beached beside the River Severn near Purton in Gloucestershire, in order to reinforce the river banks. Most were beached in the 1950s and are now in a state of considerable decay. The site forms the largest ship graveyard in mainland Britain.

A riverbank collapse in 1909 led to concerns that the barrier between the river and the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal would be breached. Old vessels were run aground and soon filled with water and silt to create a tidal erosion barrier. The vessels included steel barges, Severn trows and concrete ships. The boats came from throughout the British Isles and were built in the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th. Since 2000, archaeological investigations have been undertaken to find out more about the vessels and their states of decay. Explanatory labels have been provided. One barge has been scheduled as an ancient monument and several are included in the National Register of Historic Vessels.

18th November Dr Mike Hodder

### Recent Research in Sutton Park

Dr Mike Hodder is an Honorary Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Birmingham and President of the Friends of Sutton Park Association, and a long-standing member of the Society. He has been researching the archaeology of Sutton Park for many years. Sutton Park originated as a medieval deer park and it contains many well-preserved archaeological remains of various periods. Recent excavations have investigated a medieval park keeper's lodge in the centre of the Park and an earthwork next to the Roman road. In addition, peat has been sampled to analyse pollen in it which will show how the vegetation of the Park has changed since prehistoric times, and people's impact on their environment in the past.

2nd December

Robert Mee

The Annual General Meeting will also take place this evening.

### The Village Lock-Up

Robert lives in West Hallam Derbyshire and has been giving history presentations since 2005. His talks are mainly about and generally cover the area where he lives with some exceptions. The Village Lock-Up talk covers a wider area. A village lock-up is a historic building that was once used for the temporary detention of people in England and Wales, mostly where official prisons or criminal courts were beyond easy walking distance. Lock-ups were often used for the confinement of drunks, who were usually released the next day, or to hold people being brought before the local magistrate.

## **Zoom Lectures September to December 2022**

14th October

Dr Rachel Crellin

Round Mounds of the Isle of Man encompassing Berk Farm Burial Mounds

Rachel is Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Leicester. Rachel's key research interest is in the study and theorisation of change. She specialises in Later Neolithic and Bronze Age Britain and Ireland and is an expert in metalwork wear-analysis. Rachel studied Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge where she developed a keen interest in archaeological theory and material culture. She went to UCL to continue exploring this through an MA in Material and Visual Culture Studies before starting a PhD at Newcastle University where her thesis focused on theoretical approaches to the study of change and drew on a study of the transition from the Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age on the Isle of Man.

Rachel is also co-director of the Round Mounds of the Isle of Man project which explores changing burial practices from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age on the island and in the wider Irish Sea context. The project is funded by Culture Vannin and Manx National Heritage and began in September 2016. It has involved osteology, radiocarbon dating, isotopic and aDNA analyses, and extensive GIS and LiDAR work to map the location of more than 180 mounds across the island. In 2017 the project began excavation of a burial mound near the village of Kirk Michael. In 2019 the team found the first jet spacer necklace on the Isle of Man. Excavations will continue at the site in future years. You can learn more about the project here: <https://roundmounds.wordpress.com> .

Lectures start at 8.00pm with refreshments available beforehand. The AGM starts at 7.30pm before the evening's lecture.

**This newsletter is edited for the Society by Richard Totty who can be contacted at [richard.totty4@gmail.com](mailto:richard.totty4@gmail.com)**

Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Society.

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The editor welcomes comments on this newsletter, thoughts and contributions for the next newsletter which is due on 1 September 2022 and any suggestions for excursions.