



STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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The Reinstatement of the Shrine of St Chad



Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 November 2022 saw two moving services as the Shrine of St Chad was consecrated and reinstated at Lichfield Cathedral. 484 years after the original shrine was destroyed, a new Altar Shrine has been built and a relic of St Chad translated from St Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Birmingham. In a historic moment and deeply poignant ecumenical service, Archbishop Bernard Longley and Bishop Michael Ipgrave gave a heartfelt address.

The World's First Football Superstar: The Life of Stephen Smith, Owen Arthur, Pen and Sword, 2022, 278p [11 photos], £25-00. ISBN 9781399083485.

Success in sport frequently enables people to achieve celebrity status within their local community. Frequently this leads to social mobility and the achievement of an economic and financial status different from that of the family from which they emerge. This is a pattern to be identified across the British Isles. For more than a century, local communities have celebrated this ability to scale social barriers and it complements the fact that the people of these islands have been so enthusiastic about sports of every kind since earliest times, and about football in particular.

Stephen Smith was from a working-class background. His father was a seasonal farm-labourer who had become a collier as the mines suddenly expanded in the later nineteenth century. Stephen was born at Abbots Bromley, in 1874 and grew up in the mining village of Hazel Slade, near Hednesford. It became evident early in his teenage years that he was an exceptional footballer and he began his professional career with Hednesford Town, whilst still working as a collier. Soon he was recruited to play for Aston Villa, still working during the week within the mines. His importance as a player was that he represented the English League in an early international match with Scotland. Due to the salary cap that existed within the Football League, it was not possible to negotiate for higher wages if one became very successful, as would be the case in modern times, and so in 1901 Stephen transferred from Aston Villa to Portsmouth. The attraction to him was that Portsmouth in the Southern League was not constrained by the payment rules imposed by the Football League and he became a full-time footballer. In 1906 he moved again, having been recruited to an ambitious team elsewhere in the South, to New Brompton – we now know it as Gillingham Town – where he also was player-manager. In 1908 Stephen ceased to be a professional footballer. He moved back to Portsmouth where he invested his savings in a fishmongery business, and subsequently in the 1930s he moved to the village of Roke in Oxfordshire where he and his wife ran the village shop. He died there in 1935, aged 61, and he was buried in the churchyard at Benson in what remains poignantly an unmarked grave.

Owen Arthur has rather well systematically charted the career of this exceptional footballer, giving plenty of detail of how his career evolved and developed. Alongside this there is local detail about the area of Staffordshire in which he spent his early life and very appropriate social comment about the ramifications of that experience in how he developed his professional life.

In a wider sense Stephen Smith's story is one that can be found replicated all over Britain, with small businesses whose origins were built on successful professional sports of one kind or another. The social implications are highly significant. It is proof that it is possible within Britain for someone to achieve social and economic mobility through professional sport, albeit that until recently it was largely an opportunity afforded to footballers.

The book unfortunately lacks an index which means that it is difficult to cross-reference various elements and contexts of Stephen Smith's life and career.

This is nonetheless an extraordinarily interesting book, both at a local Staffordshire level but also because of the insight that it reveals into the wider sporting world which many of us enjoy. Stephen Smith was an outstanding sporting celebrity within his generation, but it may be hyperbole to award the 'superstar' epithet because in his life-time the mass media had not yet begun to enable that to happen.

Trevor James

Executions: 700 Years of Public Punishment in London, Jackie Keily, Thomas Ardill, Beverley Cook and Meriel Jeater, Philip Wilson Publishers, 2022, 146p, £16.99. ISBN 9781781301081.

The rich and extensive images in this book have been very carefully selected to illustrate this exceptionally informative study of how executions and other public punishments had been managed from medieval times until the mid-nineteenth century. It has been published to accompany the Museum of London's 'Executions' exhibition which continues until next April.

Naturally this is a potentially macabre topic but it presents the reader with various important themes. We learn how public reaction to executions changed over the centuries from the medieval response which treated them as part of a wider world of public spectacles to which crowds would throng, to an awareness in the nineteenth century that punishment, however justified, was something which required a form of privacy. The authors record that the Capital Punishment Amendment Act of 1868 removed public execution to the seclusion of prison grounds, with this juxtaposed with the information that the last public execution in London, of the Fenian Michael Barrett, on 26 May 1868 had attracted very substantial numbers of spectators who had travelled to Newgate on the world's first underground railway, which we now know as the Metropolitan Line. The decision to abandon public executions may have been, in part at least, built on a sense that punishment was a private matter but the decision may also have been influenced by wider issues of crowd control.

Through their presentation, we are guided through the technicalities of execution – how it was done; the humiliations wrought on the bodies of those that had died; the rituals surrounding the approach to execution – in a very succinct manner. In an appendix they list 153 crimes for which execution could have been the punishment in 1723, many of which were removed by legislation under Peel's reforms in the 1820s.

This book provides us with a window into a world that would finally vanish more than half a century ago in England, Wales and Scotland in 1969 with the abolition of execution for all forms of criminality, other than treason, a world with which we are no longer familiar.

Trevor James

Charles Close Society for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps Midland Group Meetings

The next meeting will be at Wall Village Hall on Tuesday 24th of January 2023 at 7.30pm.

The topic is military maps. The venue details are the same (Watling St, Wall, Lichfield WS14 0AW).

For more information please email lez@watsonlv.net.

Interested in churches?

Have a look at some virtual tours on these short videos by the Churches Conservation Trust

[Churches Conservation Trust, London, United Kingdom — Google Arts & Culture](#)

Cntrl+Click to follow the link or copy and paste into your browser

Pounds and Pinfolds

Do you know of any of these? Nigel Mills is attempting to put together a national register of surviving pinfolds and pounds. See [Home \(poundsandpinfolds.co.uk\)](http://poundsandpinfolds.co.uk). The Staffordshire page – on Register 4 of the website – is at the time of writing – empty so help is needed. E mail: nigelmillspp@gmail.com

News From the Archives

The Staffordshire History Centre Project is reported as running several months late, due to the increasing cost of construction materials. The project to revitalise the William Salt Library and the adjoining Staffordshire Record Office in Eastgate Street Stafford is supported by a National Heritage Lottery Fund grant and construction on site was due to begin in the autumn of 2022. Further funding to cover the cost increase has been granted and Pave Aways Ltd have been awarded the contract to build the new centre with work starting in early 2023. Meanwhile staff and volunteers are working in nearby Eastgate House where they are now likely to remain for a further two years. Access to the collection will continue to be very limited.

