

# Worcestershire Recorder

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Newsletter of the  
WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Charity No 517092



Free to Members  
Membership Secretary Tel: 01684 578142



## Chairman's Letter

In my first letter as Chairman, I would like to thank Stephen Price for his work as chairman and repeat his thanks to the committee members and others who work so hard for the Society. We have a very firm foundation in the revised constitution (introduced by Nick Molyneux below). The sub-committees established at our first committee meeting of the year are meeting and getting to work in a number of areas – one of the main aims of the new constitution was to free officers from having to attend meetings and to support them and give them better opportunities to develop the work of the Society. The Collections, and Membership & Communications sub-committees have already met and set out plans for action, and the reconstituted Excursions and Publications sub-committees will be doing so in due course.

The Bredon Hill Roman coin hoard is now back in the county, after sorting and identification at the British Museum. The coins are on display at the County Museum, Hartlebury, as the centrepiece of their *Hoards, Handbags & Highwaymen* exhibition. During the spring and summer Museums Worcestershire will be bringing coins down to the City Museum, Worcester, where they will be conserved. There will be opportunities to see the conservation underway, and even to get involved in the work; Society members will be warmly welcomed. Museums Worcestershire will be fundraising again to cover the costs of conservation. The good news is that the money raised by the Society for the hoard was not all needed for the purchase, so over half of it can be used to support the conservation.

By the time you read this, the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust should have heard whether they have been successful in their application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. We wish them all the best in this and in their continuing work to conserve the castle and its collections, including the Hurd Library.

And finally, our congratulations go to Society members John Bennett and Andrew Harris, who received MBEs in this year's New Year Honours.

## James Dinn



James needs no introduction to WAS members. He joined the Society in 1997 when he became Worcester City's Archaeological Officer, having previously worked with the County. His 'News from the City' is a regular *Recorder* item, he has written several articles for the Society's *Transactions* and given stimulating lectures on various aspects of the city.

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## Constitutional Changes

At the recent Annual General Meeting in December 2012 a new Constitution for the Society was adopted, following extensive committee discussion. I have been asked by a number of people, if I could explain the whys and the wherefores of this change. Briefly, there were several issues with the old constitution, a degree of ambiguity was embodied within it and there was no clear provision for the various historic items owned by the society. We were also seeking some greater flexibility over the annual timetable.

When I set out on the journey of finding a new model, I looked at the way other societies are arranged. A common set up is a large Council, and a small Executive Committee. This was

the first model I proposed, but older and wiser voices suggested that this was not the best way forward. The potential for ambiguity and dissension when it came to defining the relationship between the two bodies was pointed out (with examples). On reflection it also quickly became obvious that in a Society of our size this was unsustainable.

So, instead the Committee decided to go for the option of a slightly smaller committee, which will be supported by sub-committees. We have changed the list of officers slightly, introducing one or two new ones and removing the slightly confusing (and inconsistently applied) word Honorary from many of the titles. They are far from honorary: office holders work hard, even though they are purely voluntary. At the same time we have introduced a little more flexibility into the calendar of the Society, with a greater gap between the formal examination of the accounts and the AGM, since this is always a difficult element of the programme for the Society's officers to achieve with the deadlines to get the papers out on time. Future AGMs will therefore take place in March. It was also felt that the tradition of the past Chairman becoming the Deputy Chairman was no longer fit for purpose; rather it would be preferable for the Deputy to be the future Chairman, so we have changed the rules to introduce greater flexibility.

Finally, at the heart of the constitution the objectives of the Society remain almost unchanged, with some very minor alteration to take account of modern developments such as the internet! The Bishop remains as the President of the Society, a tradition which goes back to our foundations in the nineteenth century.

## **Nick Molyneux**

**The Aims of the Society** are now to:

- Promote research in archaeology and history of the area;
- Work for the understanding and care of all kinds of antiquities;
- Take part in archaeological research;
- Publish its work and exchange information with similar bodies;
- Collect and make available relevant publications;
- Arrange appropriate excursions;
- Exchange in holding exhibitions, seminars, lectures and classes;
- Commission and publish works that will advance its cause;
- Affiliate with similar bodies sharing similar aims.

The new constitution is available on the website <http://worcestershirearchaeologicalsociety.org.uk/>; in case of difficult apply to the Secretary.

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### **WAS Committee Structure 2013-14**

Chairman	James Dinn	01684 567131
Deputy Chairman/Curator	Stephen Price	01905 358880
Secretary	Janet Dunleavy	01684 565190
Treasurer	Les Bishop	01905 754494.
Programme Secretary	Joe Hillaby	01531 650618
Excursions Administrator	Muriel Tinsley	01905 616434
Editor ( <i>Transactions</i> )	Robin Whittaker	01386 554886

### Committee Members

Debbie Fox	01905 25371(work)	Margaret Goodrich	01386 552771
Nicholas Molyneux	0121 7781519	Garth Raymer	01386 554026.

### Other Officers of the Society

Membership Secretary	Bob Ruffle	01684 578142
Publicity Officer	Hal Dalwood	01905 26448
Webmaster	Brian Browne	01386 860745
Editor ( <i>Recorder</i> )	Caroline Hillaby	01531 650618
Archaeological Adviser	Chris Guy	01905 732921 (work)
Technical Officer	Peter Walker,	01886 822137
Librarian (University)	Roger Fairman	01905 855336

Sub-Committees (James Dinn and Janet Dunleavy on all, ex officio):

*Excursions:* Muriel Tinsley, Stephen Price, Michael & Jenny Goode

*Editorial:* Robin Whittaker, Joe Hillaby, Chris Guy, Nicholas Molyneux, Les Bishop

*Collections:* Stephen Price, Joe Hillaby, Robin Whittaker, Debbie Fox, Peter Walker, Garth Raymer, Roger Fairman

*Membership & Communications:* Bob Ruffle, Brian Browne, Hal Dalwood, Margaret Goodrich, Caroline Hillaby

Email contact can be made via the website <http://worcestershirearchaeologicalsociety.org.uk/>.

### Welcome to new Committee members:

**Garth Raymer** was a Chartered Accountant in public practice in Evesham and Worcester for 35 years until his retirement in 2004. A long term interest in history and architecture resulted in studying for a degree in Archaeology with Heritage Studies at the University of Worcester which was completed in 2011. Garth is a life member of the Vale of Evesham Historical Society and Sutton Hoo Society and a member of the Orkney Archaeological Society.

Our Membership Secretary **Bob Ruffle** has been involved in archaeology since a schoolboy. He graduated in history from the University of East Anglia and spent a career in University administration, mostly at Birmingham. Following early retirement he indulged his love of cooking, cooking for small dinner parties and functions in clients' homes. Returning to archaeology, he recently completed his PhD thesis at the University of Worcester, entitled 'Pottery in the Material Culture of Early Modern England: a Model from the Archaeology of Worcester'.



At the AGM **Brian Ferris** was elected an Honorary Member for his services to the Society. A former Chairman and long-term Committee member, he has since early 1999 led the Architecture Group which meets several times a year; the Archaeology and History groups set up at the same time were by contrast short lived.

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### News from the County: New evidence for the production of floor tile in Worcester

As a result of a number of large excavations in the centre of Worcester over the past decade, our knowledge and understanding of the tiling industry and related products has increased significantly. Documentary evidence, along with fabric identification of both roofing and floor

tile has meant that the presence of a substantial industry in the City has long been cited but until relatively recently, a lack of actual production site remains has been a significant barrier to more fully understanding the organisation of this industry.

### The Tything

In 2003, there was a breakthrough with the discovery of the first definite kiln site under the former Kays building at 9-10 The Tything (Miller et al. 2004). This consisted of two kilns lying within the same footprint indicating that they were used consecutively. Although these kilns appeared to have been predominantly producing roofing tile, a small assemblage of floor tile wasters was also recovered. Scientific dating of part of the fired clay structure indicated a date of between 1445 and 1480 for the last firing of the second kiln. Significantly, the designs identified amongst the small group of decorated tiles were not of types seen in previously published assemblages from Worcester but instead had parallels with examples from Halesowen Abbey and the Canynge Pavement, Bristol (Eames 1980).

