



STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER May 2026

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Laser Cleaning of Monuments

In March this year 17 members were guided around the beautiful churches at Tong and Claverley by our President Dr John Hunt who displayed his unrivalled knowledge of church history and construction in the West Midlands.

Tong is perhaps best known for the medieval chest tombs that fill much of the nave. During our visit these were being cleaned using laser treatment to remove the dirt and grime of five centuries. I had thought that this would be quite a complex procedure but it turned out to be just one young lady sitting on a stool and wielding what looked like a small hair dryer.

The results are clear; the carvings are now clean and gleaming white and the very fine detail which can be seen in the small figures on the side of this tomb is perfectly preserved. The procedure does no damage to the tombs and in particular the small fragments of paint still adhering to some of the figures are not disturbed but it is quite time consuming and therefore expensive to do.

STAFFORDSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

Next Volume and Anniversary Conference

The next volume of the Staffordshire Record Society – 4th series, volume XXIX – will be Jean Birrell's edition and translation of the Alrewas manor court rolls, 1259–1330. Lying some six miles north-east of Lichfield, and partly bounded by the Rivers Tame and Trent, Alrewas was a manor of some 4,000 acres, owned in this period by the Somerville family. The run of court rolls for the manor is one of the best in the country, especially regarding their early survival and the lords being a knightly family rather than a noble or an institution. Best known for her work on medieval forests – including her edition of documents for Cannock and Kinver forests published by the Society in 1999 as 4th series, volume XVIII – Birrell has translated the court roll entries, making them more accessible to present-day readers, although the original spellings of personal and place names have been retained. As might be expected, they are full of local detail, and somewhat unusually one of the manorial customs was Borough English, whereby the youngest son inherited a villein holding and not the eldest, something which understandably could cause problems.

The best way to get the volume is to become a member of the Society – the subscription is very reasonable at only £15 a year! And in recent years members have received a volume of articles on Staffordshire history and an edition of the 1851 Religious Census. For further details, and membership application form, see the Society's website: www.s-h-c.org.uk

* * *

The Society was founded in 1879 – originally as the William Salt Archaeological Society, referring to the name of the Staffordshire antiquary whose collection formed the core of the William Salt Library in Stafford (now part of the new Staffordshire History Centre) – and in the run-up to its 125th anniversary in 2029, the Society will be holding a two-day conference on Staffordshire’s histories and its records on Thursday and Friday 3 and 4 June 2027 in Stafford. Make a note of the date!

The intention is to publish some of the papers in a volume in the anniversary year, and proposals for papers and presentations are now being invited. Papers are welcome on all aspects of Staffordshire’s history and archaeology, and on how changing approaches to the county’s history contribute more generally to local studies. Plenary addresses by Professor Jayne Carroll on Staffordshire Place Names and Professor Alannah Tomkins on Workhouses are already confirmed.

Speakers may focus specifically on developments within the county, use Staffordshire sources to address broader themes, or explore how changing approaches to Staffordshire contribute to general developments in local history. We hope there will be collective presentations from community-based projects as well as conventional individual papers.

Abstracts of up to 300 words for papers of up to 25 minutes should be sent to the Society’s secretary Matthew Blake at – matthew.blake@btinternet.com – by 1 October 2026.

Archaeology find in Hopton and Coton Parish

A few residents recently noticed archaeologists working in one of the fields on the Bloor Homes North of Stafford development site and asked what was going on. We’ve now had confirmation that the work is part of the normal archaeology required through the planning process. Before development starts, archaeologists carry out surveys and trial trenches to check for anything of historic interest. One area of the site showed something worth investigating, so it’s now being excavated and recorded by archaeologists. From what’s been seen so far there may be remains of a Bronze Age roundhouse, which could be around 3,500 years old.