The William Salt Library building has now been emptied, all the books and manuscripts stored, all the furniture and most of the bookshelves also taken away. Internally there are original features revealed from when the houses – there were two – were private

residences and gradually turned into an extensive library. The Librarian and his family lived there until 1983. Fragments of wallpaper from an Edwardian redecoration can now be seen together with a range of fireplaces of different periods. The building is a rabbit warren of odd rooms, three staircases, uneven levels which is perhaps to be expected as it was built first in 1733 on the plan of a much earlier house and modified many times. The poor state is also seen; in one room the ceiling is held up by the bookshelves! We look forward to seeing it again when the builders have finished their restoration.

Further north in Stoke on Trent it has been confirmed that Stoke Archives, currently housed in Stoke Central Library will move into the Potteries Museum next door. The Library building has been sold by the Council. There will inevitably be disruption and the Archives are now closed and will remain so for several months.

In Burton on Trent a shock announcement by Coors the brewers of the closure of the National Brewery Centre which closed its doors on 31 October 2022 with very little notice. The site is to be used for a new Headquarters with the contents of the former National Brewing Centre destined to be placed in a facility in central Burton yet to be developed, but with a possible opening in 2025.

The Staffordshire Archive Service has recruited staff to help engage more of the public in heritage events in the county and some of these have begun, organised through the Staffordshire History Network. The SAHS fully supports this network and will continue to advise members of interesting events through the regular circulation of SHN newsletters. The latest meeting of the network members took place on 30 November 2022 at the V&A Wedgwood Museum in Barlaston. This museum has a very large collection of Wedgwood pottery, a large archive dating back to Josiah Wedgwood's original experiments on glazes and much other material about the Wedgwood family and the Wedgwood factories. Well worth a visit! (And there is a nice café on site as well.)

Members are advised that the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place at 7.30pm on Friday 17 February 2023 in the Guildhall, Bore Street, Lichfield. The meeting will be immediately before the lecture planned for that evening, which starts at 8pm. Members will receive, via email, the proposed agenda and related papers at the beginning of February 2023. All subscription paid Members will be entitled to attend the AGM and vote.

Burton-on-Trent Borough 1878 – boundary markers

Lez Watson

Burton first became a borough under Nigel, the Abbot of Burton,¹ at the end of the twelfth century. The abbey had been established by Wulfic Spot, Earl of Mercia in 1002.² Abbot Nigel laid out the basic street plan, establishing burgages along the main street from the ‘new’ River Trent to the bridge at Horninglow. The surrounding villages remained detached from the settlement, although Abbey property.³

After the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, the abbey lands passed to Sir William Paget in 1546.⁴ The development of the brewing industry gave rise to a sizable population for the town and outlying villages of 9,768 in 1851, of whom more than a thousand were brewery workers. Parliamentary Acts were passed in 1698, 1779, and 1853 to enable improved administration of the town; a further act of 1878⁵ relates to the subject of the newly established boundary discussed here. This date also saw the inclusion of Winshill and Stapenhill into the borough. Branston and Stretton remained separate parishes.⁶

Cast iron posts⁷ were erected at the intersection of the boundary with all the roads, tracks and paths exiting the town (*figure 2*). Each post stood three feet (0.92m) from the ground and each is of five-inch (12cm) square section, with a pyramidal cap measuring six-and-a-half inches (16 cm) square (*figure 1*). Made in cast iron by Philip Halbard of the Britannia Foundry,⁸ each one carried the same legend, ‘BURTON UPON TRENT – BOROUGH BOUNDARY’, on two lines, with the makers details at the base. Given their location when placed, they would have been seen easily by travellers.

The posts today

I undertook a survey in 2015 to see how many of the posts survived by consulting large scale Ordnance Survey and locally published mapping,⁹ creating a table with the results numbered

¹ He served from 1094 to 1114. Formerly of Winchester, he began building the west end of the church.

² For a discussion of the related boundary clauses see Della Hook, *The Landscape of AngloSaxon Staffordshire: The Charter Evidence*, 1983, 97-101 and fig. 7.

³ Colin C Owen, *Burton upon Trent. The Development of Industry*, 1978.

⁴ Colin C Owen, *Burton upon Trent. The Illustrated History*, 1994.

⁵ For the incorporation of the town as a Municipal Borough, later to become a County Borough (1901 to 1974).

⁶ ‘Burton-upon-Trent: Local government’, in Nigel J Tringham (ed) *A History of the County of Stafford: Volume 9, Burton-Upon-Trent*, London, 2003, fig 5.

⁷ with the exception of boundary stone no.19.

⁸ ‘Britannia foundry in Horninglow Street was established by Philip Halbard and Joseph Wright in 1850. The business was failing by 1870, and the foundry had evidently been closed by 1879.’ In Tringham (see fn 6).

⁹ 1: 2,500 scale County Series sheets: Staffordshire XL.8, XL.11, XL.12, XL.15, XLI.9, XLI.13; and Derbyshire LVII.9, LVII.14, LIX.4, LX.1. Also 10,000 National Grid Series, 1:25,000 First Series, and East Staffordshire website mapping (OS).

clockwise from the River Trent south end of the town.¹⁰ My curiosity was aroused by the inconstant depiction of the markers on successive OS editions at all published scales.¹¹