### Lowesmoor and Silver Street

Previous to the discovery of The Tything kilns, as a result of fieldwork (see below) and documentary research, the Lowesmoor area of the City had more commonly been associated with the tiling industry.

In 1990, an evaluation was carried out on Silver Street which uncovered a significant assemblage of 132 decorated floor tiles (Brown 1990). The majority appeared to be contained within the backfill of a structure which was interpreted as a cellar but in retrospect may well have been an actual kiln due to the walls having been built using a large quantity of roofing tile, as seen at The Tything. A number of the floor tiles recovered had signs of discolouration and distortion, whilst others were bonded to each other or to fragments of roof tiles by their glaze, all of which led to an interpretation of this being a waster deposit. This was further strengthened by the large quantity of equally distorted and over-fired roof tile fragments recovered.

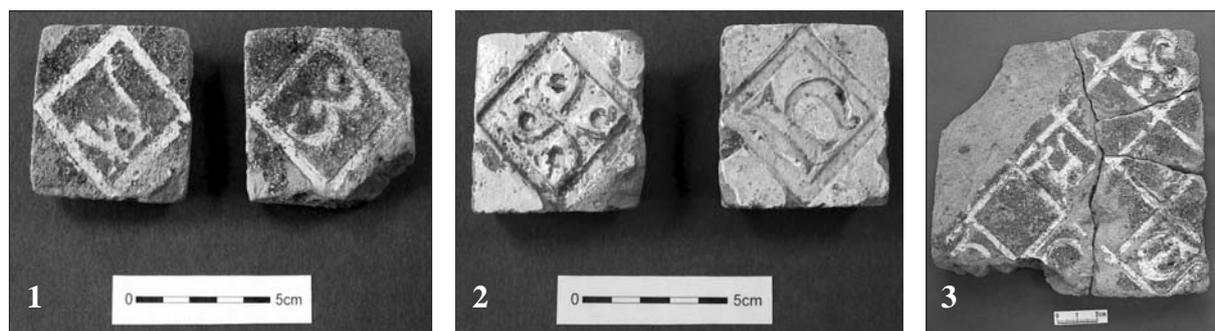
The floor tiles formed two groups of decorated and plain examples. The decorated tiles displayed a number of designs including coats of arms, letter and number tiles in both two coloured slip and raised relief decoration, as well as a distinct group consisting of 19 designs matching some of the 48 published from the Cathedral Singing School (Keen 1978). As the latter have a documented date of 1370, it was assumed that those from Silver Street were of a similar date.

Then, in 2004, a watching brief carried out by Mike Napthan Archaeology behind 45 Lowesmoor revealed a tile kiln of the same structure as those found on The Tything, thus confirming what had always been assumed - that this area of Worcester was indeed connected to the production of tile. Therefore, when work began on excavating the large area lying between St Martin's Gate, Lowesmoor and Silver Street in 2010 ahead of the new St Martin's Gate development, it was no real surprise that yet more evidence of this once thriving industry was uncovered. The area was littered with medieval floor and roof tile but there were two main concentrations of the particular interest. The first of these lay in the back plots of Silver Street and consisted of a substantial dump amounting to 209 complete floor tiles plus fragments. The location and general appearance of this group indicated it to be almost certainly part of the same group of material as found during the 1990 evaluation.

Out of the 209 tiles recovered, 92 were plain, exhibiting glazes of brown, dark green and

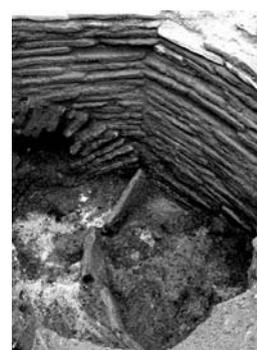
occasionally yellow, whilst the remaining 117 tiles displayed designs. The assemblage consisted of two broad diagnostic groups of square pavement tiles and edging tiles, the latter being of both rectangular and triangular form. As with those found during the earlier evaluation, the majority of identifiable designs could be matched to those recorded in Worcester Cathedral Singing School but once again, the range was limited. Those that were present included examples of heraldry and also single tiles from multi-tile designs indicating that the group may well only be a selection of the original design repertoire. In view of this, it is worth noting that another collection of tiles discovered at Netherwood, Thornbury just outside of Bromyard appears to carry a different selection of the Singing School published group to those discovered in 1990 on Silver Street. It would therefore be interesting to see if this still holds true following the full analysis and identification of the Lowesmoor tiles.

As noted within the 1990 assemblage, this dump of material contained a significant number of tiles decorated with individual letters and in the case of one example, an Arabic numeral '3'. Such tiles with Arabic numerals are considered to be rare in the 13th-14th centuries and therefore, this tile stands out from the rest of the group. These patterns were either in relief or inlaid and the tiles themselves small and square with the design framed by a diamond-shaped border. Another common style of tile was of the same size as those decorated with letters but were decorated in relief with a daisy-type flower and covered in a thick yellow glaze. Two further, larger tiles also stood out from the group for having a multi-letter design reminiscent of an example found within the kiln assemblage from The Tything (Figs 1-3).



*Figs 1-2. Small inlaid and relief tiles, including that with Arabic numeral; Fig 3. Multi-letter tile*

In addition to this group of tiles, three actual kiln structures were also uncovered on the site. Two were of the same rectangular construction as those on The Tything and at 45 Lowesmoor, whilst the third was more unusual, being roughly circular. However, all were largely constructed from roof tile (Fig 4).



Dating of this tile indicated that the circular structure could be dated between the 13th-15th centuries, whilst the rectangular kilns were of roughly the same date as that at The Tything, late 15th century onwards. Therefore this site was a production centre for ceramic building materials throughout much of the medieval period.

A further 130 floor tiles and fragments, both decorated and plain, were retrieved from the vicinity of these kilns and again many of the designs could be paralleled with those from the Cathedral Singing School. Despite having no direct evidence linking these floor tiles to the

actual excavated kilns themselves, such stacks of wasters in situ and the scale of the industry at this location would suggest that they were either fired in the same structures as roofing tile, or indicating that a more specialised floor tile kiln indicating lies somewhere in the immediate vicinity but is as yet undiscovered.

### **Laura Griffin**

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service; lgriffin@worcestershire.gov.uk

Refs: D. Brown, *Evaluation at County Furnishings, Silver Street, Worcester Hereford & Worcester County Archaeological Service* (1990); E. Eames *Catalogue of Medieval Tiles* (1980); L. Keen, 'The medieval decorated tile pavements at Worcester' in *Medieval Art and Architecture at Worcester Cathedral BAA* (1978), 144-160; D. Miller et al *Programme of archaeological works at 9-10 The Tything, Worcs County Council* (2004)

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## **From Museums Worcestershire**

### **Bredon Hill Roman Coin Hoard: a thank you**

All of us at Museums Worcestershire are really pleased to announce that the appeal to raise funds to acquire the Bredon Hill Roman Coin Hoard has been successful, and the Hoard will now come back to the county where it belongs. Our efforts to raise funds to conserve and display the coins will continue.

Eighteen months ago, Worcestershire hit the headlines with the discovery of the largest haul of treasure ever found in the county, a hoard of almost 4,000 Roman coins discovered by metal detecting enthusiasts on Bredon Hill. Research undertaken by Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, with the British Museum, indicates the hoard was buried nearly a century after it was accumulated – the only known such British example – meaning the Worcestershire hoard is unique and of national significance.

More than £4,500 was raised through private donations; Worcestershire Archaeological Society greatly boosted the fund by donating more than £1,000 to the appeal; and an application to the V&A Purchase Grant Fund was also successful, which means a total of £9,000 has been raised to acquire the Hoard. The appeal will now continue to raise the remaining £30,000 needed to conserve and display the Hoard across the county. Thanks so much to everyone at Worcestershire Archaeological Society for your help, generosity and support.



*The hoard being sorted into different emperors at the British Museum*

Public demand to see the Hoard has been overwhelming, so much so that when it returns to the county it will be displayed in its unconserved state at the County Museum at Hartlebury Castle

in an exhibition called Hoards, Handbags and Highwaymen, whilst fundraising continues to raise the remaining money needed. The exhibition, which opened on 9 March 2013, has already attracted a lot of interest.