The work is being monitored by the County archaeologist and everything found will be properly recorded. The excavation is taking place on land within Hopton and Coton Parish, on the area Bloor Homes is currently developing North SDL. This whole landscape around Hopton Heath, Kingston Hill, Beacon Hill/Bank, Blackheath, St Thomas’s Heath, Tixall Heath, Hanyates/Hanyards, St Thomas’s Priory and the waterways has a long history, so discoveries like this are always interesting.

Current, British and World Archaeology Journals

Over many years SAHS has subscribed to Current, British and World Archaeology journals. Many members enjoyed borrowing copies for perusal. However after covid lock down numbers of borrowers had dropped to two or three "regular" borrowers. A decision was taken at Committee level that these numbers do not support the subscription rates and the subscriptions have been cancelled. There will no longer be any journals at meetings.

Thank you for the support over the years.

Diana Wilkes



Staffordshire
History Centre

Bookings open

Staffordshire History Study Day 2026

May
16

Saturday 16 May 2026
Staffordshire History Centre
9.30am - 3.30pm

Tickets £16 which includes a
light buffet lunch - visit the
website for programme details
and to book.



Explore the history of our county with a day of talks from specialist researchers, curators and authors.

Join Professor Alannah Tomkins (Keele University) and Dr Caroline Wilhelmsson (Historic Royal Palaces) who will be sharing their research together with updates from County Archaeologist Shane Kelleher and

Dr Andrew Sargent (Victoria County History). Further speakers to be confirmed.

Tickets are £16 per person (price includes a light buffet lunch).

[Staffordshire History Study Day - Staffordshire History](#)



**Staffordshire
History Centre**



Staffordshire History Study Day

Saturday 16 May 2026, 9.30am - 3.30pm
Staffordshire History Centre
Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2LZ

PROGRAMME

DOORS OPEN 9.30AM
Explore the Staffordshire History Centre.

10 AM WELCOME
Celebrating the Staffordshire History Centre Project
Joanna Terry, Head of Archives and Heritage

10.10 AM KEYNOTE
Professor Alannah Tomkins, Keele University
'Workhouses before 1834: rules and realities'
Workhouse life was ostensibly governed by rules, but a lack of uniformity across the country means that institutions had different priorities and protocols for everyday life. To add a further complication, the reality of workhouse living could diverge from the rules in significant ways. This talk discusses the preoccupations of workhouse rules that were devised by parishes, and the ways that we can find out about paupers' experiences within workhouse walls. Staffordshire is mentioned in the context of other counties across England, chiefly from the 1720s to the 1820s.

11.00 AM
Victoria County History News
Dr Andrew Sargent

BREAK 11.30 AM

11.45 AM
County Archaeology News
Shane Kelleher, Staffordshire County Council

Please note: times of speakers and breaks may vary slightly

12.15 KEYNOTE
Dr Caroline Wilhelmsson, Assistant Curator of Historic Buildings, HM Tower of London
'The Minton tiles in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist: Understanding and preserving the Tower of London's Victorian heritage'
The influential Victorian architect Anthony Salvin undertook a campaign of restoration at the Tower of London between 1860 and 1869. Among other neo-Gothic alterations, one major intervention was the installation of a new tiled floor in the Romanesque Chapel of St John the Evangelist inside the White Tower. Thousands of bespoke tiles were made by Minton & Hollins specially for this commission.

1.15 PM LUNCH
Explore the Staffordshire History Centre over lunch.

2.15PM WELCOME BACK
Introduction to the afternoon
Joanna Terry, Head of Archives and Heritage

Short Film – Archaeology exhibition spotlight
Short film behind the scenes planning for exhibition

2.30 PM KEYNOTE
Martin Brown, Staffordshire Historian
'Cedric Price and the Potteries ThinkBelt Project'
Exploring a visionary mid-1960s architectural proposal, and its surprisingly wide reach and contemporary relevance.

3.30 PM
Closing remarks and close



Partnership with


Tales from the Bawdy Courts

The records of the consistory courts of the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry are extensive and can offer never ending insights into the lives of our forefathers and foremothers living here.