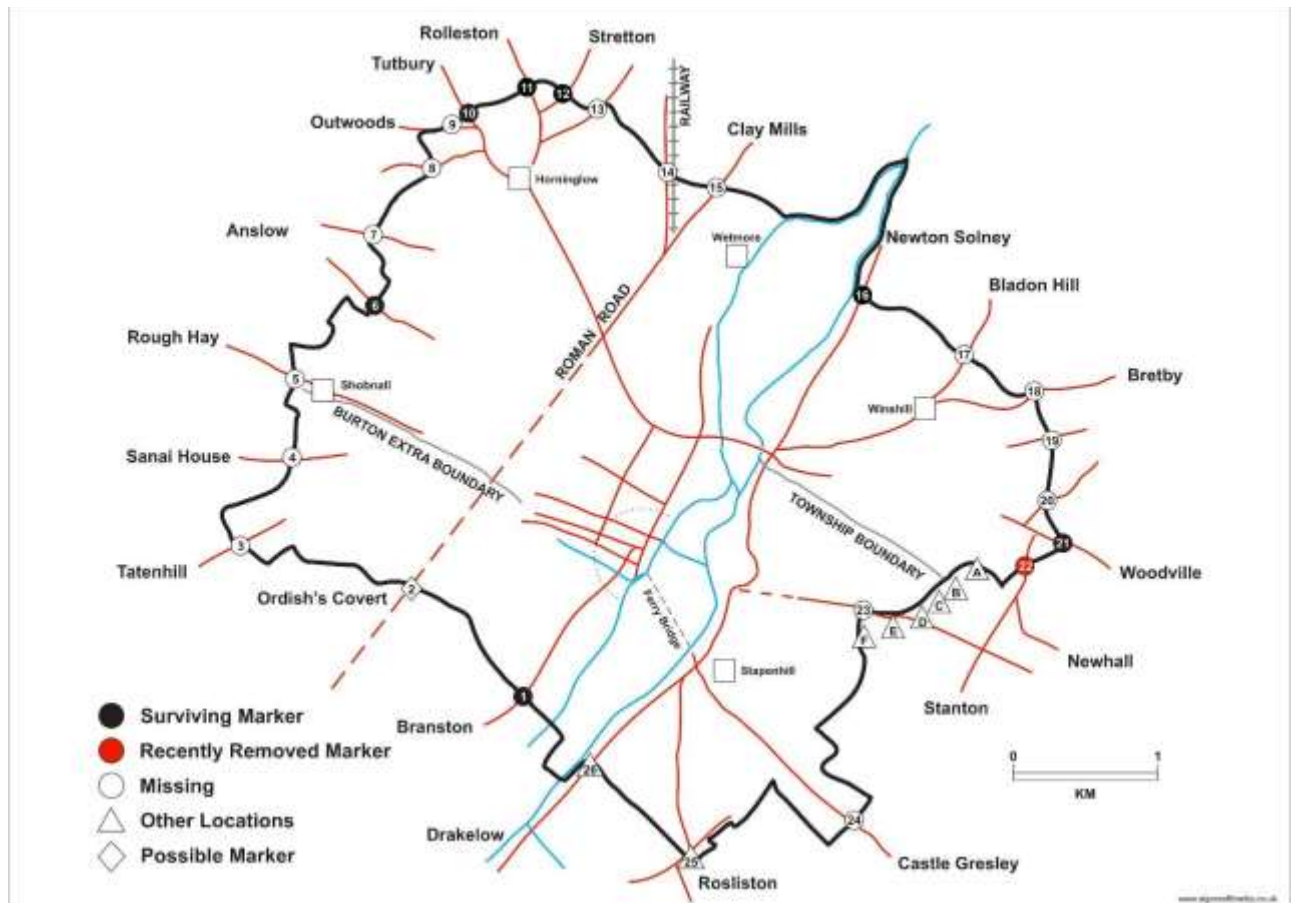


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

¹⁰ I have not sought any unpublished sources.

¹¹ The table in this article is an abstract from a detailed spreadsheet of all the information available to me (see note 9).

The first post (number 1, *figure 2*) is on the B5018, next to 139 Branston Road against the northern edge of Burton to Leicester line railway property. Although the Roman Ryknild Street was no longer a thoroughfare in the Victorian period, and had been superseded by Branston Road – the mediaeval Broadway – it would still have been a noticeable landmark on the boundary. I assigned this location the marker number 2 on the above map nonetheless.

Post number 3 was on the track to Tatenhill, with number 4 leading to Sinai House. Both are missing, now being within Branston Locks housing development. Post number 5, also missing, lay by Shobnall Brook (alongside the B5017).

Post number 6 (*figure 3*) on the track/footpath to Anslow is hidden in the bushes by the hedgerow. Post number 7, leading to Upper Outwoods, was visible until a few years ago but was lost during work at the nearby hospital. Numbers 8 and 9 were probably removed as a result of housebuilding. Number 9 stood by Horninglow Brook, the post probably moved from GR 2332 2542. The most visible of the entire series stands in Tutbury Road by the bridge over the brook (number 10, *figure 4*). Today painted white, but with the characters unhighlighted, it can be seen from some distance along the A5111.¹²



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Rolleston road, post number 11 (*figure 5*) is set in a low wall, but not in its original position, which was on the west side of the road. The culverted brook then leads to post number 12 which, due to landscaping and the burying of the watercourse, now stands alone in Horninglow recreation park (*figure 6*).

Further along the Horninglow Brook, posts numbers 13 and 14, by footpaths to Stretton and by Derby road, are both missing. Post number 14 was removed following construction of the Burton to Tutbury railway line,¹³ and, post number 15 by Horninglow Brook was removed during culverting work below Derby Road.

¹² www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3987097.

¹³ The North Staffordshire Railway, known locally as the 'Jinny' line.



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

The next post is to the east of the Trent in front of a garden wall by the B5008, near Dale Brook ¹⁴ (number 16, *figure 7*). Posts numbers 17 and 18 by the lanes to Bladon Hill and Bretby are missing, probably removed during house building. Marker number 19, a parish boundary *stone* by the lane to Common Farm, is also missing,¹⁵ as is post number 20, removed during housing work. Post number 21 is located on Ashby road, A5111, (*figure 8*) by the hedgerow.¹⁶

There is no trace of boundary post number 22 in Brizlincote Lane, it having been removed in 2017 and re-erected at a nearby private location. There is, however, a photograph on the Geograph website (*figure 9*) ¹⁷. A little further down the hillside the municipal boundary joined the Brizlincote Brook where it crossed over to Stapenhill.¹⁸

There are no further boundary markers from this point back to the River Trent at Waterside (see below). Construction of the Burton to Leicester railway through south Derbyshire in 1848 bisected the parish, leaving the rural part south to the Ryle Brook by Mares Yard Bridge cut off from the town.