### **Secret Egypt: Unravelling Truth from Myth**

From 22 June until 31 August this year, the Secret Egypt exhibition is coming to Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum. Secret Egypt is a touring exhibition put together by the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry and Birmingham Museums Trust. It brings together incredible objects from some of the most important Egyptian collections in the country.

Secret Egypt investigates the truth behind the popular myths about ancient Egypt in this blockbuster exhibition. Did aliens build the pyramids? What was the mummy's curse? Were the Egyptians obsessed with death?

**Debbie Fox**

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### **News from the City**

The recent re-roofing of the garden wing of the Commandery produced an unexpected discovery of over 150 late medieval stamped roof tiles. Worcester's tile industry was protected by the City Ordinances of 1467, which required tiled roofs to reduce the risk of fire. A wide variety of stamps are represented, either from individual makers or workshops. Stamped tiles have been found on a number of excavated sites in Worcester, including Deansway and the Cathedral. They are not thought to occur anywhere else in the country (some stamped tiles are found in other parts of Worcestershire, but were probably made in Worcester). Dating is uncertain, but the excavated contexts of stamped tiles suggest that they had a relatively short currency in the late 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Presumably the tiles had been taken from a medieval building at the Commandery, which was largely rebuilt in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, and had been reused on the garden wing, which is dated c1708. Animal footprints on the tiles included a heron and deer as well as domestic animals. The tiles were recorded by a team of volunteers at Worcester City Museum.

Work has been underway at St Cuthbert's chapel, Lower Wick, with grant aid from Natural England to repair the timber frame and roof and make the building weatherproof. The simple sandstone chapel, at Manor Farm, was the mother church for the St John's area, and is thought to have been built in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was later replaced by St John in Bedwardine, and was closed in 1371. In the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, the stone walls were re-used as the base for a timber-framed superstructure; the use of the building is not known, but the quality of the timber framing is unusually high for a farm building. Some dendrochronological work has been done and a date in the first 20-30 years of the 16<sup>th</sup> century is most likely. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the building was further adapted as a hop kiln, and was the scene of major advances in hop-drying technology. A brick-built kiln was added at the west end and a drying floor formed at the east end. An attached barn is probably of 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

Coming so soon after the discoveries at the Commandery, it was exciting to find a large number of stamped tiles here as well. Nearly 50 tiles were found, with stamps of several different types, as well as a few animal footprints. The tiles have been recorded by staff of Natural England's regional office. Although precise dating is not possible at the moment, it is most likely that these tiles date to the rebuilding of the chapel in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Assessment and recording of other buildings has covered 29 New Street (King Charles House) and the Diglis Hotel. A small field evaluation at Boughton Park (the Worcester Golf and Country Club) located a deep feature which may be the moat which was still visible at the time of the first Ordnance Survey mapping at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**James Dinn**

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### **Surveying buildings at risk in Worcester**

Worcester City Council and Worcester Civic Society are just starting work on a survey of all Grade II listed and locally listed buildings in the city, funded by English Heritage. This will aim to find out just how many of these buildings are at risk. Volunteers are invited to take part in the survey – please contact Phil Douce of Worcester Civic Society (phildouce68@gmail.com) or James Dinn at Worcester City Council (james.dinn@worcester.gov.uk, 01905 721132). Training will be provided on assessing the condition of buildings, with sessions at the Guildhall on April 11 and April 24 (both 3-5pm), and further sessions to be arranged.

### **History West Midlands**

History West Midlands is a new publishing venture, in print and online, aimed at everyone interested in the history of our region. Exploring the rich and absorbing past of the historic counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, History West Midlands will uncover the history of the people, events and ideas that shaped the west midlands – and the world beyond.

Led by Editor-in-Chief, Dr Malcolm Dick, this high quality magazine and free access website will bring people and events to life under the guidance of a distinguished editorial board. The first issue of the magazine will be published in April 2013 and will focus on the West Midlands' Enlightenment, the period when new ideas flourished in the region during the Industrial Revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In further issues you can discover how migration shaped our landscape, economy and culture; explore the region's rich inheritance of glass and glassmaking skills and – coinciding with the opening of the new Library of Birmingham next year – celebrate the transmission of the written and spoken word in the west midlands.

You can register to receive a free copy of the first edition of History West Midlands by visiting the website at [www.historywm.com](http://www.historywm.com) and clicking the Register button.

**Elaine Mitchell**

Managing Editor

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### **David Whitehouse 1941-2013**

David Whitehouse FSA, who died in February, was a Worcestershire-born archaeologist who went on to a distinguished global career. He grew up in Wildmoor, near Bromsgrove. During his university years in the early 1960s he contributed several articles to the Society's *Transactions*. These included the first publications on post-medieval pottery from Worcester and Bromsgrove, the discovery of a flint dagger from Diglis, Worcester, and notes on excavations of sites at Dodderhill, Droitwich (Roman fort) and Chaddesley (Roman road).

He directed six seasons of excavation (1966-73) at the Sassanid port site of Siraf, Iran, on the north shore of the Persian Gulf. This was a key site which also saw important advances in

environmental archaeology, including the development of the Siraf tank which is still a vital piece of equipment for environmental archaeologists. He then spent a year in Kabul as director of the British Institute of Afghan Studies, and ten years as director of the British School at Rome.

In 1984 David Whitehouse was appointed as chief curator of the Corning Museum of Glass in New York, eventually becoming director and executive director. He was one of the leading experts on Roman glass and curated a major exhibition of *Glass of the Caesars* which was shown at the British Museum as well as in Cologne and at the Corning Museum. A lengthy obituary was published in the Daily Telegraph: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/culture-obituaries/9920923/David-Whitehouse.html>.

**James Dinn**

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## Recent Publications

*The Battle of Worcester 1651. A Collection of Essays*, published by the Battle of Worcester Society on behalf of its 2012 Dinner Committee. 179 pp; £15 available at meetings from Robin Whittaker, tel 01386 554886, [robin.whittaker@btinternet.com](mailto:robin.whittaker@btinternet.com); or plus £2.50 p&p from Vaughan Wiltshire 01905 775919, [wiltshireford@btconnect.com](mailto:wiltshireford@btconnect.com)

The last battle of the civil war was fought at Worcester on 3 September 1651. Over 340 years later, in 1994 it was decided to hold an anniversary dinner and invite guest speakers to commemorate this important and significant battle. Credit is due to David Hallmark, whose original idea it was, and to those who have supported him, for the success of nine enjoyable and enlightening evenings. This excellent book is a record of those evenings held every two years since and brings together a collection of essays by respected historians, each with their own special knowledge, and their own interpretation of events.

In the first address, ‘Charles II’s Only Battle’, Dr R A Hutton explores the circumstances and events that led to Charles marching into England at the head of a deeply unpopular Scottish army. ‘Charles II and the Scots’, Dr Hutton maintains, ‘needed each other too much to avoid making a partnership’. But the tragedy was that Charles II was ‘an Englishman, fighting for a different cause from that of most of his army’. When he moved south into England, Charles had hoped that his presence at the head of the army would bring English support, but he was to be disappointed. Charles showed himself to be a dashing and courageous leader, as his rash and almost suicidal attack on Perry Wood demonstrated. But he was young and inexperienced, and it was this inexperience that contributed to the disastrous results at Worcester.

‘At events like these, symbolism is everything and everywhere: the date, the food, the music...’ In his address, ‘Oliver Cromwell and the City of Worcester’, Dr Stephen K Roberts discusses the significance of the battle of Worcester for Oliver Cromwell. Cromwell’s ‘spectacular’ victory at Dunbar on 3 September 1650 cemented his reputation, but the Scots army had not been destroyed. Cromwell was determined to finish the job and Dr Roberts suggests that Cromwell chose the occasion if not the place; that the battle of Worcester was a ‘planned coincidence’. The victory at Worcester marked the ‘high water mark of his own self-confidence’ and belief that he was doing the will of God. But the expectations aroused by this victory were not fulfilled and after 1653 Worcester had lost its significance for Cromwell. The ‘inherent divisions ... which dogged ... the Commonwealth period put paid to the symbolism of Worcester’. ‘Symbolically’ Cromwell died on 3 September 1658.