One such person is Mary Tagg, widow of the parish of St Mary Stafford. She is first mentioned in a defamation case from 1668 in which Thomas Rogers complained that John Mason of Stone told friends that he had seen him in bed with Mary Tagg.



LD30/9/2/3/19

There is another case in 1669, in which Thomas Rogers servant to Mary Tagg who keeps a shoe makers shop in Stafford complains that Mary Bucknall, aged 21 the widowed daughter of Mary Tagg who lived with her mother in their house in Eastgate Street was told by their neighbour Susan wife of Thomas Hall 'Thou art Thomas Roger's bastard'. The words were spoken whilst they were cleaning a channel between their houses. (Servant here means an employee rather than house servant.)

In 1674 Mary Tagg herself was the defendant in a case brought by Francis Moreton who alleged that she had said 'he doth keep my daughter Mary Bucknall to be his whore'. One of the witnesses was a Henry Haycock of Uttoxeter who was a prisoner for debt kept in Moreton's house.

In 1677 Mary Tagg brought her own case against Matthew Moore of Stafford alleging that he had said that she was a perpetual whore.

In 1684 Elizabeth Tagg another daughter of Mary Tagg brought a case against Margery wife of Thomas Shelley of Stafford who was alleged to have said to Elizabeth 'thou are a whore'.

Mary Tagg widow died in 1695 and her will, made in 1681, is in Stafford. In it she left her possessions to her daughters Elizabeth Tagg and Mary Bucknall. There is an inventory showing that she was worth £18 18s 2d. Oddly there were eight beds (all furnished) in the house and 10 pairs of spare sheets in the brewhouse. The property, which had several rooms plus kitchen and brewhouse was otherwise sparsely furnished.

Such was life in Eastgate Street in Stafford (which is now the site of the History Centre where these records are kept.)

New Season – Autumn 2026

Our autumn season starts with a talk at Wade Street Methodist Church on 18 September. Further details will appear in the next newsletter which is due to appear on 1 September.

Current Season

There are still three talks to come in our current season

L = live in Wade Street Methodist Church Hall, 8.00pm, entered from Frog Lane

Z = by Zoom (members only)

8th May 2026 [L]	Nadia Awal (Black Country Living Museum)	<i>Forging Ahead – developing an authentic 1940s-60s Black Country town experience</i>
Nadia Awal is a museum professional with over 15 years' experience in the arts and heritage sector. Starting her career in university museums, she has worked with an array of collections such as fine art, heritage, and African collections. She is currently a Researcher at the Black Country Living Museum and has been working on <i>Forging Ahead</i> since 2018. Her passions lie in finding new and engaging ways to represent the histories of people from all walks of life.		<i>Forging Ahead</i> was Black Country Living Museum's ambitious capital project, which saw the museum transformed with the addition of a 1940s-60s Black Country town. Starting from the very beginning, this talk explains how stories and buildings were identified, and how they were developed into immersive experiences for the visiting public. The talk will cover all the 'little details' that help to make the authentic whole, such as interpretation, research, objects (and even light shades!)
22nd May 2026 [Z]	Dr. Steve Lewitt (independent scholar)	<i>16th-19th century South Staffordshire ironmasters - a new look</i>
Steve Lewitt acquired his doctorate from the Institute for Historical Research in 2023 after a career in both the public and private sector. He has been Secretary of the Society since 2018.		This talk will consider the creation, development and subsequent decline of the iron-making industry in the Smestow valley, south Staffordshire - a precursor to the creation of the Black Country. It will consider how those who developed the industry from the late 16th century and then extended it can be categorised, and, if this new typology which is proposed here can be extended to cover the development of other iron-making areas, locally, regionally or nationally, or, indeed, other industries created in the same time frame.
5th Jun 2026 [L]	Prof. Jayne Carroll (University of Nottingham)	<i>The History of English Place Names</i>