Between posts numbers 22 and 23 are six posts (A-F) shown on OS 1:10 000 and 1:25 000 published mapping in the 1970s and 1980s. Although not relevant to this study, they nonetheless represent one of many boundary changes in 20th century Burton.¹⁹

Post number 23 is not depicted on any of the OS maps I consulted, but most probably existed due to the presence of a well-trodden track to Newhall crossing the county boundary at this point. Another, on Stanton Road (A444, number 23), was probably removed during council house building.

¹⁴ www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4142107.

¹⁵ Probably an estate or parish boundary post of medieval or post-medieval date. It is depicted on OS County Series mapping.

¹⁶ www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4142126.

¹⁷ www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4142112.

¹⁸ “When the municipal borough was created in 1878, the rest of Burton Extra (274 a.) was added, along with a further 840 a. from Horninglow, 25 a. from Branston, and parts of Stapenhill (769 a.) and Winshill (607 a.)” ‘Burton-upon-Trent: Administrative areas’, in *A History of the County of Stafford: Volume 9*, Nigel J Tringham (ed.), London, 2003, p. 22.

¹⁹ 1:10,000 National Grid Series. Sheet SK 22SE, published 1972; and 1:25,000 Second ‘Pathfinder’ Series, Sheet 852, edition A, revised 1950-74/81, published 1981.

It is possible, but unlikely, that there were two further posts (nos. 25 and 26), as the edge of the Burton to Leicester Line railway property de facto defined the borough boundary at these points.²⁰

Discussion

I walked about a mile as a child to school in the 1960s. Half way along my route the road passed over the local brook by which stood an old metal boundary post. Although it was rusty, unkempt and dirty, I could just make out the lettering. It was exactly half-way between home and school; I wondered if it might be more than a coincidence. The survey I undertook recently indicated, as I had suspected, that the post survived along with only a few others that had originally encircled the town. The remaining posts exist due to having been unaffected by later agricultural activities, settlement encroachment or theft.

The boundary markers were commissioned in the 1870s as a visible expression of municipal pride. Earlier town expansion and town limit change had been depicted on maps commissioned by land owners and borough officials since the mid-eighteenth century.²¹ The *Plan of the town of Burton upon Trent in the County of Stafford, 1836* by Thomas Spooner depicts the built-up environment at that time with special attention given to the ward and borough bounds created in 1853.²² At this date the western borough limit ran alongside the Trent and Mersey Canal from south of Shobnall Road to just north of Horninglow Wharf. The eastern limit ran along the eastern arm of the Trent.

The 1860s to 1880s saw a dramatic increase in house building across the town, spreading further west towards the Needwood bluffs and spilling into the villages of Winshill and Stapenhill. The built-up elements of these settlements soon became incorporated into the borough in 1878. The Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale Staffordshire County Series sheets of the town show further expansion.²³ Construction of the North Staffordshire Railway branch to Hatton and Derby removed marker number 14, and reduced the significance of the lane/path to Stretton.

The existence of the posts is not mentioned in either a recently commissioned historic character assessment or parish neighbourhood plans,²⁴ which suggests that these heritage assets are not considered of importance locally. Being unlisted monuments, they have consequently suffered the ravages of time. The local large-scale Ordnance Survey County Series plans are the only reliable source for the markers, the 1882 resurvey having helpfully been made soon after the 1878 Act which had redrawn the boundary.

No doubt there are further examples of town and borough boundary markers. Chester has many 'mayoral' boundary stones from the late Victorian period, but I'm not aware of any others. The Ordnance Survey's record of those in Burton may be a rare reference to such heritage assets.

²⁰ A local resident informed me that no posts were to be seen in the scrub land by the railway viaduct.

²¹ The earliest known example being William Wyatt's map of the manor of Burton, 1758 to 1780, comprising nine township maps. Staffordshire Record Office, D(W)1734/2/3/131 - /140. The township boundaries may be inferred from the individual sheets. See Lez Watson, *An Historical Atlas of Horninglow Parish, Burton-on-Trent* (forthcoming).

²² An earlier map of 1847 by William Wesley includes Burton township boundary (only).

²³ See fn 7.

²⁴ See *Burton-upon-Trent Historic Character Assessment*, Staffordshire County Council, 2012 and eg. *Horninglow and Eton Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2023*, 2014.

<i>Table</i>						
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
No.	Grid Ref (SK)	Altitude (ft)	Location	To	Side	County
	2451 2147		River Trent			
1	2408 2152	167	Branston Road	Branston	W	Staffs
2	2332 2228	160	Ryknild Street	Branston	-	Staffs
	2250 2247	154	Trent and Mersey Canal			
3	2217 2253	159	track near Lawns Farm	Tatenhill	S	Staffs
4	2253 2311	191	footpath to Sinai House	Sinai House (Tatenhill)	W	Staffs
5	2251 2365	187	Shobnall Road	Rough Hay	S	Staffs
6	2294 2428	308	footpath	Anslow	E	Staffs
7	2379 2445	305	Lower Outwoods Road	Anslow common	S	Staffs
8	2338 2516	297	Field Lane	Anslow common	S	Staffs
9a	2332 2542	215	Kitling Greaves Lane	Upper Outwoods	N	Staffs
9b	2356 2544	213	"	"	"	"
10	2366 2555	201	Tutbury Road	Tutbury	E	Staffs
11	2406 2571	151	Rolleston Road	Rolleston	E	Staffs
12	2436 2510	174	SW corner, Horninglow Park	Bitham Lane, Stretton	E	Staffs
13	2451 2549	162	footpath to Stretton	Stretton		Staffs
	2488 2538	163	Trent and Mersey Canal			
14	2510 2524	159	Horninglow Branch railway	Derby Road	E	Staffs
15	2542 2503	154	Derby Road	Clay Mills	E	Staffs
	2588 2484		River Trent			
16	2641 2427	168	Newton Road	Newton Solney	E	Staffs
17	2712 2389	206	Wheatley Lane	Bladon Hill	W	Derbs
18	2761 2360	240	Hawfield Lane	Bretby	S	Derbs
19	2775 2372	325	lane to Common Farm	Common Farm	S	Derbs
20	2769 2285	425	Bretby Lane	Bretby	S	Derbs
21	2782 2255	393	Ashby Road	Woodville	N	Derbs
22	2756 2238	386	Brizlincote Lane	Stanton	N	Staffs
23	2636 2211	229	end of Woods Lane	Newhall	S	Staffs
24	2632 2065	246	Stanton Road	Overseal	S	Derbs
25	2514 2044	230	Rosliston Road	Rosliston	-	Derbs
26	2455 2103	175	Waterside Road	Drakelow	-	Derbs
	2449 2107		River Trent			

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Spode pottery set for return to Stoke-on-Trent factory museum



The Spode factory stopped trading in 2008

Thousands of Spode pottery items are to be moved to a museum, with some going on display for the first time in years.