Sadly Professor Richard Holmes, a respected military historian, died before the text of his speech was acquired. But Professor Malcolm Wanklyn has provided a most comprehensive essay based on the extensive scholarship of Professor Holmes. 'The Sharp End of the Battle of Worcester September 1651' is a very thorough and lucid account of the events leading up to the battle and particularly the battle itself. The Duke of Hamilton believed that marching into England was the 'least ill' of their options after Dunbar, 'yet it appears very desperate to me'. Cromwell was not surprised and had already made plans for the campaign in England. The English did not flock to support the King and the exhausted army which arrived at Worcester on 22 August was outnumbered 2 to 1. The loss of the bridge at Upton was a critical blow to the Royalists and allowed Cromwell to operate on both sides of the Severn. To split his force reflects his confidence in a 'well developed' strategic plan. Cromwell was free to move in to destroy Charles' army.

In 2001 Dr John Sutton told the same story in 'Commemorating the Battle of Worcester: a Verse History', through the verses of the Cavalier poet Abraham Cowley, 1618–67, and the lesser known Payne Fisher, 1616–93, whose Latin verses eulogising Cromwell's victories won him favour with the republicans. Cowley views Charles' arrival in Worcester as a triumph:

The King returns, and with a mighty Hand  
Avowed Revenger of his Native Land.  
And through a thousand Dangers and Extremes  
Marches a Conqueror to Sabrina's Streams.

While Fisher saw the grim reality of their situation:

Alas unhappy Scots,  
Whither doest thou flee?  
That City will not a Refuge stand for thee:  
Cromwell's deadly scourge thou canst not shun.

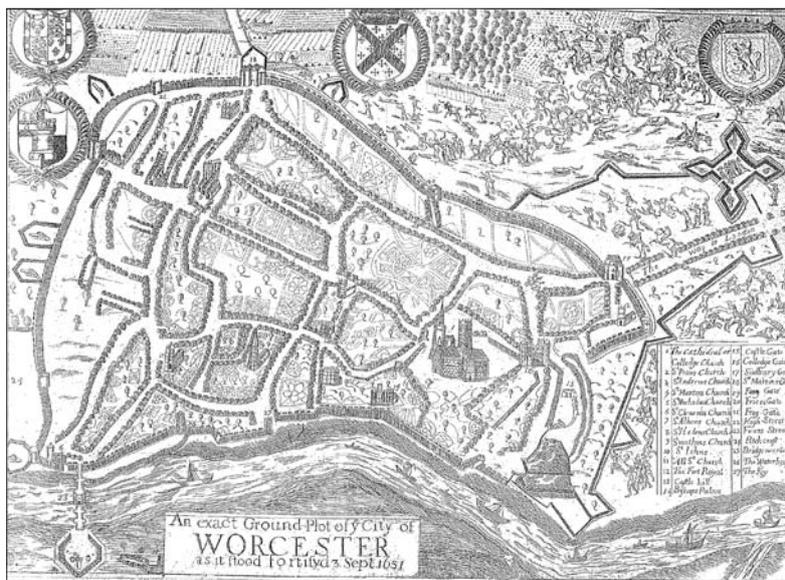
For Cowley the parliamentarians were the 'Oliverian Demons of the Isle'; but for Fisher Cromwell was a 'Beloved Guardian sent us from on High'. Fisher's verses describe the ebb and flow of battle until the awful end:

Relate: how many carcasses there were  
Scattered about the city everywhere.

Cowley laments the defeat of the 'vainly gallant' young king, but whose 'Valour stood the Test'. Fisher's eulogy celebrates Cromwell's great victory by comparing him to Caesar.

Dr Peter Gaunt in 'Cromwell's Last Battle' stresses the importance of Dunbar in the sequence of events that followed. Like Dr Roberts, Dr Gaunt believes the battle of Worcester was 'a deliberate and planned consequence of Cromwell's Scottish campaign'. Cromwell was determined to finish what he had begun at Dunbar, and was deliberately seeking to draw the Scots out of Scotland. In a letter written on 4 August he noted that Charles and the Scottish army had begun to move south: 'I do apprehend that if he goes for England ... it will trouble some men's thoughts, and may occasion some inconveniences'. This and later letters, Dr Gaunt argues, reveal a man who is supremely self confident, a man in control of events. His strategy for Worcester was carefully planned, shaped by earlier campaigns and the confident belief that he was doing God's will. But victory at Worcester, Cromwell's 'Crowning Mercy', did not bring the hoped-for reforms. His hope that Parliament 'do the Will of Him who hath done His will for it' resulted only in disillusionment and frustration.

A very fine ‘Scottish’ dinner preceded Dr Gerry Douds address, ‘Defeat not Dishonour. Scots at Worcester, 1651’. Taking a Scottish perspective, Dr Douds looks at Charles’ relationship with the Scots, particularly his admiration of the Highlanders, and the composition of the Scottish army. It was the ‘crippling influence of the Kirk’, which required anyone joining the army to swear to the hated Solemn League and Covenant, that kept many from the Royalist cause. So Charles arrived at Worcester at the head of a mainly Scottish army and hopelessly outnumbered. The raw courage and gallant behaviour of the Royalists was no match for sheer weight of numbers. Apart from this disparity Dr Douds singles out two other important factors: the loss of Massey, a gifted commander, dangerously wounded at Upton; and the inertia of Leslie’s horse. The Scots suffered terribly for their involvement at Worcester.



*Vaughan's map of 1651*

Professor Barry Coward’s, ‘The Contribution of Cromwell’s victory at Worcester to his Success as Statesman and Politician’, is about a man ‘who has divided opinion in this country ... and still does’. Cromwell’s victory at Worcester sealed his reputation as a military commander and propelled him to political power. It is ‘extraordinary’, Professor Coward believes, that a man from such humble origins should have become so powerful. It was because of his success on the battle field. He also notes how quickly Cromwell developed his political skills; he became a ‘smooth political operator’. Cromwell claimed that he did not want power, that it had been thrust upon him: ‘I sought not this place ... You sought me for it’. This, Professor Coward maintains, is ‘spin’! Cromwell wanted power, not for self-aggrandisement but because of his self-confident belief that it was God’s will. This belief drove Cromwell’s ambition to restore social and political order and his ‘extraordinary’ commitment to a godly reformation. This was not to be at the expense of all fun music and art, as has often been claimed, only the music and images of Catholicism. Cromwell was no ‘gloomy Puritan’, and in fact the arts flourished under the Commonwealth. He failed because his ambition to ‘heal and settle’ and his great desire for a godly reformation were in conflict. But, as Professor Coward concludes, some of those aspirations and achievements are worthy of commemorating today.

Professor Blair Worden considered ‘Why the Battle Of Worcester Mattered’. For its citizens it mattered because the city had paid a terrible price for being, as Clarendon found it, ‘a very good post’. It was not just knocked about, but physically and financially ruined. The battle

was not fought for 'liberty' as John Adams would have had the citizens believe, but to drive the hated Scots from England. Professor Worden discusses the background to the events of September 1651: why the Royalists were prepared to ally with their erstwhile enemies, the Presbyterians. He is the first to note the influence of Henrietta Maria, the Queen Mother, who believed that the crown should seek its allies wherever it could.

The battle put an end to the civil wars, but it did not bring the hoped for stability that would have allowed Cromwell to pursue his social and religious reforms. Seizing power for himself as Lord Protector did not secure the fulfilment of these ambitions. As Clarendon predicted, the Puritans could not agree among themselves, and the nation turned to its king. On 3 September 1660 it was not a battle that was remembered, but the happy escape of a king after it.

In 'The Battle of Worcester: Its Impact on the Midlands', Professor Ann Hughes reminds us of why the Scots were so detested, of the extensive damage they caused on their previous campaigns in England. But other factors were important, particularly the contribution of an energetic small minority who served the republic in the West Midlands. One such was Major Robert Beake, a talented soldier and administrator who was governor of Coventry in 1651. Another was a more controversial figure, Andrew Yarranton. He was Captain of the Worcestershire forces in 1651 and later served as a sequestration commissioner. These men were part of an 'increasingly efficient state machine' that supported the republican campaign.