Jayne Carroll is Professor in Early English and Name-Studies at the University of Nottingham, and also Honorary Secretary of the English Place-Name Society. She was educated in London before receiving her PhD from the University of Nottingham and conducting research at the University of Iceland as the recipient of an Icelandic government scholarship. Her work has been widely published, including studies of Staffordshire, Shropshire, and areas of the Danelaw, and she is actively involved in a number of ongoing projects, including working with Staffordshire Record Office.	This talk will shed light on the somewhat hidden history to be found in place names which might easily be taken for granted. It will include aspects of landscape, settlement, and language in considering twenty-first century interpretations of place-name studies, drawing examples from Staffordshire, its immediate neighbours, and beyond.
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Transactions Volume LVII is expected to be delivered by the printers this month and will be distributed to members to arrive later this month or in early June.

Why you should read Transactions Vol LVII

Mike Hodder

Volume LVII of the Society's *Transactions* contains a detailed account of the excavation of a Roman villa, an analysis of 16th to 18th century wills, a report on an excavation of 19th- to 20th-century pottery kilns, and the usual summaries of recent archaeological work in Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Walsall and Wolverhampton.

"Excavation of a Roman villa at Acton Trussell, Staffordshire, by the Penk Valley Archaeological Group" written by the excavation director, the late Tony Habberley, and myself, is part of the Society's work of encouraging publication of hitherto unpublished archaeological work. It follows the collection of reports on excavations in Lichfield, and an overview of them, in Transactions LI. At Acton Trussell, 34 years' work, which began with the intention of establishing whether the isolated St James's church originally lay within a medieval settlement, unexpectedly located a Roman villa. Subsequent excavation showed that its stone walls succeeded an earlier timber structure and that the buildings lay within a ditched, and later stone-walled, enclosure. In addition, there were Bronze Age and Iron Age features, Neolithic pottery and Neolithic and Mesolithic worked flint.

Lynda Holland's "An analysis of Stafford Wills, 1500-1760" analyses 562 wills, which were made by adult males and widows and spinsters and are housed in ecclesiastical record depositories. There was a general growth in will-making during the 17th century and most of the wills included in the analysis date from the middle of the 17th century to the middle of the 18th century. Comparison with burial records at the churches of St Mary, St Chad and Castlechurch shows that only a small

percentage of the total population left wills. Wills were often made some time before death rather than on deathbed, sometimes while the person was weak or sick. Signatures indicate that the growth in literacy over time was slower in women than in men. There was no gender preference for executors. Some witnesses acted on several wills. Some wills have formulaic preambles. A neutral religious preamble was more common than one expressing traditional (Catholic) or protestant beliefs. In the later period, more wills have no preamble. Burial instructions in wills include specification of the location within the church and the method of burial.

“Evaluation and excavation of two 19th- to 20th-century pottery ovens at the former Registry Street Works, Stoke-on-Trent”, by Helen Daniel describes the investigation of kilns first built in the 1880s and repaired or rebuilt about 1916. The ash pits in one kiln had been extended after the areas between them had been filled with 20th century glazed tiles stamped R S Morris. A machine sondage over 2.5m deep under the second kiln did not reach undisturbed ground, possibly reflecting a sawpit shown on maps of the site prior to kiln construction. In addition to pottery wasters, kiln furniture on the site included clay stilts, saggars, spurs and saddles. The saddles were larger than usual, possibly because they were used in the manufacture of plain wall or fireplace tiles which were found on the site. Pottery underlying the kilns, which helps date their construction, included 19th-century Minton products. It results from widespread dumping by several factories and the secondary use of this material for “corks”, the base of kilns. Stamped refractory flue tile and stamped refractory bricks were the products of local and Scottish works.