The Spode Museum Collection has been "locked away in storage" since the factory went into administration in 2008, said Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

Next year, more than 20,000 pieces will be moved to the site of the former Inset nightclub on Eleanora Street.

Its transformation into a museum storage space is expected to be completed by February.

There, the collection will be catalogued, with some items later going on display.

Councillor Daniel Jellyman said the project marked "a monumental occasion for our city's heritage".



The site began making pottery in the 18th Century

The cabinet member for infrastructure, regeneration and heritage said moving the collection items "to their rightful home" would also encourage "residents and visitors to see some of the wonderful heritage sites in Stoke". Spode, founded by Josiah Spode in the 18th Century, is renowned for its innovation, and played a big role in

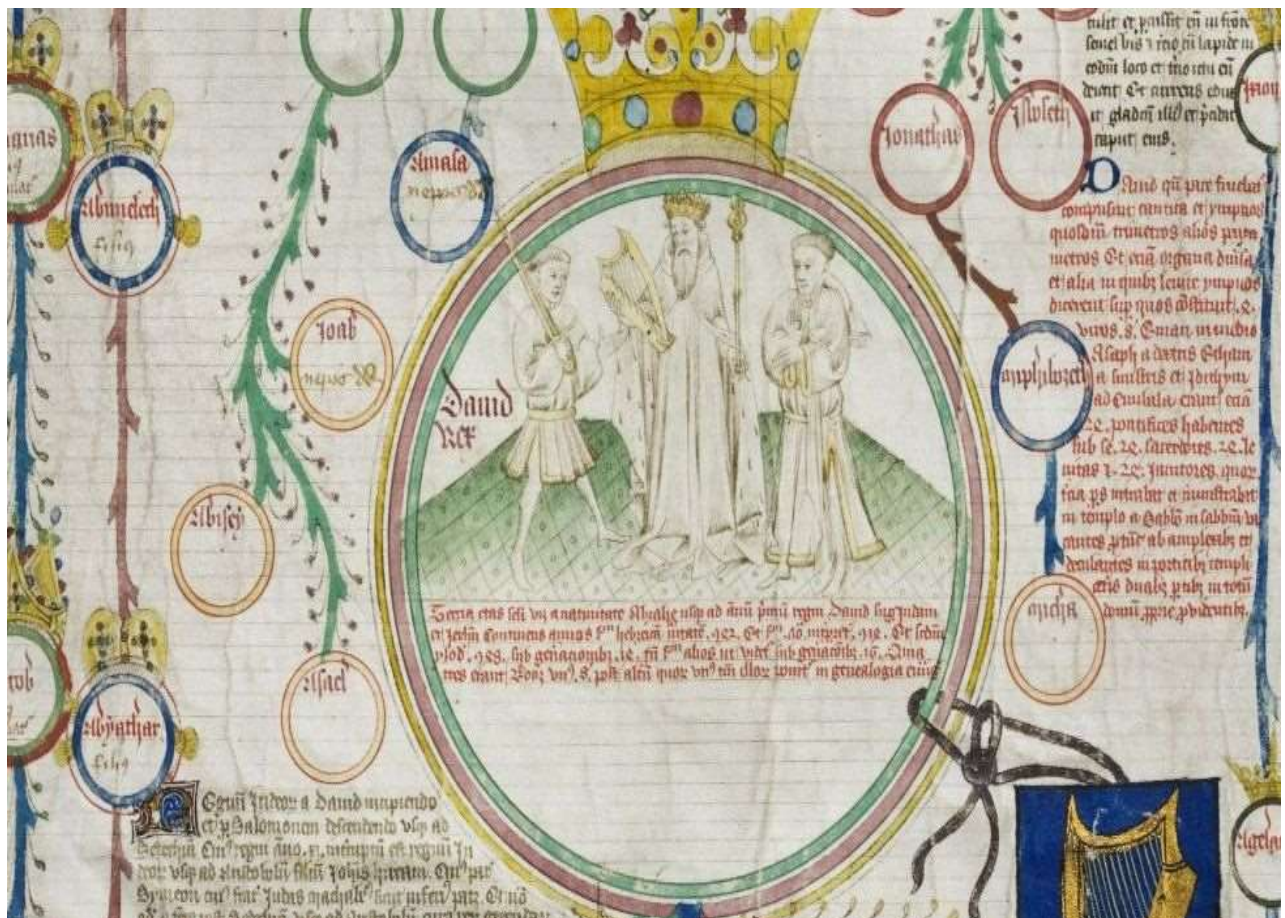
Stoke-on-Trent pottery becoming some of the most sought after around the world.

Spode Museum, which has already opened on the site, will gain a meeting room, display spaces and windows so passers-by can "see more of the wonderful treasures", said the council, which funded the work with Historic England.

A small collection of Spode pottery at the museum had become an established attraction in the Potteries, the council added.



Nottingham researchers to examine Wars of Roses manuscript



The roll is almost 50ft long and is considered one of the world's finest chronicles of its period

Researchers are to examine a rare manuscript made during the Wars of the Roses to understand more about it.

The roll, held by the London Society of Antiquaries, is almost 50ft (15m) long and is considered one of the world's finest late-medieval chronicles.

A Nottingham Trent University (NTU) team hope to digitise the roll, which they said presented unique challenges.

One researcher said: "This is a fascinating document which still holds secrets after hundreds of years."

'Beautiful object'

The team, led by Dr Natasha Hodgson, has been investigating a number of genealogical rolls - manuscripts designed to show the lineage of a royal or noble family - which appear to have been mass-produced during the reign of Henry VI.