After the Restoration the Catholics of Shropshire and Staffordshire were keen to remind Charles of their loyalty and bravery and much was written of his miraculous escape. This did little to ease the continuing tensions between Catholics and Protestants. In 1661 Andrew Yarranton was imprisoned after being implicated in a plot which he blamed on diversionary tactics by popish plotters. Both Andrew Yarranton and Robert Beake survived the difficult years of 1678–81 – the Popish Plot and the Exclusion crisis; Beake regained his Coventry office after losing it in 1662. Yarranton had a small part in publicising the Popish plot.

Each one of these essays brings a different interpretation, a new understanding of the events surrounding the battle and of the principal characters. But what was the significance of the battle for Worcester and its citizens? It would be decades before the city recovered from the crushing legacy of the battle, from the physical and financial ruin brought upon it on that day. The records vividly reveal how the city struggled, often unsuccessfully, to repair and re-build, and recoup its losses. So perhaps there is still more to be told about the battle of Worcester at future dinners.

Besides these nine essays there are valuable additional articles by local historians and enthusiasts, including James Dinn and Pat Hughes writing on the city of Worcester; Christopher Guy on the Cathedral and David Morrison on the Cathedral library; Robin Whittaker on the civil war as reflected in the archives; and Vaughan Wiltshire a very thorough account of the weaponry of war.

This attractive book is a credit to all those involved in its publication. It is beautifully presented, with photographs, maps and very fine illustrations by David Birtwhistle. It is not only a pleasure to look at, but also stimulating and informative. I highly recommend it to anyone with any interest in this period of Worcester's history.

**Penny Swinson**

*Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture. Vol X. The Western Midlands* Richard Bryant with Michael Hare (British Academy, 2012)

Professor Dame Rosemary Cramp of Durham University commenced work on the Corpus some 20 years before publication in 1984 of the first volume, *County Durham and Northumberland*, under the aegis of the British Academy. The aim of the project is to identify and describe sculpture 'from the inception of the craft in the second half of the seventh century [when such important centres as Lindisfarne, Hexham, Wearmouth and Jarrow were established] up to the Norman Conquest, a span of four centuries'. A 'Grammar of Anglo-Saxon Ornament' established the conventions to be observed. The first volume is now available online at [www.ascopus.ac.uk](http://www.ascopus.ac.uk), to be followed by the other regions.

As Rosemary Cramp pointed out in 2010, the Norman Conquest was 'in many ways an unhelpful division'. Even today, 'it can be difficult to distinguish late Saxon works of the early eleventh century from Romanesque'. Each volume is greatly enhanced by a remarkably generous range of photographs of the sculptures listed. This tradition was established by Rosemary Cramp in *Corpus I*, issued in two quite distinct parts; the second contains 1,439 images. The current volume has almost 800.

*The Western Midlands* catalogues the Anglo-Saxon sculpture of the five counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Salop, Warwick and Worcester. A Historical Introduction by Michael Hare describes the kingdoms of the Magonsæte west of the Malvern Hills and southwest of the Severn and of the Hwicce east of the Malverns and the Severn, which respectively formed the bases of the medieval dioceses of Hereford and Worcester; a map shows selected minsters and other early churches. It should be noted that the medieval diocese of Worcester, from which come 'a little over 75% of the pieces recorded', includes Bristol north of the Avon, Gloucestershire, and Warwickshire west of the county town. Regional Geology is discussed by C.R.Bristow and E.C.Freshney, who plot the distribution of carved stones of the region on a geological map.

The main catalogue describes examples of Anglo-Saxon sculpture at 11 sites in Worcestershire, in the parishes of Belbroughton, Cropthorne, Evesham, Hanley Castle (the Lechmere Stone), Pershore St Andrew, Ripple, Rous Lench, Stoke Prior, Tenbury Wells, Worcester Cathedral and Wyre Piddle. Appendices A, B and D give details of stones from Saxo-Norman overlap, of uncertain date; stones wrongly associated with the pre-Conquest period; and sundials allegedly of pre-Conquest date.

This list excludes Acton Beauchamp, now in Herefordshire, where an 'early ninth century cross-shaft has been re-used to form a lintel over the south doorway into the west tower'. Bryant points out, however, that it is carved from oolitic limestone from eastern Gloucestershire or Worcestershire and 'is therefore a geological interloper' in the sandstone area of Herefordshire. It has particular Worcestershire interest because of the close relationship of its decoration to that of the remarkable cross-head now on display in the church at Cropthorne which, according to Hemming, was the largest of Worcester's monastic estates of his time.

For Professor Cramp (Dornier, 1972) the Cropthorne cross-head and Acton Beauchamp cross-shaft are 'the earliest examples of a West Midlands style which seems to be influential throughout the ninth century, not only in sculpture but in metal work and manuscripts'. For Bryant (*Corpus X*, 25) the Acton Beauchamp cross-shaft is an important part of what he



*Details of birds at Acton Beauchamp and Cropthorne. Courtesy Richard Bryant*

describes as a ‘group of early ninth-century sculptures from the western Midlands that betray such close similarities in technique and decorative repertoire that the carvings have long been seen as the products of a single centre or group of carvers’. These included what he calls ‘the magnificent cross-head from Cropthorne’; the Acton Beauchamp cross-shaft, of which only one side is now visible; the cross-shaft in the eaves of the south wall of St Andrew’s church, Wroxeter; and the Gloucester St Oswald cross-shaft now on display in the city museum. All four were carved from the oolitic limestone of the Cotswolds, and ‘production was probably based in Gloucester or Worcester’.

In this context it has to be remembered that only in 1897 was the civil parish of Acton Beauchamp transferred from Worcestershire to Herefordshire; the ecclesiastical parish followed somewhat later. Its inclusion in the county and diocese of Worcester probably dates from the shrievalty of Urse d’Abetot (c1069-1108), but its association with the diocese may well go back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century.

Documentary evidence linking Acton to Worcestershire is recorded in three charters:

1. the spurious 716 Evesham Abbey charter;
2. an authentic charter, dated 718, of Aethelbald, king of the Mercians, to Buca, his companion, of 3 *manentes* of land at Acton, ‘to be a perpetual dwelling for the servants of God’. For Sims-Williams its early ninth-century sculpture may reflect the monastery’s ‘continuing existence’;
3. Acton is included in the great charter confirming the lands and privileges of Pershore Abbey granted by King Edgar in 972.

Further:

4. Hemming’s Cartulary lists Acton with other lands of the Worcester monks seized by Abbot Aethelwig of Evesham, whom he describes as a cunning figure ‘skilled in secular law’;
5. Domesday Book tells us that Urse d’Abetot held Acton;
6. subsequently Acton passed by marriage to Walter I de Beauchamp, first of the hereditary sheriffs of Worcestershire.

A number of the Worcestershire items are recent discoveries. At the cathedral Philip Barker (1994) recognised that 24 capitals and bases re-used in the blind arcading of the slype, just beyond the south transept, were ‘fragments without doubt of one of the Anglo-Saxon churches demolished to make way for Wulfstan’s new building’. Recent excavations have revealed other Anglo-Saxon sculpture in the cathedral. In 1984 a fragment of 10<sup>th</sup>-century architectural carving was found under the south aisle of the crypt. This was part of an attached shaft with two zones of decoration. One is described as a ‘long triangular berry bunch’; the other, with ‘median in size

interlace', may have been 'part of the support for a screen'. (Guy 1994) The second discovery, made during the excavations outside the chapter house in 1999, has been described by Sally Crawford as 'the frontal head of an animal, possibly a lion, carved from oolitic limestone'. It has 'deeply pierced eyes framed by eyebrows', the mouth is wide and traces of red paint are visible in the crease of the lips. 'In profile the animal has a snub nose and a receding chin and there are ridges carved on the snout.' *TWAS* (2000) 345-8

A major discovery of an Anglo-Saxon figure panel was made by Jennifer Alexander at St Andrew's church, Pershore (see Richard Bryant's photo in *Recorder* 86). This was the subject of an article by J.F.King in *TWAS* (1992). It had been used as a building stone on the inner side of the eastern wall of the north aisle. Thus part of the top and left-hand side of the panel are missing. It now portrays a headless figure placed between what originally must have been a pair of columns with capitals and bases, similar to the panel portraying the Virgin Mary at Breedon-on-the-Hill. It was compared by King with the central figure of an incomplete late-8<sup>th</sup>-century cross-shaft at Otley, which has been described 'as one of the finest monuments surviving from pre-Viking Northumberland' and as 'a source of influence for succeeding schools' (Elizabeth Coatsworth, *Corpus VIII*, 215-19). The three Otley figures, each holding a book, are divided by 'plain recessed flat areas ... , presumably for painted inscriptions'. At Pershore, Richard Bryant points out that the single figure holds a 'strap-like object' which would appear to have been joined to a raised 'collar', leading him to suggest that 'both should be seen as a single object'. He concludes that the figure is 'almost certainly that of a pope or an archbishop wearing a pallium'.