Archaeological work in Staffordshire has included observation of slurry tank construction on the site of Dieulacres Abbey near Leek. This revealed robbed stone walls which were possibly an extension of the monks’ “day rooms”. 16th- to 18th- century surfaces and walls, which probably relate to the former Nether Hall, were found in Burton-on-Trent. In Market Street in Tamworth, an ostensibly 18th century building was found to incorporate timber framed walls of an earlier date. Details of Victorian villas in Stafford included tiled floors. Early 19th century farm buildings were recorded in Marston and Eccleshall. Other building recording included the 19th-century Convent in Stone, designed by Hansom and Blount, and a Second World War pillbox at Willington Quarry. Volunteers are undertaking condition surveys of sites on Cannock Chase, and heritage trails have been created at Froghall Wharf and Beaudesert Park.

Recent investigations in Stoke-on-Trent have included the 19th and 20th cent Albion Pottery in Hanley, Longton Hall brickworks and Tunstall refractory brick works. Down-draught pottery kilns at the Phoenix works may be the earliest surviving examples of this type in Stoke-on-Trent.

On the site of Wolverhampton Old Hall a curtain wall and the moat platform were recorded. Roof tiles of 15th to 17th century date may be from a precursor to the 16th century Hall. Also in Wolverhampton, work as part of the canalside development revealed remains of the 19th century Midland Railway transshipment basin.

Mike Hodder



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DR CHARLOTTE BALL



www.ticketsource.co.uk/lemonandgreyheritage

FRIDAY
EVENINGS



7:30-9:00



CRUCK HOUSE
LICHFIELD

STARTING 8TH MAY

CRUCK HOUSE
STOWE STREET
LICHFIELD
WS13 6BP

Interim report on geophysics investigation into the former Chapel of St Andrew near Burton on Trent

On 12th March 2026, a limited geophysics investigation was conducted on the possible site of the former Chapel of St Andrew on Andressey, a large river island between two arms of the River Trent in Burton on Trent. This took the form of electrical resistivity (tomography) and was conducted by Andrew and Margaret Austin of the Repton Village History Group, with organisation and support provided by staff and volunteers from

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Andressey stands just across from the site of the former Burton Abbey, separated by an arm of the River Trent and now accessible on foot across an ornate Victorian cast-iron bridge. It is in the care of East Staffs Borough Council (ESBC) and our thanks to them for their permission to conduct the survey on the site. The chapel site is itself set in what appears to be a formerly moated area, presumably as protection and to control access to the cult centre. The site has been much changed over the centuries, laid out as a formal garden in the Victorian period and later used as a children's play area into the early 21st century. It is currently laid to grass and crossed by a tarmac path and is set with many mature trees. Its former name of *St Modwen's Orchard* indicates that it may have once been set with fruit trees. This name was still in use into the 1980s and there is some local discussion about whether it was a cherry orchard, *The Cherry Orchard* being another of its alternative names.