Dr Hodgson said the team hoped to understand their cultural significance better.

"This one is particularly unique in terms of its size and detail," said Dr Hodgson, of the School of Arts and Humanities.

"The team are thrilled to help conserve this beautiful object and make it more accessible."



The team is using a new imaging technique to uncover the manuscript's secrets

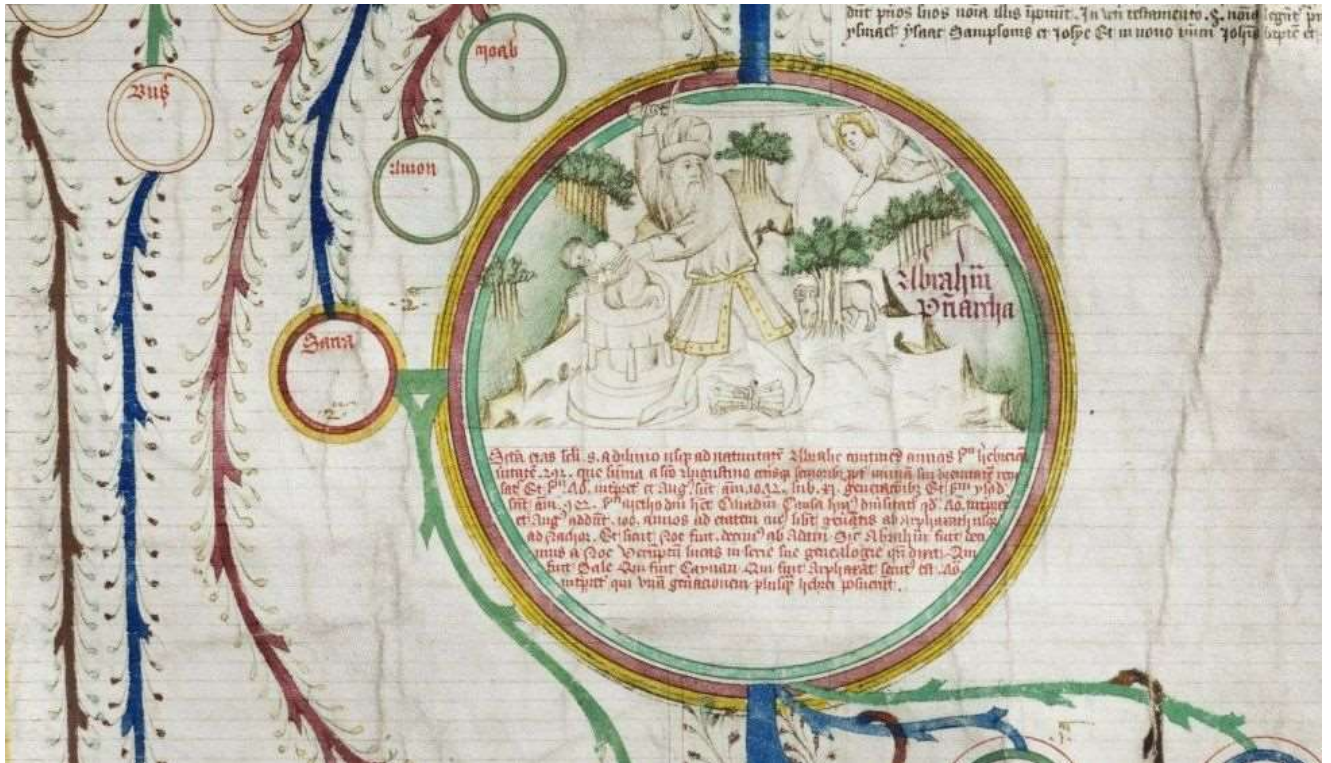
The roll - known as MS 501 which is located at Burlington House, London - contains a series of images thought to have been created by William Abell, a well-known fifteenth-century manuscript illuminator based in London.

It was made between 1447 and 1455, in the period leading up to the Battle of St Albans when Henry VI's favourites were toppled from power.

The team said a new imaging method, developed by NTU for scanning manuscript rolls, will produce high resolution colour images of it.

A special wall has been created to hang the roll on so it can be studied.

Distinguished Professor Haida Liang, a heritage scientist and physicist, who is leading the imaging process, said: "Hopefully this new method will be adopted more widely in the future as a form of advanced digitisation."



The manuscript is being delivered to the university's Clifton Campus, where it will be examined by the research team.

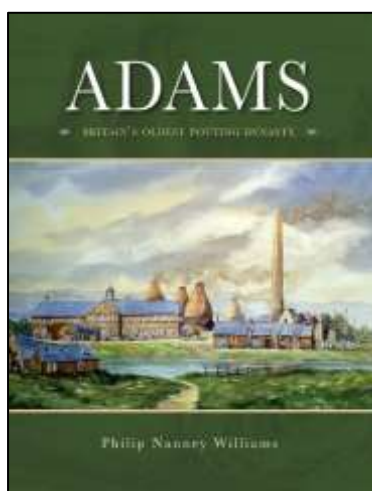
"This is one of the rare occasions that a museum object is brought over to us," added Prof Liang.

"Normally we have to take our mobile lab to the museum.

"Given the dimension of the roll, our technicians had to construct a special 'wall' to hang the roll on, to facilitate imaging."

Source: BBC News

Adams: Britain's oldest potting dynasty, Philip Nanney Williams, Llwyn Estates, 2022, 321p., £30.00. ISBN 978-0-995537-1-4.



Plentiful local resources of coal and clay were intensively exploited by entrepreneurs in the six north Staffordshire towns of Tunstall, Burslem, Hanley, Fenton, Stoke, and Longton earning the area the affectionate collective epithet: 'the Potteries'. The author, a descendant of the Adams family, follows in the footsteps of an earlier relative, PWL Adams, whose weighty *A History of the Adams Family of North Staffordshire*, was published in 1914, bringing the story of the oldest of the potting dynasty up to date with the demise of the Adams Company in 1966. Overwhelmed by a combination of 'Death Duties', post-war austerity, persistence with

freehand artists rather than much cheaper lithographic decoration, and old-fashioned facilities in need of modernisation, the company was absorbed by Wedgwood, who still produce some of Adams' ceramic ware designs.