Over the last decade or so members of the Society have visited a number of sites with Anglo-Saxon sculptures described in the West Midlands volume. In 2000, after an extensive tour of Wroxeter, the WAS group visited St Andrew's church to see the remains of the early-9<sup>th</sup>-century collared cross-shaft that stood locally until the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century when it was built into the south wall of the church in three sections: the upper parts of the shaft with two separate parts of the collar. This carved cross, now recognised as Cotswold oolitic limestone, is considered to be a member of the early-9<sup>th</sup>-century 'Crophorne' group of Anglo-Saxon carvings.

In 2007 a visit included the carved panel over the south door of the former minster church at Bromyard. Here St Peter holds a pair of giant keys in his right hand and a book in his left, which Professor Cramp has likened to the small figures on a Breedon sarcophagus. The Acton Beauchamp cross-shaft was seen on the same day. Two years later the bewildering range of Anglo-Saxon sculpture was seen at Breedon-on-the-Hill, Leics. These included the sarcophagus referred to above and the remarkable wall panel with a bust of the Virgin Mary which recalls the figural panel portraying an archbishop or pope at St Andrew's church, Pershore. In 2012 there was a brief visit to St Peter's, formerly a minster church at Stanton Lacy, to see the Anglo-Saxon pilaster strips on the outside of the north wall of the nave and the panel with the cross above the exterior of the north doorway, which is now dated 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century. With this magnificent volume at our disposal, there is no reason why the momentum should not be maintained.

The completion of this wide-ranging *Corpus X* reflects great credit on its editor, Richard Bryant, who it should be noted also provided a very considerable number of the photographs listed on p427. This volume is not only a contribution to the art history of the area; it also throws a new and valuable light on many aspects of the pre-Conquest history of the five counties.

### **Joe Hillaby**

Note: there is a copy of the *Corpus* in the county library.

***Monastic Charity & the office of Almoner at Worcester Cathedral Priory c. 1240-1540*** David Morrison, WHS Occasional Publications No 12, 24pp, available at Cathedral Book Stall, £2.99

It is highly appropriate that Worcestershire Historical Society should have published David Morrison's study of the medieval almoners at Worcester Cathedral Priory. Over a century ago the Society produced three volumes providing the Latin text of the primary sources for such a study: in 1907 James Wilson's *Accounts of the Priory 1521-2*; in 1910 the *Comptus Rolls of the XIV and XVth Centuries* by S.G.Hamilton; and in 1911 J.H. Bloom's *Liber Elemosinarii. The Almoner's Book*. By relating such material with the results of recent work on medieval English monastic finances, Morrison is able to provide answers to such questions as: How much did monks give to the poor? What evidence is there that they were discriminatory about charity? Did increased income and benefactions bring increased giving? What does assessment of expenditure reveal about the almoner's duties and priorities?

In his introduction, Morrison draws attention to the judgments of other scholars on monastic almsgiving in the middle ages. For the period 1283-1307 R.A.L.Smith 'came to a fairly damning conclusion as to the Canterbury almoner's achievements and monastic almsgiving in general'. For Christopher Brooke the Peterborough almoner's contribution was not such as to justify his existence. Some 50 years later Joan Greatrex suggested that alms given to the poor by prior and monks were very low, but this did not take account of hidden almsgiving such as leftover food and old clothing.

For the wider context we should turn to St Benedict's *Rule*, chapter 53, on the reception of guests: 'Let all guests that come be received like Christ, for He will say I was a stranger and ye took me in.' Benedict continues, 'Let special care and solicitude be shown in the reception of the poor and pilgrims because in them Christ is more received. For the very fear we have of the rich procures them honour.' Here, presumably, he had in mind Matthew 25:35-6: 'I was hungered and ye gave me meat; thirsty and ye gave me drink; a stranger and ye took me in; naked and ye clothed me; sick and ye visited me; in prison and ye came unto me.' These six corporal acts of mercy are vividly illustrated as late as the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, not in the windows of a monastery but in the south aisle of the parish church of All Saints, North Street, York – for the benefit of the laity.

The Augustinian canons of Barnwell near Cambridge found it necessary to elaborate Benedict's *Rule* in terms of the duties of the almoner. 'Old men and those who are decrepid, lame and blind or are confined to the beds, he ought frequently to visit and give them suitable relief ... He ought to submit with calmness to the loud voiced importunity of the poor and help all petitioners as far as he is able.' He is warned 'not to strike or hurt or even abuse or upbraid anyone, always remembering that they are made in the image of God, and redeemed by the price of the blood of Christ'. The need for such an addendum to the *Rule* tells us much about contemporary practice.

Discussing the question, how much the Worcester monks gave to the poor, Morrison turns to the evidence provided by formal visitations of the priory. Traditionally the almoner had to distribute food not eaten by the monks to the poor at the almonry by the gates; but in 1301 the visitor discovered that the monks were diverting such food to 'favoured servants, family or friends'. Archbishop Winchelsey ordered that transgressing monks should have the same

amount subtracted from their meals. Yet three years later the problem was recurring. Between 1327 and 1327 Bishop Cobham concluded that neither prior nor almoner knew who should receive alms. He insisted that alms should benefit those without resources and the truly poor. The *Compotus Rolls* for 1345-6 show that almoner John de Muchelney's receipts totalled £64 7s 6d excluding grain payments in kind, and that his expenditure of £62 was 'devoted to estate management'. Indeed details of the almoner's increasing city rentals lead Morrison to the interesting conclusion that from the second decade of the 15<sup>th</sup> century there was 'an economic upturn' in Worcester city and its environs.

In his article on hospitality in *TWAS XXII* of 2010, Morrison points out that Worcester Priory was fortunate: as in the late middle ages hospitality was 'restricted to the monarch and great lords, the priory's finances were not harmed by this monastic duty'. By contrast, Evesham suffered grievously as a consequence of such hospitality. Its chronicle records that in 1467-77 magnates resorted to the abbey frequently (without adequate payment in return). In consequence the abbey accumulated a debt of 1,000 marks, £667. Nevertheless at Worcester the prior was prepared to spend large sums to accommodate important guests, including royalty. The Guesten Hall, demolished in 1862, was, as Richard Morris has shown, begun c1338-9 as part of a much larger programme of reconstruction. The remaining windows of its grandiose five-bay ground-floor hall 'exhibit flowing tracery of the first order, the best in the cathedral' (Pevsner I). Its eight-bay roof, now at Avoncroft, has been described as 'the most elegant piece of medieval carpentry in the county' (Pevsner II). The Priory Gate, now the Edgar Tower, begun c1347 with licence to crenellate 1369, was erected to provide a suitably impressive entrance to the priory complex for the hosteller's important guests.

In contrast, our knowledge of the almonry building is thin. We have one piece of documentary evidence as to its site: the almoner's book refers to a rent of 10½ d per quarter from a certain house 'by the almonry'. However, the house was in the parish of St Peter, and thus outside the priory grounds. Ute Engel shows the almonry overlapping the priory gate on the north, but for Greatrex it was on the south. In the *Compotus Rolls* for 1345-6 Muchelney reported that the almonry is 'newly paved, within and without'. As this was shortly after the Guesten Hall had been built, it suggests it was part of the general improvement of the area leading from the Priory Gate.

For Barrie Dobson the Canterbury almoners were mostly occupied with the administration of their property and tithes. Morrison shows that things were little different at Worcester, where the almoner's income was some £90-100 in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Here the almoner became increasingly bureaucratic, concerned for the most part with the administration of property, both rural and within the city, where he had 59 tenements in six parishes. Despite the many grants of property probably intended to facilitate such provision, there is little if any evidence of the almoner seeking out the poor and infirm in their homes, conforming to the popular view of charity as shown in the glass at North Street, York.