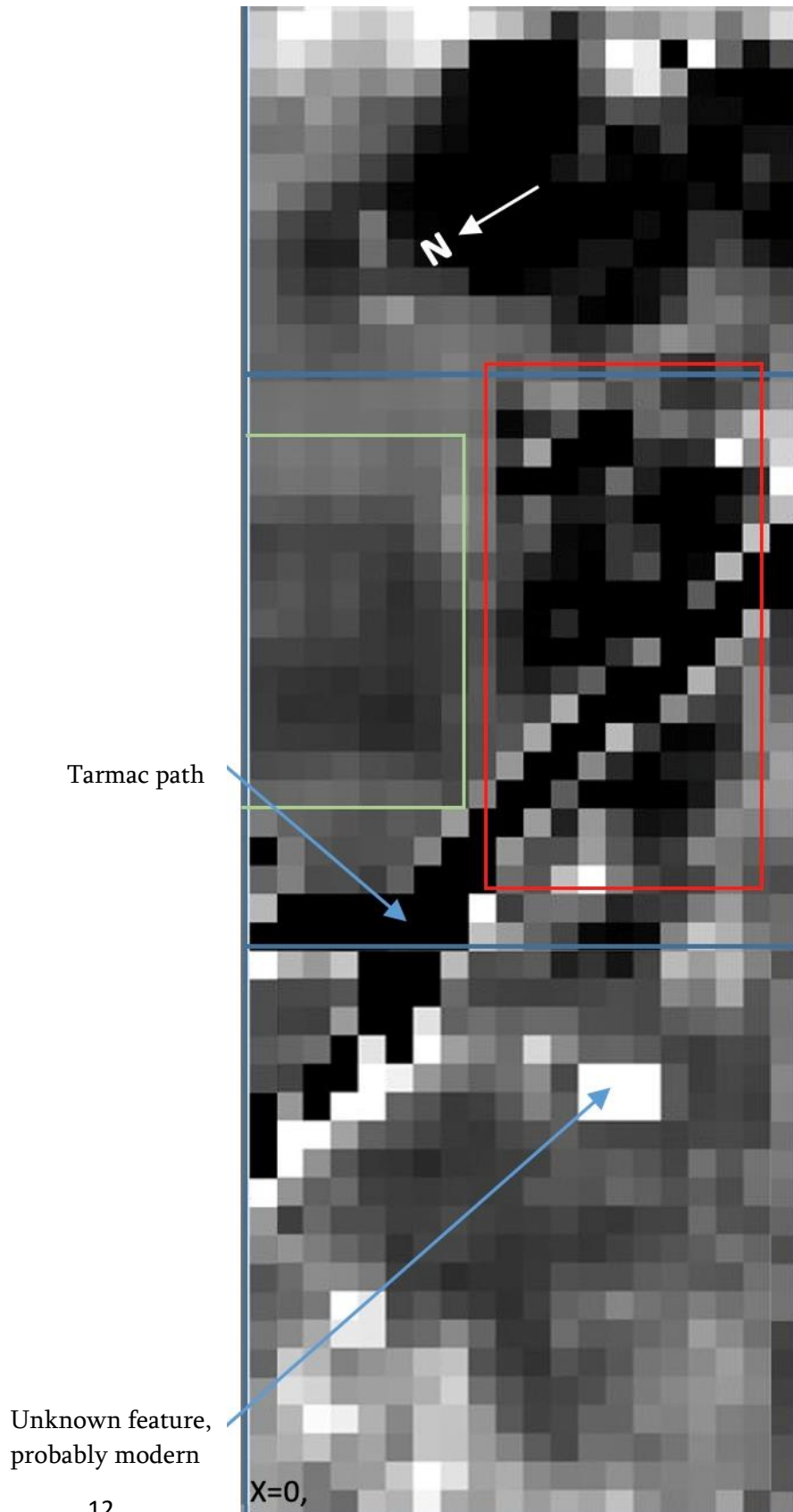
The original chapel dedicated to St Andrew is reputed to have been built on Andressey Isle by a local saint, Modwen of Burton, in the late 7th century CE, although it is also possible that if there were a chapel of this date then it may have been built by the Northumbrian Bishop Wilfred who was active in the area in the years 667-669 and who dedicated other chapels he had built to St Andrew. This chapel is believed to have been destroyed during a Viking raid on the town in 873. There is no mention of the chapel on Andressey for a long period of perhaps 200 years but it was perhaps rebuilt in the 11th century after Burton Abbey was refounded by Earl Wulfric, maybe again in the 12th century during a major renovation of Burton Abbey under Abbot Geoffrey of Burton, a renovation is mentioned in 1201, before its final rebuilding between 1473 and 1493 during the abbacy of Thomas Feylde. Whether it had been rebuilt immediately following the sack of the town in 873 is not known but seems plausible. The central shrine was in the abbey church but Modwen's grave was believed at the time to be in St Andrew's chapel. A building existed there in the early 12th century as during the transfer of the relics of the saint in the 1120s, Abbot Geoffrey himself witnessed a miracle when:

With his own hands, removing the holy bones of the blessed virgin from the old shrine and transferring them into a new and more fitting one, astonishingly all the cloths in which they had been wrapped such a long time before appeared as if new and all the threads with which they had been sewn so long ago were strong and firm, as if they had been made just yesterday.

