

Worcestershire Recorder

Autumn 2013, Edition 88

ISSN 1474-2691

Newsletter of the
WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Charity No 517092



Free to Members
Membership Secretary Tel: 01684 578142

CONTENTS

	Page
Chairman's Letter	3
Gift Aid Scheme	4
Photographs of Presidents/Chairmen	4
News from the County: Neolithic skull from the River Avon near Eckington Bridge	4
Bredon Hoard. Curator's Report. BM Final	7
The Lytteltons of Hagley: Archive Collection	9
Some Facets of Eighteenth-century Church Life	9
News from the City	12
News from Avoncroft Museum: Bromsgrove Nailer's Cottage	13
Recent Publications	
<i>Trees in Anglo-Saxon England. Literature, Lore and Landscape</i> ...	15
<i>English Medieval Miscellanies. The Margins of Meaning</i>	15
<i>The Business and Household Accounts of Joyce Jeffreys, 1638-48</i>	16
<i>Severn</i>	17
<i>A History of the Town Mill of Droitwich</i>	18
<i>Thomas Tomkins: Musician, Citizen, Victim of War</i>	18
<i>West Midlands Archaeology</i>	19
<i>The Lost Lake</i>	19
<i>In praise of ... Mary A. Green (1873-1941)</i>	19
Archaeology Day School, 16 November 2013	19
WAS Architecture Group. Programme for 2013-14	20
Epiphany Tea Party. 10 January 2014	20
Orkney and Shetland trip, August 2014	21
WAS Excursions Programme 2013	22
Worcestershire Archaeological Society Lecture Programme 2013-14	22

A Warm Welcome to New Members:

Mrs Lein, Malvern

Mr J Hunt, Buckingham

Dr & Mrs A & P Oddy, Worcester

Neither the Committee of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society nor the Editor is responsible for any statements or opinions expressed in the Worcestershire Recorder, the authors of the contributions alone being responsible for the same.

Cover Illustration:

Photograph by Benjamin Brecknell Turner of his wife Agnes with her mother, brother and sister in Green Lane, Bredicot. The photographic curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum suggests it was taken early in Turner's photographic career, possibly 1949, when Thomas Chamberlain was nine years old, and Turner commenced taking photographs. (see p24)

Chairman's Letter

One of the highlights of the winter's lecture programme is Dave Symons' talk on the Staffordshire Hoard on 16 December. We're expecting a much larger turnout than usual for this, so have booked the Perrins Hall at RGS Worcester, which has a capacity of nearly 300. There will be plenty of publicity for the talk nearer the time, but please make sure that you let your friends know about what will certainly be a special evening. There will be a charge of £5 for visitors, to include a donation towards the Staffordshire Hoard Appeal.

University staff have started to move our main run of journals housed at Woodbury into the Quiet Study area on the 4th floor at The Hive. This process is taking longer than anticipated because the work has to be done before the library opens to the public at 8.30am, and it involves considerable staff time in logging each volume on to the computerised database and activating the security tags. This is not something that Society volunteers are able to help with, but it is hoped that it will be complete by the end of the year.

The Society has recently started to work on developing fieldwork opportunities for those members who have expressed an interest in becoming more involved in hands-on archaeology. With the kind co-operation of the owner of Huddington Court (and a licence from English Heritage), a pilot project enabled the Society to work alongside members of the South Worcestershire Archaeology Group (SWAG) on a geophysical survey of the scheduled moated site. SWAG has an impressive track record of undertaking practical work and also has the skills and equipment for resistivity surveys. The recent article on Huddington in our latest Transactions highlighted the fact that the surviving Court represents only about one third of the extensive range of buildings which we know from documentary evidence once existed within the moated platform. Geophysics offered the chance to see if we might trace any evidence for the 'lost' parts of the plan. Over a hot weekend in July, we undertook the survey, finding signs of a range of buildings aligned north-south of the present Court. Only excavation could now tell us what this feature represents and its date, but it was an exciting result for our pilot project.

We welcome the chance to work with SWAG and very much hope that it will be followed by more joint projects. There is no shortage of potential sites deserving investigation, and we know of sympathetic owners on whose land we would be welcomed. We already have a list of potential volunteers and no doubt others could be recruited. If this initiative is to be followed through then it is vital that someone comes forward to lead the nascent field group.

The Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust, who announced their success in their round one application to the Heritage Lottery Fund in April, is not the only building preservation trust to be active at the moment. The long-dormant Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust has been reactivated to rescue buildings at risk in the county. They have been successful in securing an HLF grant to repair three 18th-century weavers' cottages in Horsefair, Kidderminster, and have recently applied again to HLF, this time for the former Worcester Infirmary at 18-20 Silver Street, Worcester (see News from the City).

The County's Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS) has also been successful with an HLF grant, this time for a project commemorating the centenary of the First World War, working

with museums, Worcester Cathedral and other partners to provide a range of commemorative exhibitions and activities from 2014 to 2018.

A reminder that our Membership Secretary, Bob Ruffle, has an email circulation list which he is using to keep members informed of current events. If you'd like to take advantage of this service, please send an email to Bob (bob.ruffle@tesco.net).

James Dinn

Gift Aid Scheme

We have been advised by HMRC that the Society can no longer claim Gift Aid Tax relief on joint subscriptions unless both parties are taxpayers. This does not affect joint membership; it means only that we claim on £20 and not £30, resulting in a small loss of income.

The donation wording on the Membership programme has been changed in line with HMRC requirements.

Les Bishop, Treasurer

Photographs of Presidents/Chairmen

Some years ago I set out to try to find an image of everyone who has ever held the posts of President or Chairman of our Society. I still have a number of gaps, and wonder if I could appeal for anyone who knows of an image of the following (given with their years of office) to contact me on robin.whittaker@btinternet.com?

Rt Hon the Earl Beauchamp (1895-1913)

A.H.Whinfield (1915-16)

Canon J.E.M.Blake (1926-28)

Canon C. Price (1929)

Canon R.A.Wilson (1930-32)

W.H.Knowles (1936-38)

F.B.Bradley Birt (1939-41)

Philip Leicester (1952-55)

H.S.Williams-Thomas (1958-61)

W.Peplow (1967-70)

Mrs A Pettigrew (1985-88)

Robin Whittaker

News from the County

Neolithic skull from the River Avon near Eckington Bridge

Introduction

On 20th March 2013 West Mercia Police were contacted by a member of the public. They had discovered what appeared to be a human skull to the west of Eckington Bridge on the northern bank of the River Avon (SO 92895 42236) whilst walking their dog. The skull was not complete with only the upper cranium represented (See Description of Skeletal Remains below). The skull was loose on the surface surrounded by sediment and debris; apparently transported and subsequently deposited by flood water of the River Avon as a result of rainfall and snow melt.

West Mercia Police believed the skull to be potentially archaeological in origin and contacted Worcestershire Archaeology. The author attended the morgue to examine the skull and confirmed that he believed the skull to be archaeological. This was based upon the dark staining of the bone, although only radiocarbon dating of the subject would prove decisive. This view was shared by the forensic anthropologist Dr Lucina Hackman, who stated the following:

I can confirm in my professional opinion as a forensic anthropologist that the bone in the images is a human cranium. The bone is very dark in colour and the fractures edges are also dark indicating that this bone has become stained by the substrate that it has lain in. This type of staining tends to take some time to occur which would be consistent with older (ie potentially archaeological) remains. The only way to be 100% sure of the age of a bone is to use carbon dating.

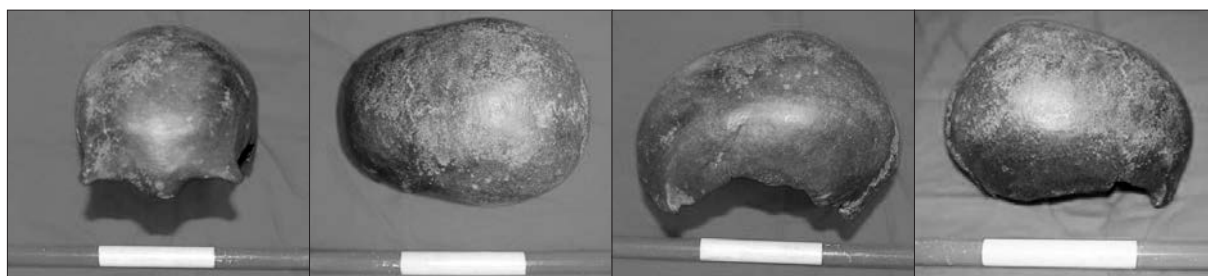
Description of skeletal remains (Plates 1–4)