One function that was fully maintained, however, was the annual *pedilavium*, the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday, the most remarkable identification of Christ with the poor. The priory *Compotus Rolls* show that this event was preceded by supper in the *misericordia*, the refectory attached to the infirmary, and that the prior received 3s 3d, and 42 monks and a lay brother 6d each from Muchelney who, in addition, bought linen cloth for two towels. Lanfranc's *Constitutions* c1077 provided details of the *pedilavium*, which began with the recitation of John 13 by the prior who then washed, dried and kissed the right foot of the poor

men; at the prior's command the monks genuflected, 'to adore Christ in the poor'. The poor men had, on entering the cloister, washed their own feet. The poor were also called in for obits, special commemorative masses to ease the souls of departed members and benefactors of the community through purgatory. Their prayers were believed to be particularly efficacious. Details of payments of William Hodynton in 1521/2 included 3d to each of the 13 poor and 6d to each of 40 monks, a total of £1 3s 3d.

One trusts that Morrison's exploration of the activities of the hospitallers in the Society's *Transactions* and of the almoners in his recent WHS publication will lead to further studies of obedientiaris at Worcester where, as Joan Greatrex points out, their accounts 'survive in greater abundance than in any other cathedral priories except Durham and Norwich'.

### **Joe Hillaby**

Members who enjoyed Robin Jackson's lecture on Kenchester in March 2011 will be interested to know of his recent publication, *Ariconium, Herefordshire: an Iron Age settlement and Romano-British 'small town'* (Oxbow Books, c2012) 304pp, rrp £25, available for £18.95.

Also of possible interest is *Wellington Quarry, Herefordshire (1986-96): investigations of a landscape in the Lower Lugg Valley* Robin Jackson & Darren Miller with contributions by Ian Baxter et al (Oxbow Books, c2011) hdbk £30 208p, 57 tabs, 79 b/w & col illus

*The Medieval Monastery* Roger Rosewell (Shire Books, 2012) Pbk; 80 pages; £6.99

This is exactly what one expects from Shire: a clear, concise introduction to monasticism, which nevertheless includes such details as bloodletting, herbs and medicinal plants, and the contents of 'jordans', portable urinals, being used for bleaching cloth or tanning skins. The book describes the four main orders of monks as well as nunneries and other orders. Life in the monastery is considered under the titles of 'Prayer, Study, Work', 'Personal Life' and 'Domestic', which includes death. It outlines the architecture and administration of monasteries, their art and libraries; their role in caring for the poor and sick; their power and wealth; and the Dissolution. Information is also given for Further Reading and Websites; Places to Visit, by county; and an Index. Many of the excellent photographs are of local interest.

*Malvern Women of Note* Pamela Hurle rrp £8.99, special offer to WAS members: £7 incl p&p from author at Scotsraig House, Storridge, Malvern WR13 5EY

Pamela Hurle has clearly enjoyed writing this appreciation of the social, economic and cultural achievements of women in and around Malvern. They have left a lasting legacy, witnessed on the hills and in buildings and schools: Lawnside, The Abbey, Malvern Girls' College and St James's schools were all founded by women. Shaw is quoted as describing Dame Laurentia McLachlan as an enclosed nun with an unenclosed mind. There are writers, musicians and artists; shopkeepers, bathwomen, and donkey women; aristocrats and 'characters'. The wealthiest was perhaps also the most eccentric, and Lady Emily Foley's love of rich clothes is relished. Pamela Hurle suggests that these remarkable women benefitted from being unmarried or widowed and thus in control of their own lives, and purse-strings. It is notable that of some 22 women whose dates are given, 14 lived into their 80s, of whom 8 went on to their 90s.

***The Pubs of Malvern, Upton and neighbouring villages*** by Tony Hobbs (Logaston Press, 2012) £10; ppk, 288 pp, over 280 b&w illustrations

This, playwright Tony Hobbs' third book on pubs, covers everything from the grand hotels of Great Malvern to one-roomed beerhouses. Introductory chapters on 'Alehouse, Taverns and Inns' and 'Brewing & Breweries' are followed by a topographical discovery of the pubs of the area and their wonderfully varied histories. Mount Pleasant Hotel, for example, was built c1730 as an 'elegant mansion' and converted to a hotel c1810; during the Second World War it was requisitioned as hostel for scientific workers; in 1979 it had to ban the 'scruffs, trouble-makers and rowdies' who gave it the worst reputation in Malvern, but it now has 'a relaxed atmosphere' (AA). There are many lively and colourful entries, characterful portraits, explanations of pub names, some unusual, and historical, literary, artistic and musical connections, not all expected, and numerous illustrations.

Another Logaston book of interest to members, **Severn** by Richard Hayman, will be reviewed in the autumn edition of the *Recorder*.

***Having a Drink round Feckenham, Inkberrow and Astwood Bank*** by Richard Churchley is available from the author for £6 plus p&p. Tel 01527 892361; email rachurchley@totalise.co.uk; or www.churchley.org.uk.

Including the villages of Cookhill, New End, Ridgeway, Holberrow Green, Hunt End, Elcocks Brook, Bradley Green, Stock Green, Kington, Radford, Rous Lench and Abbots Morton, the book deals with the history of the pubs and publicans from the 1590s up to 1940. Information from trade directories and censuses is supplemented by newspaper reports of suicides, murders, fights and licensing infringements. As well as modern colour photographs there are black and white Edwardian ones.

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#### **Mystery Corner: Worcester Cathedral Altar Rails**

During his talk in February, 'Worcester Cathedral: the forgotten centuries, 1540-1860', Brian Ferris showed the image on the cover of this issue, commenting that he understood that the altar rails still exist somewhere. Does anyone know where?

#### **Postscript to Chartist notes in Recorder 86, pp21-2**

In London in March 1848, when a demonstration of 200,000 Chartists was planned, the composer Berlioz anticipated that 'in perhaps a few hours England will be turned upside down like the rest of Europe'. Later he recorded that 'the Chartists do not have the stuff of real revolutionaries'; the cannons 'did not even need to speak up ... the Chartists dispersed in perfect order'. Berlioz concluded that the Chartists 'know how to stage a riot as well as the Italians know how to write symphonies'.

extracts from D.Cairns, *Berlioz: Servitude and Greatness 1832-1869* (2000)

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#### **Hellens, Much Marcle, 'The jewel in the crown of Herefordshire homes' (Country Homes)**

It cannot be called a beautiful house. It is a rambling, dilapidated pile of mouldering bricks on older still foundations of crumbling stone. Inside it is awkward, dark, full of steps, narrow passages, cobwebs and things that 'go bump in the night', and draughts. And yet – and yet – it appears to exert some sort of fascination over people. It was in a mess in the days of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century traveller and historian, and little has been done to improve it apart from a minimum of

plumbing in the early 20th century; little effort has been spent on it before this century. It has no particular architectural interest; in fact the slow growth over 600 years has too little unity of plan to call it architecture at all. It seems to have slept through the race to build Italian-style villas in the Palladian fashion and also any ‘modernisation’ of the Victorian era.

It is almost a thousand years since the estate was one of several set up by William I to help guard the marches; he granted one virgate of land and a villein to work it to a few monks from Sainte Marie de Cormeilles along with the tithes of the manor. They had found a spring on a rise where they thought they could survive and built their church at the foot of that rise; they trod the path from the spring to the church to build, firstly a deep well and then their ‘monastery’. The path to the church for mass and matins and evensong and compline is now the Monks’ Walk.

In due course, the estate was given to Lord Mortimer who built Great March as one of a line of fortresses to defend the Marches. It was from this line that Hugh Audley married Roger Mortimer’s sister, Yseult, and, receiving half the Marcle estate as marriage portion, built their manor at the remains of the small monastery on the hillock. So it was that Hellens was drawn into part of the Edward II story. On 25 November 1326 Mortimer and Queen Isabella and the Prince of Wales – the future Edward III – arrived at Marcle. The next day Edward II, now a captive, sent his Great Seal to his consort and his son. So it was at Hellens that some kind of abdication of Edward II was recognised; the two usurpers rode off triumphant and the king was sent to Berkeley Castle.