Following the Dissolution of Monasteries, Burton Abbey lands passed to William Paget in 1546. A survey of former abbey lands by the antiquarian William Dugdale (1605-1686) gives a measure of lead on "Mudwen's Chappell" as 60' x 27'. Having multiple cult centres was not uncommon and pilgrims and petitioners to Modwen may have visited both the abbey shrine and the now empty grave of the saint.

The earliest known map showing the possible location of the chapel dates to 1865 and along with the Ordnance Survey maps of 1900 and 1920 show a rectilinear feature, coloured blue in some maps and therefore likely a rectangular pond, which may correspond with the

possible location of the chapel footprint as it corresponds approximately with Dugdale's lead measure. There is some local speculation that the pond was deliberately created on the site in memory and as a tribute to the chapel.



Results of the survey:

The contact resistances for the tarmac paths were too high to be meaningful and so the values were dummy logged and appear black. The light grey edging is probably due to spread of the foundation chatter.

A clear rectangular feature, outlined green, is defined predominantly by its slightly lower resistance central area. The surround is not of high enough resistance to suggest underlying stone foundations. The path makes interpretation more difficult but there is a hint at least of another rectangular feature of about the expected size and location to the mapped rectangle. It is coloured red and, again, defined by its lower interior resistance with the surrounding resistance insufficient to suggest stone foundations.

The electrical resistivity results seem to support the mixed fortunes of the site but do appear to indicate rectangular features worthy of further investigation. Although not of high enough

resistance to indicate stone foundations, at this stage we are keeping an open mind about whether the site might represent robbed-out foundation trenches for one or more buildings, or indeed, ornamental ponds for a formal garden. Interestingly, a partially buried ashlar stone block was observed in the immediate area of the chapel site, as were a number of similar blocks supporting a cast iron Victorian footbridge across the former moat to the south side. The age of these blocks is not known. Of course, it may well be the case that any trace of medieval buildings is completely lost to us and all that remains is a mishmash of later uses.

For the moment there is enough information in the resistivity to support further fieldwork. ESBC have kindly agreed for us to continue to investigate the site and we will be working with Keele University over the summer on a project with both their students and our volunteers on a further survey using ground penetrating radar equipment (GPR). We hope to be able to answer the question of whether any remains of the chapel are evident using GPR, which provides a below ground three dimensional image. Whatever the outcome, it has been a fascinating study into what was formerly one of the county's most holy sites and the place where pilgrims came from miles around for succour and healing, one of the main centres of the cult of St Modwen. That thought alone is a humbling one.

Dr Mark Knight

With thanks to

Our steadfast volunteers who gave their time in sometimes difficult weather conditions,
Philip Lawford of ESBC,
Andy and Margaret Austin of RVHG .
Dr Nigel Tringham kindly helped with background information.

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Friends of Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archives

A visit to the churches of St Michael and All Angels Hamstall Ridware and St Nicholas Mavesyn Ridware.

St Michael and All Angels is a Grade 1 listed building. In the 14th and 15th centuries much of the present church as it is today was constructed. In the 14th century the church was lengthened to its present length and the walls raised to their present height. The original small chancel was replaced by the present larger one, a small west tower was added, and the chapels were added on the north and south sides. In the 15th century the north and south aisles were built with 3 bay arcades. The south aisle was extended along the south side of the chancel as a chapel and vestry. The perpendicular clerestory was built and the small west tower was raised to its present height and the recessed spire added. The timbered roof to the nave was replaced in the late 15th century. Later developments included the outer walls of the north chapel being rebuilt in the 18th century and the 19th century gabled south porch. We will also hear about Jane Austen's association with the parish.