The skull weighs 474g and is 0.18m long, 0.13m wide and 0.12m in height. The skull has been heavily stained by the substrate in which it had lain and the sediment-laden water in which it had probably been transported. Its surface colour is 5Y3/1 very dark grey to 5Y2.5/2 Black (Munsell Color 2000).

The remains constitute the left and right parietal bones, the frontal bone and part of the occipital bone. Of the latter, only the upper half of the *squama occipitalis* was present, the lower half was absent as were the lateral and basilar parts of the occipital bone. The lower bones of the skull are absent having been fractured along the squamosal, the sphenofrontal, the zygomaticofrontal, the nasofrontal and the frontomaxillary sutures.

Both the senior environmental archaeologist and the forensic anthropologist have proposed that the skull is that of a female due to the absence of prominent supraorbital ridges and the overall slightness of the skull, however, this must remain tentative given the absence of additional sexing proxies.

It is worth noting that the lambdoid, sagittal and coronal sutures were all well fused with some of the sutures being almost invisible. This may indicate an older individual (Meindl and Lovejoy 1985), although this method has been questioned and may not be as reliable as has previously been asserted (pers comm., Dr Kirsty McCarrison). The presence of cut-marks on the right parietal bone is a result of modern sampling for material for radiocarbon dating.



Radiocarbon dating

The skull was submitted for radiocarbon dating to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) radiocarbon dating laboratory by Detective James Bayliss of West Mercia Police. A single bone sample was extracted from the right parietal bone by laboratory staff for AMS (accelerator mass spectrometry) radiocarbon dating.

Laboratory code	Material	13C/12C	Radiocarbon Age BP	OxCal calibrated age (95.4% probability or 2 sigma)
SUERC-46228 (GU30346)	Human bone	-21.8%	4468 ± 30	3338–3025 cal BC

Table 1 Radiocarbon dating result

The date 3338–3025 cal BC (SUERC-46228 (GU30346)) obtained from the radiocarbon dating proves that the remains are archaeological in nature and are Middle Neolithic in date.

Discussion

The only previously identified human remains from Worcestershire, which are definitely Neolithic in date, were from a crouched inhumation encountered during excavations at Wormington Farm (SP039372) near Aston Somerville (Coleman et al 2006, 63). This burial (B1) was of a middle-aged woman estimated to be approximately 1.66m in height, exhibiting a well-healed fracture of the right ulna and evidence for a degenerative joint disease. These remains were dated to the Early–Middle Neolithic (3650–3370 cal BC; WK-15335).

Given the extremely limited quantity and the disturbed nature of the remains, very little can be described as regards the pathology of the Eckington individual and the method of its burial. However, given the similar dates of both sets of remains, it may be possible to speculate that the subject from Eckington had originally been buried in a similarly crouched manner.

The nearest Neolithic monuments to the site of recovery recorded on the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record are henge/hengiform monuments at Nafford (WSM 04061; SO 943 417) and Pensham (WSM 01274; SO 942 443) and a curvilinear enclosure at Wick grange (WSM 34642; SO 973 460). It should be noted that these features are dated purely on morphological grounds from aerial photographs, so the certainty of this Neolithic date may be questioned. Whether the remains were interred in isolation or were part of a larger cemetery group is difficult to speculate, as no Neolithic cemeteries have been identified in Worcestershire; however, given the rarity of such monuments in the West Midlands as a whole, this is not surprising.

Interestingly, this is not the first skull to have been recovered from the banks of River Avon in such circumstances. Another was recovered from the vicinity of Nafford Weir (SO 9403 4181), loose on a shell beach at the bottom of the weir after the river had been in flood (pers comm., Mo Bogaard). Unfortunately this was not subject to radiocarbon dating and, therefore, cannot be assigned a date. Despite this, it is tempting to suggest that a Neolithic monument, possibly a cemetery, upstream of Eckington and Nafford is being eroded during high energy flood events of the River Avon and is introducing these buoyant, easily transportable and easily identifiable human remains into the watercourse.