Adams may not be the first name that springs to mind when thinking of the great Staffordshire potteries. The family certainly deserve their place alongside the likes of Wedgwood, Spode, Minton and others. Beginning in the late-thirteenth century, the author guides us through the generations in ten chronological chapters. Woven into a colourful local family history is the story of the development of the pottery industry, both strands set in the context of major events at home and abroad. Among the early products that begin promoting the potteries more widely from the late-seventeenth century were coarse stoneware 'butterpots'. These tall cylindrical pots were supplied to nearby Uttoxeter, where they were filled with butter for sale to London dealers. Also popular were 'tygs', communal drinking vessels with two or more handles for passing around; and 'Bartmann' or 'Bellarmine' salt-glazed jugs, copies of drinking vessels originally made in the Rhineland featuring a signature bearded man that may explain where the term 'mug' derives. More refined ceramics followed with the introduction and increasing popularity of tea drinking and the sophistication of the late-18th century painted 'Queensware' china, and Jasperware.

Commercial success and entrepreneurial flair lead to a rise in status. Landed estates are acquired. Unlike most industrial dynasties it is hard to find a black sheep. John Adams (b.1685) ran up debts that had to be settled by a younger brother but he is the exception. The overriding family ethic is of hard work and public duty. Members of the family variously served as church wardens or organised Sunday School treats.

Unlike the earlier book which had a few sketchy black and white engravings this new history is beautifully produced and includes 300+ high quality colour and black-and-white photographs and illustrations. Use of pertinent contemporary quotes from a wide range of sources is testament to the diligent research that has gone into this thoroughly enjoyable book.

Richard Stone

Maxstoke Castle

- **Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 2.00** we will visit Maxstoke Castle near Coleshill for a guided tour of the main apartments and an opportunity to stroll around the gardens (and moat!) The Castle tour lasts about 1¾ hours - depending on interest - and comprises a brief introduction of the history and architecture of the Castle, conducted outside (weather permitting), followed – for those feeling keen/strong - by climbing the Gatehouse – flat rubber-soled shoes obviously desirable - for those who want to get a picture of the setting of the house and a better view of some of the architecture. Followed by entry to the House to see around some of the ceremonial rooms. Included is a tour of the garden afterwards.

£24 per person including tea/coffee and biscuits



Please reserve mePlaces for the visit to Maxstoke Castle, Wednesday 19 April 2023 at £24pp

Name.....

Address.....

E mail..... Telephone.....

Please send cheques to SAHS c/o R Totty Rock Cottage Redhill Rugeley WS14 4LL

(Alternately contact the Hon. Treasurer to arrange a bank transfer kjboutthere@yahoo.co.uk)

Walk in Sutton Park, Wednesday 1 March 2023, 11am

Following his lecture to the Society in November, Dr Mike Hodder will lead a guided walk around some of the many well-preserved archaeological remains of various dates in Sutton Park. We will see banks and ditches that show how deer were hunted in the medieval deer park and how woods were managed; fishponds, millpools and trackways; remains of a 19th century golf course and racecourse; and traces of a First World War camp.

Meet 11am at Sutton Park's Town Gate, off Park Road, Sutton Coldfield (nearest postcode B73 6BU). Ample parking just inside Sutton Park. Town Gate is close to Sutton Coldfield railway station (trains to Lichfield and Birmingham). The walk will finish at approx 1.00.

The walk will be about 2.5 miles long. Some of it will be on rough grass and unsurfaced paths, and it includes some uneven surfaces and gentle slopes. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear because there is no shelter on the route and paths may be muddy.

There will be a small charge of £5 per person.

Please reserve me Places for the visit to Sutton Park on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at £5pp

Name.....

Address.....

E mail..... Telephone.....

Please send cheques to SAHS c/o R Totty Rock Cottage Redhill Rugeley WS14 4LL

(Alternately contact the Hon. Treasurer to arrange a bank transfer kjboutthere@yahoo.co.uk)

In December 2022 the Staffordshire Archive Service announced that the first few digitised enclosure award maps had been placed on the staffspasttrack website for free public access.

Enclosure maps and their accompanying awards are important sources for local, agricultural and economic history in the 18th and 19th centuries, and reflect a time when communities were experiencing significant change.

Enclosure was the process of dividing common land into enclosed fields. This started in the medieval period but most surviving documentation relates to the enclosures of the 18th and 19th centuries, governed by individual Acts of Parliament which explain circumstances and context, and which remain in force to this day.

The work was carried out by local surveyors appointed as Inclosure Commissioners. They made detailed maps on parchment, usually large in scale and highly accurate, showing the new landscape of fields, roads and adjacent buildings as affected by the Act. Most maps therefore do not show other pieces of land or buildings beyond the extent of the enclosure. New and existing access roads are shown making these documents an important source also for rights of way research.

The accompanying text awards are made of parchment, often large and bulky, and can be difficult to use or understand, unlike tithe awards. They are usually arranged in sections starting with boundaries and roads, then there might be special allotments such as to the Lord of the Manor, Vicar, or Trustees of Common Lands, then continuing with a section for each landowner. There is a paragraph describing each plot mainly in terms of its acreage and boundary, sometimes with a clause of liability for maintaining boundaries alongside roads. As former common or waste land there would be no reference to any tenants.

Please note that whilst the enclosure maps have been digitised, the awards have not, due to their size and complexity. For further enquiries please contact Staffordshire Record Office

This was a FoSSA (Friends of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archives) project financially supported by **MIDLAND ANCESTORS**.



Part of the Alrewas Enclosure Award map of 1810 (copyright Staffordshire Record Office)

Live Lectures at The Guildhall February to May 2023

17th February Elaine Joyce

The Annual General Meeting will also take place this evening.

Colonel William Careless: King Charles' most Faithful Servant

Elaine is a retired teacher, living in Erdington, Birmingham and has always had a keen interest in local history. She began researching Colonel William Carless over thirty years ago because her great - grandmother's name was Carless and it was hoped to find that she was descended from the man who hid in the Oak Tree with King Charles II. Elaine never found a connection but did learn a great deal about his life and the role that local Catholic families played in sheltering and saving the King. It involved many happy hours researching first at Lichfield Record Office, then when that was closed, at Stafford Record Office. Eventually so much information had been gathered that it was shaped it into a book given the importance of the story in showing the bravery and quiet heroism of the Staffordshire people.