St Michael



St Nicholas

St Nicholas is altogether different and a total contrast. Although medieval in origin the church was partly demolished in 1782 leaving only the north aisle and west tower remaining from the older structure. The nave and chancel were rebuilt in what was then a modern style. The church is one of only 12 Grade I listed buildings in Lichfield District. It is listed as such as it is a complete example of a late 18th-century church rebuilding including a very rare late 18th-century and early 19th-century conversion of a medieval aisle to the former church into a family chapel with neo-medieval fittings and monuments.

Thursday May 21st 2026 We visit St Michael in the morning starting at 11.00am and in the afternoon we visit St Nicholas starting at 2.00pm

Lunch can be had at the Shoulder of Mutton in Hamstall Ridware but we suggest that you book if you wish to do this and you may need to order in advance. [The Shoulder of Mutton | Hamstall Ridware | Book on: 01889 504488](#)

Cost £7.00 per church

To book a place contact richard.totty4@gmail.com or by post at Rock Cottage Redhill Rugeley WS15 4LL or malcolm.price49@outlook.com and to pay by bank transfer contact Malcolm Price

Reopening Date Confirmed

Stoke-on-Trent City Archives will reopen to the public on Wednesday 6th May.

Due to ongoing building work at the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery all archive visitors should make an advance booking. Please contact us at stoke.archives@stoke.gov.uk.

The following remote services will continue until we reopen:

- Email, postal and phone enquiry services free of charge
- Paid-for copying and research services

- Continued collection of archives from existing and new depositors

Please visit our [Enquiries, Research and Copying Services](#) page for further information.

When we reopen, our opening hours will be:

Wednesday 10:00 – 16:45

Thursday 10:00 – 16.45

Friday 10:00 – 16:45

1st Saturday of the month 10:00 – 16:45

Events

Sandwell Priory and Sandwell Valley walks and talks: Various dates between May and November. Small charge, booking essential <https://www.ticketsource.com/sandwell/e-pddxvj>

Events in the Festival of Archaeology, whose theme this year is “Archaeology and Nature”:

Wednesday 22nd July, 2pm, Holy Trinity Cof E Church, Church Hill, Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1TF: Talk on Archaeology and Nature in Sutton Park and beyond, Past and Present. Free, booking not required. <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival/festival-event-listing/archaeology-and-nature-in-sutton-park-and-beyond-past-and-present.html>

Friday 24th July, 11:30, Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Chester Road, Castle Bromwich B36 9BT: Talk on Castle Bromwich Castle: the castle on the Collector Road. Small charge, booking essential <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lost-landscapes-castle-bromwich-in-medieval-england-tickets-1987896454809?aff=oddtcreator>

Saturday 25th July, 11:00, starting at Sutton Park Visitor Centre, off Park Road, Sutton Coldfield B74 2YT: Guided walk, Archaeology and Nature in Sutton Park. Organised by the Friends of Sutton Park Association (FOSPA). Small charge (payable on the day) for non-members of FOSPA, booking not required <https://www.fospa.org/>

Wednesday 12th August, 11:00 and 2:00, starting at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Chester Road, Castle Bromwich B36 9BT: Guided walk, Medieval Castle Bromwich. Small charge, booking essential <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/castle-bromwich-in-medieval-england-historical-walks-tickets-1987920141657?aff=oddtcreator>

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

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Website: www.sahs.uk.net

Stop Press

We are intending to organise a visit to the church of All Saints at Sandon near Stafford in the autumn. This will be led by Dr John Hunt our President and will probably be on a Saturday afternoon in late November or early December. The church has received National Lottery funding of nearly £0.7M to preserve genealogical wall paintings and the monuments and tombs of the Erdeswicke family. The work is now in progress and we will time our visit to take place once the work is complete. Further details will be given in our September newsletter. The church is interesting and in a pleasant position on the edge of Sandon Hall Park with views over the west Staffordshire plain to the Wrekin. Plenty of parking and the Dog and Doublet in the village for lunch.