Coleman, L, Hancocks, A, & Watts, M, 2006 *Excavations on the Wormington to Tirley Pipeline, 2000 Four sites ... Gloucestershire and Worcestershire*, Cotswold Archaeology Monograph 3

Meindl, R S, & Lovejoy, C O, 1985 Ectocranial Suture Closure: A Revised Method for the Determination of Skeletal Age at Death Based on the Lateral-Anterior Sutures, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 68, 57–77

Munsell Color 2000 *Munsell soil color charts*, Munsell Color, New Windsor (NY)

Nicholas Daffern, Senior Environmental Archaeologist, Worcestershire Archaeology
ndaffern@worcestershire.gov.uk

Bredon Hoard. Curator's Report. BM Final

Circumstances of discovery: Found by Messrs J. Carpenter and M. Gilmore on 18.6.11, with the aid of a metal detector and reported to Richard Henry, Finds Liaison Officer, Worcestershire.

The coins

The coins range in date from AD 244-282 (the coins of the emperor Probus include his final issues from Lyon which carry the letters A-D marking the four workshops of the mint). The group is broadly similar in composition to the many Romano-British coin hoards (at over 200 so far recorded) buried in the aftermath of the breakaway 'Gallic Empire'. The Gallic empire, whose capital was at the city of Trier but which had held dominion over Britain, was established in AD 260 and reconquered by the legitimate ('central') emperor Aurelian in AD 274.

One of the coins is a large (comparable in size to a modern £2 coin) brass sestertius of the second century AD. The rest are much smaller (between the size of a 1p and 20p piece) and are all of the denomination known as radiates, originally a silver multiple of the denarius, but by this time they had become debased to the point of being essentially bronze (c.1% silver).

Central empire

Hadrian, AD 117-38	1 (sestertius)
Philip II Caesar, AD 244-7	1
Valerian I, AD 253-60	1
Saloninus Caesar	2
Gallienus, AD 253-68	433
Salonina	48
Claudius II, AD 268-70	352
Divus Claudius II	77
Quintillus, AD 270	23
Aurelian, AD 270-5	17
Severina	–
Tacitus, AD 275-6	15
Florian, AD 276	3
Probus, AD 276-82	36

Gallic empire

Postumus, AD 260-9	67
Laelian (AD 269)	7
Marius (AD 269)	9
Victorinus (AD 269-71)	817
Divus Victorinus	1
Tetricus I (AD 271-4)	1159
Tetricus II	485
Uncertain Gallic emperor	212

Irregular	42
Illegible	67
Total	3874

Pottery- by C Jane Evans

It was possible to estimate the original profile and thus the form and date of the jar containing the hoard, although the jar was in fragments and had not been washed. It will need to be reconstructed for illustration (ie publication), and fully quantified as part of the excavated pottery assemblage from the find site.

The narrow-mouthed jar is in Severn Valley ware, WHEAS Fabric 12 (Hurst and Rees 1992; www.worcestershireceramics.org), the most common fabric produced and used in the region during the Roman period. This particular form, with a simple out-curving rim and globular profile, is thought to be a long lived type, dating from the mid first century AD to the fourth century AD (Webster 1976, fig. 1.1). It was the most common narrow mouthed jar type produced at the Malvern, Newland Hopfields kiln site (Evans et al 2000, fig. 21.JNM1), where the main period of production was dated to the mid-to-late second century into the third (op. cit. 70). The most interesting parallel, in terms of dating and perhaps the wider context of deposition, comes from excavations at Bays Meadow villa in Droitwich (Barfield 2006). The complete profile of a similar jar is published from Phase 3 (op. cit. fig. 97.116). This phase has a clear terminus post quem of c AD 289, based on coins associated with the construction of a defensive rampart (op. cit. 125-6). It is thought that the main villa was destroyed some time in the late 3rd century, and new building occurred from c AD 355. No good parallels for the jar are evident in the later 4th century, phase 4, assemblage from the site.