17th March Dr Trevor James

Historic Inn Names

Trevor James has been an adult education tutor for fifty years, alongside his career as teacher, schools inspector, lecturer and consultant. Educated at Leicester University, he obtained his MA in Local History and Topography in 1970 and his Ph.D in 1978 for his research into 'The Development of Organized Sport in Schools and Universities from the Tudors to the end of the 19th Century'. As a result he is regarded as a professional topographer and also a sports historian.

He joined the Historical Association in 1965 and has been active in various roles ever since. From 2006 until 2019 he was Editor of The Historian, the Historical Association's members' journal; and since 1987 he has been leading the Young Historian Project which organizes and judges the annual Young Historian Awards.

31st March Mathew Morris

Latest Works at Leicester Cathedral

Mathew has worked for University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) since 2004, excavating a wide range of rural and urban archaeology across the Midlands, from the Prehistoric period through to the Industrial Revolution. He graduated from the University of Leicester in 2003 with a BA in Archaeology and an MA in Landscape Studies. His interests include urban archaeology, community archaeology along with Roman and Medieval archaeology. In his spare time he helps run the Leicester Fieldworkers and the Leicester branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club.

14th April David Skillen

Knitters, Nailers and Traitors: Belper in the Industrial Revolution.

David describes himself as a “consumer of history” and speaker on a variety of historical subjects. David worked for 35 years in the Civil Service. He lives in Belper Derbyshire, where he was a guide at the famous Belper North Mill for three years.

How did a small town in Derbyshire help to change the world during the Industrial Revolution? In this talk we explore the way in which one family, the Strutts, helped to change the way we work forever. We see how they built a thriving community that has continued to change and evolve to this day. We look at their revolutionary buildings, many of which still stand, see how they cared for their workforce and how they built the modern town of Belper. We will also discuss the man who betrayed Belper's industrial secrets to the rest of the world.

28th April Dr Kate Farr

From Plaque to Poo

Dr Kate Farr is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Sciences, University of Wolverhampton where she has taught for 32 years. Her interests are in the impacts of humans on their environment over the last 10 000 years since the last Ice Age. She has examined cores of mud from many lakes and bogs to examine pollen, algae and other evidence to find out what the environment was like in the past and what humans were doing there. ‘One of the most tricky sites we cored was the bottom of Loch Ness where we used a mini submarine to check all was well, as this is the deepest and probably darkest lake in Britain.’

In the lecture she will introduce you to some of our newly discovered ancient ancestors and consider what happened to the Neanderthals and the Beaker People. Kate will show you how new techniques can reveal so much more about our ancestors by analysing plaque on teeth, poo and even soils after any remains have decayed away completely. Archaeologists are now having to be much more careful about throwing anything away as science has shown that in future there may be a wealth of further information in the most unpromising finds.

Zoom Lectures February to May 2023

3rd March Dr Victoria Yuskaitis

Archaeology, Antiquarians, and Anchorites: A New Methodology for Studying Anchoritism

Medieval anchoritism has traditionally been studied through surviving medieval manuscripts like “Ancrene Wisse”, a guide for anchorites describing how to live the vocation. The research

explores the lived experience of anchorites through the lens of archaeology, demonstrating that anchoritic archaeology not only survives, but can be interpreted even if textual evidence of a cell at a particular site no longer survives. A case study of anchorite cells in Shropshire demonstrates the value of an archaeological perspective alongside medieval historical and literary evidence. Using original archaeological typology and methodology, alongside archival evidence from antiquarian researchers, her work invites new questions and understandings of medieval anchoritism.

Dr Victoria Yuskaitis graduated with a PhD in Medieval Studies from the University of Leeds in January 2021, then held a Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Leeds Arts and Humanities Research Institute (LAHRI) until July 2022. Her research focuses on medieval English anchorites and the cells that physically shaped and defined their lived experience through the lens of archaeology. Dr Yuskaitis currently works full-time as an Academic Skills Officer at the University of Southampton, and also continues to publish about anchoritic archaeology in academic journals and edited collections.

21st April

TBC

News from the Past, 4 March 2023

Council for British Archaeology, West Midlands

Our annual day of short talks about the latest archaeological discoveries in the West Midlands will be held on Saturday 4th March 2023 at the Priory Meeting Rooms, Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF, 10.00 -3.30

Talks include Sutton Park, Attingham Park's Regency pleasure garden, recent work in Staffordshire, excavations in Old Hall Street Wolverhampton, digital reconstruction projects, and the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

£20 for CBA West Midlands members; £25 for non-members.

To book a place and for further information:

<https://cbawestmidlands.org.uk/2023-news-from-the-past/>

Wall Roman site: Friends of Letocetum talks series 2023

All talks are at 7:30 pm at The Village Hall, Watling Street, **Wall**, Lichfield WS14 0AW

Tickets £3 including refreshments. Prior booking not required.

Further information: www.wallromansitefriendsofletocetum.co.uk or phone 07968 270985

Tuesday 31 January 2023 "Lest We Forget: Stories of those who served at R.A.F. Lichfield (1939-1945) by Lyn Tyler

Tuesday 28 February "Wall in the Roman West Midlands" by Mike Hodder

Tuesday 28 March "West on Watling Street: recent research into the English Heritage collections from Wall and Wroxeter" by Cameron Moffett, English Heritage Curator

Friends of Moseley Bog: Moseley Bog Archaeology walk, Saturday 21 January 2023

A short walk visiting burnt mounds, a millpool dam and Victorian gardens. Starting from the car park at Moseley Bog Nature Reserve, Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham B13 9JX

11am and 2pm (same route each time). Free, but advance booking essential:

Email mosbogfriends@gmail.com, stating which time's walk you would like to attend



The History Access point situated on the first floor of Lichfield Library in the St Mary Centre has reopened after a two-year closure caused by Covid. It is available for drop in research Tuesday to Saturday – and is adjacent to the Hub Café.

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

Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society.

Our website is: www.sahs.uk.net

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