Possibly the new king remembered his short visit to Hellens, for when it came to choosing companions for his own son, James Audley, Yseult’s son, was one of them. He was one of the first knights in the most famous Order of the Garter in 1344, and was with the Black Prince continuously to the battle of Crecy. After that, the Black Prince riding from Chester to Hereford could do no other than stay at his friend’s house. The Stone Hall containing the monumental fireplace erected in honour of the visit shows the Prince’s new-won crest of three feathers and the motto ‘Ich Diene’ (although misspelt). The fleet was fitting out at Gloucester and they sailed to France and the battle of Poitiers. The estate was inherited by James’s niece, Margaret, who passed it on to her granddaughter who married John de Helion. He was a very pious man who went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and on his death, venerated, was buried at Marcle. It is after his family that Much Marcle Audley became Helions or ‘Hellens’.

Thereafter the major owners were the Walwyn family, and it was during their holding some 160 years later that royalty entered the story once more. Strong adherents to the Roman Catholic faith, they actively supported Queen Mary Tudor. Sir Richard Walwyn raised a company of tenants, besieged the protestant insurgents near Leominster and captured the leader. ‘The Queen’s Room’ was prepared for a royal visit which never took place.

By the time of the 1688 ‘Revolution’ the family was confirmed Protestant, but the male heir died and for seven generations the estate descended through the distaff side. For the most part adopting the name of Walwyn, the families of Nobel, Pytts, James, Shepherd, Kemyes, Vaughn and Smethurst all took residence, the last granddaughter marrying Axel Munthe, the Swedish doctor whose name became famous for San Michele on Capri.

Sources: M.Munthe *Hellens* (1957); *Guide to the Manor of Hellen’s* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) by H.G. & E.W.

**Vince Hemingway**

### ***The Feckenham Forester***

Richard Churchley is producing a local history magazine for Feckenham Forest History Society, covering the East Worcestershire parishes in the old forest area. Deadline for the first issue is 31 August; pre-Christmas publication. Tel Richard on 01527 892361, or rachurchley@totalise.co.uk.

### **WAS Excursions Programme, 2013**

**Wed 24 April**, afternoon. **Worcester Cathedral Romanesque**, led by **Chris Guy**

A follow-up to Chris's 2011 lecture, this visit will look at the surviving parts of the Romanesque Cathedral and monastery started by Bishop Wulfstan in 1084. As well as the Crypt and Chapter House, it will include fragments in and around the Cloister. Limited to a maximum of 15.

**Tues 7 May. Hagley Park**, afternoon walk led by **Tom Pagett**, Hagley Historical Society and WAS member; by kind invitation of Lord Cobham.

Established circa mid-14th century, Hagley Park's boundaries are easily identified as substantial earthworks. The outstanding landscaped version followed in the mid 18th century. Plans are afoot to restore the follies and monuments. Paths and drives from this time are still in use, as are streams and water features. This is a rare opportunity to see the progress being made and hear about future plans.

**Wed 22 May. Coventry**, organised by **Brian Ferris**. Day trip by coach

Our member **George Demidowicz**, former head of conservation and archaeology with Coventry City Council, will lead us on a guided walk of the principal sites associated with the medieval city, once one of the most prosperous towns in the kingdom. We shall visit the two medieval cathedrals, St Mary's Hall (perhaps the finest guildhall in the country), and medieval undercrofts excavated and recently revealed, some not open to the public.

**Wed 12 June. Canals and Bishops**, day visit by car; lifts by arrangement.

Leaders **Ian Hunter, Jenny Goode & Stephen Price**

Ian Hunter will lead a tour of the industrial archaeology of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal at **Tardebigge** New Wharf, where there is a remarkable collection of canalside cottages, workshops and a warehouse, and evidence of the impact of the canal on the landscape. In the afternoon we will explore **Alvechurch**, a medieval new town established by the bishops of Worcester. We will visit the many surviving timber-framed buildings, the church of St Laurence and Alvechurch Historical Society's Village Museum.

**Thurs 20 June**, 7 pm. **Hellens, Much Marcle**. Evening tour followed by Supper at 8.30 pm, £24

**Vince Hemingway** takes us out of the county this year to try something different but nonetheless similar to Harvington Hall, a house which has a unique presence in this region, with a hall where the Black Prince dined more or less in the same condition as in 1356. See pp21-2

**Mon 8 July**, 7 pm. **Chaddesley Corbett**, evening visit organised by **Robin Whittaker**, hosted by the Chaddesley Corbett Local History Society.

Chaddesley Corbett's distinctive street scene, for Pevsner 'one of the most attractive in the county', has fine and varied architecture. We shall also visit St Cassian's church, 'an important village church, probably on the site of a Saxon minster'.

**Tues 23 July**, day trip by coach to visit a cluster of 19<sup>th</sup>-century **Warwickshire Churches**, led by **Peter & Rosalind Bolton**

These include the churches at **Wellesbourne**, by J.P.Harrison of Oxford; **Hampton Lucy** by Thomas Rickman and Henry Hutchinson, with additions by Scott, now wonderfully restored; at **Barford** by Rickman's successor, R.C.Hussey; **Sherbourne** by Sir George Gilbert Scott for the Birmingham wire-making family of Ryland; and **Newbold Pacey** by J.L.Pearson.

**Tues 6 August. Silchester** Roman town, day trip led by **Michael & Jenny Goode**

We shall visit the current excavations, with a guided tour. The walls of this town are an extraordinary survival. Excavations have yielded fascinating insights into the story of the town itself as well as its development in the context of the Roman occupation generally. After lunch a member of staff at **Reading Museum** will introduce the exceptional finds from the site.

**Tues 13 August**, 7pm. Visit to two medieval churches near Tewkesbury, led by **Tim Bridges**

The tiny Norman church at **Stoke Orchard** has fine wall paintings including a 14<sup>th</sup>-century life cycle of St James; whilst the 'unspoiled medieval church' as described by Pevsner at **Oxenton** has good late medieval architecture and further wall paintings of a variety of dates.

**Wed 11 September. Pugin in Staffordshire**, led by **Nicholas Molyneux**

The day will start with a visit to one of **Pugin's** masterpieces, St Giles Roman Catholic Church, which dominates the historic town of **Cheadle**. This church alone makes a trip to Staffordshire worthwhile, but we will also view other relevant Victorian architecture to set it in context.

**Mon 30 September to Sat 5 October 2013. 6-day Study Trip to Suffolk**, a county full of interest for the historian and archaeologist, based in Stowmarket. Arranged and led by Michael and Jenny Goode; administered by Muriel Tinsley.

We will of course visit **Sutton Hoo** with its new centre; some outstanding wool churches, including **Lavenham**, **Long Melford** and **Framlingham**; castles such as **Orford** and **Framlingham** (EH); and historic houses including **Melford Hall** (NT) and **Ickworth** (NT). We hope also to spend some time in **Bury St Edmunds**. Visits en route will include the Saxon church at **Brixworth** and the house and estate at **Wimpole** (NT), near Cambridge.

The cost is approximately £450 to include meals, entrance fees and guides (no single supplement). Non-members are welcome at an additional £20 a head (£30 family), to be sent with the deposit; this will include Society membership for 2013. At the time of going to press 3 places were vacant. To book or for further details contact Muriel Tinsley, 01905 616434.

### **Looking forward to 2014**

John Harcup is hoping to organise a trip to **Orkney** and **Shetland** next summer, between May and September. It will of course be relatively expensive, £895 at today's prices including flights, but this is a good opportunity to get to these remote islands. Using a tour operator and with the benefit of travelling with an archeologist, the current proposal is for a 5-night trip, with 2 days on Orkney and 2 on Shetland. Two nights will be on well-appointed ferries. Anyone interested please contact John Harcup by e-mail [drjwharcup@aol.com](mailto:drjwharcup@aol.com).

Items for the next issue should be sent to the Editor, Caroline Hillaby, at The Roughs, Hollybush, Ledbury, HR8 1EU, tel 01531 650618, email [recorder@worcestershirearchaeologicalsociety.org.uk](mailto:recorder@worcestershirearchaeologicalsociety.org.uk) by **1 September 2013**.