Based on the evidence above, the form of the jar associated with the Little Comberton hoard is entirely consistent with the date of the coins it contains. It is therefore likely to be broadly contemporary with the coins rather than being a reused older vessel.

Conclusion

On the balance of probabilities, therefore, I conclude that these coins belong together as a hoard and constitute a prima facie case of treasure by being bronze coins of an antiquity greater than 300 years and of one find of more than ten pieces.

Richard Abdy

Dept. of Coins and Medals, British Museum, 22.9.11

Barfield, L H, 2006 Bays Meadow villa, Droitwich: excavations 1967-77 in D Hurst (ed), *Roman Droitwich: Dodderhill fort, Bays Meadow villa, and roadside settlement* CBA 146, 78-242

Evans, C J, Jones, L, & Ellis, P, 2000 *Severn Valley Ware production at Newland Hopfields. Excavation of a Romano-British kiln site at North End Farm, Great Malvern, Worcestershire in 1992 and 1994*, BAR BS 313, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit Monogr Ser 2

Hurst, D, & Rees, H, 1992, 'Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester' in S Woodiwiss (ed) 1992, *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*, CBA Res Rep 81, 200-209

Webster, P V, 1976, 'Severn Valley Ware: A preliminary study'. *Trans Bristol Gloucestershire Archaeol Soc* 94, 18-46

The Lytteltons of Hagley: Archive Collection

The Archive Service has recently been given permanent allocation of the archives of the Lyttelton family of Hagley under the Acceptance in Lieu scheme which means the archive is accepted on behalf of the nation, and held in Worcestershire. The collection of papers, letters, 19th-century diaries and other items charts their history locally as well as their involvement in the Victorian court and government, contacts with famous people such as Dickens, Gladstone and Kipling, and international links with Jamaica and their role in establishing a governmental structure in New Zealand. An archivist has been appointed to catalogue the collection, funded by the National Cataloguing Grant Fund.

The collection also – importantly – contains the Habington Manuscript, the first county history of Worcestershire and one of the first such histories in the country. The Service plans to make this collection more accessible to the public for research over the next 12 months or so and a number of activities are being planned which will complement the cataloguing process. These include an academic symposium based around the Habington MS; work with the Hagley Historical Society; schools activities; and a web presence. As well as creating an online catalogue of the collection, the aim is to produce a guide to Lyttelton family archives held in other locations, since we know there is material in this country and the USA, which would be valuable to researchers.

For more information concerning the yearlong project please contact Adrian Gregson in the first instance: email - agregson3@worcestershire.gov.uk

Some Facets of Eighteenth-century Church Life

Work is currently under way at WAAS (Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service) to pilot an idea for a project to make the rich variety of Consistory Court records more accessible. For many centuries issues such as marriage, inheritance and moral control were governed through the system of church courts, backed up by the process of Visitation. These courts have created intriguing records, dating back for Worcester to the 1520s, which throw a fascinating light on life as led by ‘ordinary’ people and enable us to have an insight into their concerns. Sometimes it can be a famous figure such as the daughter of William Shakespeare who is shown going to court to sue a neighbour for defamation. More often it is an ‘unknown’, such as an 18-year old girl before the court for having an illegitimate baby.

As well as the Act Books, Deposition Books and other registers, there are many thousands of court papers which remain unlisted. Preliminary investigations have shown what a rich source this collection is for social history of the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries.

Other dioceses such as York and Lichfield have already had projects that have begun to unlock this important historical source, little used till now, and which has so many potential applications for education and research across all ages and interests. It is hoped that something similar can be achieved in time for Worcester. Initial work is focussing on the boxes containing the working papers of the court for the 18th century. These are currently stored by year with no further catalogued details.

As an indication of the types of information that are included in these papers I have extracted three examples, throwing light on the history of Feckenham Church, schooling in Stoke Prior and the fittings of St Swithun's church in Worcester.

A. (WAAS BA 2336/12/116 Class 795.02)

'E Reg. Curiae Consistorialis Episcopalis Wigorn' extract'

To Mark Parker and William Fairfax Jun. the present churchwardens of Feckenham in the County and Diocese of Worcester

Whereas we understand that the late Queen's Arms which were painted by one Acock upon the wall of your parish Church are now washed out, Mr Chancellor does hereby strictly order and enjoyn you with all speed to set up the King's Armes that were lately well painted upon a Table where the said Armes by Acock were painted and likewise that you forthwith cause the two figures drawn upon the walls at the bottom of the said Church unskilfully and undecently to represent death and time to be washed out, and that you do hang up the Creed the Lords Prayer and Ten Commandments that are well drawn upon the Tables over those upon the wall: which will be much for the decency and Ornament of your Church and if the said tables will not cover those upon the wall you are hereby ordered to wash them out; and likewise that you do not employ or suffer to be employed the said Acock henceforward in any work to be done in or about the said church except in whitewashing the same only when need shall require; All which you are hereby ordered and enjoyned to do or cause to be done as aforesaid and to certify to the Chancellor abovesaid or his lawfull Surrogate.....

22 March 1714[15]'

In Paul Morgan's article on 'Royal Arms in Worcestershire churches', published in our *Transactions* NS XXXII (1955), he allocated these arms to the Hanoverian period 1714-1801, and in the Pevsner volume for Worcestershire the arms are said to be 'probably George I'. Although those attributions can most easily be established through the changing details of the Royal Arms themselves (particularly noticeable with the change to the Hanoverian kings and the inclusion of the various Hanoverian charges in the fourth quarter of the shield) this document backs up those opinions. However, the document raises other issues. It shows church interiors in a state of change, with various decorations painted directly onto the walls (including the intriguing reference to the figures of Death and Time) being white-washed over and replaced with items on 'tables' or wall boards. Was Feckenham's delay in putting up the new Royal Arms indicative of local tensions at the change of Royal house (at the time this order was made George's first Parliament was just meeting and there was discontent which led to the unsuccessful Jacobite rebellion in the north later in the year) or just normal 'dragging of feet' by parochial officers unwilling to lay out money? Finally, what had the unfortunate Acock done to be barred from all but the most menial work in the church?

A. (WAAS BA2336/12/182 Class 795.02)

'To the very Reverend & Worshipful Wm Lloyd D.D. and Chancellor of Worcester, the Humble Complaint of Richard Churchley Curate of Stoke Prior.

It is humbly presum'd by the said Richd Churchley that it is his Duty to see the Church whereof he is Curate be in every Respect us'd as the place set apart for the Solemn Worship of Almighty God. Accordingly, finding at his Entrance on the said Cure in September last, that Thomas Parker the Clerk did very shamefully abuse the Church by Suffering the Boys, whom he there

taught, to play & revel therein, even in the Communion-Place, tho' for the prevention of it the parish had set up Gates & Iron Spikes; he the said Richd Churchley finding & Being Eye-witness to these Disorders has frequently desir'd & order'd the said Tho: Parker to leave off teaching School in the Church, which he still obstinately refuseth to do.

And the said Richd Churchley, upon hearing from his own House those Disorders in the Church, has several Times gone thither, where he has been deny'd Admittance by the Scholars of the said Tho: Parker, who have continued rambling in the Church & ringing the Bells, notwithstanding the many Notices given 'em to the Contrary by the said Richd Churchley.

Moreover he the said Richd Churchley out of a Persuasion that any other place is much more proper than the Church for the Teaching of a School has been at Considerable Charges in making him a school in his own House tho' he is humbly of opinion that he has the sole Right at least much more Right than the said Tho: Parker of making such use of the Church. And whereas there is a Stipend of Three Pounds per Annum settled in his Parish for the Teaching of poor Children he the said Richd Churchley humbly requests that he may have it, his Curacy alone being hardly a bare Competency for himself & his Family'

This highlights a number of issues, including the standard of provision of schooling in that period and the question of clerical stipends, which varied widely, and condemned many a poor curate to a life of struggle. At the end of the century, according to Bishop Hurd's 'State of the Bishopric' (Worcs Historical Society N.S.6, 1968), the curate at Stoke Prior was receiving a stipend of between £40 and £50. The value of the living is stated then as either £140 or £160 to the Vicar (who at that date was not resident). There is also reference to a continuing sum of £4 10s. 6d. a year for teaching poor children to read.

A. (WAAS BA 2336/12/184 Class 795.02)

'The Humble Petition of Henry Lingen, Joseph Baddely, Samuel Bolus, Richard Taylor the younger, Thomas Tandy, Edward King, Muntuch Brown, Peter Walter and Thomas Hibbert, inhabitants and parishioners of the parish of Saint Swithin in the City & Diocese of Worcester – Humbly sheweth:

Whereas we the said [names as above] parishioners & inhabitants within the said parish of Saint Swithin being destitute of a seat or pew in the said Church to hear divine offices performed there and by and with the consent of the Churchwardens and parishioners of the same parish are at our own proper costs and charges about to erect or make a partition in the loft in which the organs now stand and thereby to have a seat or pew in the said loft on the south side of the said organs in lenth 17 foot & an halfe, in bredth 38 inches Fronting or facing into the said Church towards the pulpit Eastward adjoining to the wall of the said Church southward and opening into the said loft northward for us jointly to sitt in to hear divine service and sermons read and preached in the said Church. do humbly pray us licence or faculty to erect or make the said partition....'

This faculty petition refers to the old St Swithun's church, which was later rebuilt in the 1730s. In his article 'The Georgian Churches of Worcester' in the Society's *Transactions* Third Series Vol. 13 for 1992 David Whitehead considers that one reason for the extensive Georgian rebuilding of many of the city's ancient churches was the fact that they could not accommodate growing congregations, and this document would seem to lend support to that idea.

Robin Whittaker

News from the City

Archaeological evaluation trenching at the northern end of the former Royal Worcester Porcelain site (the former car park) has revealed further remains of the medieval city wall and the Victorian St Peter's church, along with its graveyard. Incorporated into the walls of the 19th-century church were fragmentary sandstone walls which are thought to be part of its medieval predecessor, which was demolished in the 1830s. This part of the site contains extensive surviving medieval remains as well as Roman occupation and a possible Anglo-Saxon defence, and is being redeveloped for residential use. The development will incorporate part of the Victorian St Peter's Infants School buildings. The Severn Street frontage of the factory is in different ownership and there are proposals to convert this area, including the listed showroom (most recently the cafe) into an arts quarter with performance spaces and workshops.

Just on the other side of Severn Street, work on building the new sports hall for King's School (the SPACE) is well under way. Archaeological work has been going on intermittently on the site since the proposals were first mooted some five years ago. The castle bailey ditch crosses the site and excavation has found some of the medieval and post-medieval ditch fills. Recent watching briefs and partial excavation of ditch fills over the summer have completed the fieldwork. On the inner edge of the ditch was a substantial rampart, which was expected to be medieval, but with earlier origins. There was a marked lack of medieval finds in the rampart make-up, which did contain postholes and palisade trenches hinting at a more complex history. Recently some samples from the rampart have been radiocarbon dated, and suggest that it was originally built in the Early Iron Age, between about 750 and 400 BC. This potentially pushes the origins of Worcester back by half a millennium, with implications for its early history which will take some time to work through.

Over the past six months, a team of volunteers, mainly from Worcester Civic Society but also including several Worcestershire Archaeological Society members, has been hard at work visiting around 1,200 Grade II listed and locally listed buildings in the city to help with preparing a comprehensive register of buildings at risk. Although buildings in Worcester seem to be in good condition compared with other places across the country where similar surveys have been carried out, nevertheless some 3% of Grade II listed and 5% of locally listed buildings were found to be at risk, and a further 5% of Grade II listed and 13% of locally listed buildings were vulnerable.

One well-known building at risk is nos 18-20 Silver Street, in the historic Lowesmoor suburb. This consists of a pair of late-17th-century brick houses, part of the reconstruction of the suburb after the destruction of the Civil War. The building was then adapted to become Worcester's first infirmary in the 1740s. It is a very rare survival of the first generation of hospitals to be built outside London since the Middle Ages, and contains partitions and other features thought to relate to the hospital use. Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust has now applied for a Heritage Enterprise grant from HLF to restore the building and bring it back into use.

James Dinn

News from Avoncroft Museum: Bromsgrove Nailer's Cottage

Nailmaking was Bromsgrove's main trade during the 18th and 19th centuries and by 1851 10,300 people were employed in the trade, with equal numbers of men and women nailers (Kings and Cooper 1999) and by 1891, 41% of all the nailmakers in England and Wales were from Worcestershire with the majority based in Bromsgrove.

Nailmaking was a cottage industry being undertaken in small workshops often shared by two or three nailmakers. Because there was no apprenticeship and no regulation, whole families would be employed working long hours. Child labour in Worcestershire, according to the 1861 census, accounted for around 1/4 of the child labour used across England and Wales largely as a result of the nail trade. The expansion of the trade and the fact that so many nailers set up shop meant prices increasingly dropped, with Robert Sherard describing nailers as 'The White Slaves of England' in a series of articles for Pearson's Magazine in 1896.

The physical heritage of the nailmaking industry has almost disappeared from Bromsgrove and its surrounding areas. One pair of early-19th-century nailers' cottages are listed in the town and others survive in much converted and modernised form. These can sometimes be identified by their single storey side or back extension, but mostly they were swept away during the 20th century after the trade died (only a handful of nailers were still producing hand-forged nails after the end of the First World War).

Due to the low survival rate of nail makers' cottages in Bromsgrove, when one was listed for demolition in Spring 2012 Bromsgrove District Council Planning Department approached Avoncroft Museum as a potential home for the building. Due to the lack of modern amenities (no indoor toilet or central heating had been installed) it would likely mean listing the cottage to save it would leave it abandoned due to the excessive cost of alterations to make it into a sellable home. After a successful grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund Avoncroft Museum dismantled the cottage numbering each brick for later reconstruction at the Museum site.

When piecing together the history of the cottage the first breakthrough came underneath the floor of the 1960s kitchen (what was once a parlour in the early 1900s) where heavily blackened soil and an earthen floor show a central hearth was once in this room, the large quantities of hand-made nails that came from metal detecting also proved, that unlike previously thought, the cottage also had a nailshop at the side of the property which was later converted (probably c.1870) into a parlour when a second storey was added above as part of a series of works converting the 'one up, one down' cottage into a 'two up, two down'. During this period of work it is likely that the current surviving single storey extension facing the road was constructed as an alternative to the one at the side of the property that had been converted.

The Museum was also approached by Joyce Rea (formerly Homer) who was born at the property in 1925. Joyce's father Alfred Homer (1871-1960) lived at the cottage from 1893 until his death in 1960 when it passed to his daughter Irene Homer in whose possession it stayed until 2008 when it was abandoned. It appears that the cottage was the home of Alfred's first wife Elizabeth Webb's family who had lived at the home since 1871 and it is likely the

cottage was passed to Alfred and Elizabeth after their marriage in 1893 giving a direct family residence of over 130 years.



*Irene and her mother Amy Homer
in front of the cottage and the
converted nailshop c.1930*

Joyce can recall clearly the layout and décor of the house when she was a child when her father Alfred worked at the Austin plant in Longbridge and also market gardening (both of which are common professions for ex-nailer families). Archive sources show Alfred Homer applied for permission to convert a nailshop into a bedroom in 1930. Aged only five at the time, Joyce cannot remember the nailshop, but believes her father rebuilt the front extension as a bedroom for his ill wife Amy who could no longer go upstairs. This corresponds with the surviving structure and archive sources.

The story of nail making in Bromsgrove from the time of the cottage's construction (1840s) is one of extreme poverty and decline. However, unlike in other nail making areas, such as Dudley, many Bromsgrove nailers turned increasingly to market gardening to subsidise their work (and often supersede it) due to the space and rural setting available compared to the industrial towns of the Black Country. Finally when the Austin plant opened at Longbridge in 1905 this was a major source of employment for ex-nail makers and their families and after the First World War few families were left in Bromsgrove who still made nails. The cottage rescued by the Museum shows residence by nailers on census returns between 1851-1881 (Wootton 1851, Crump 1861 and Webb 1871-1893). As the wages declined and the trade started to disappear in the town, Alfred Homer was listed as a market gardener on the 1911 census; oral history confirms that he and his son Joseph were working at Austin in Longbridge by 1915. This gives a textbook example of how the nail trade grew and declined in the local area.

Using the family as an example of the changing nature of the nail trade, and Joyce to inform how the interiors looked when she was a child and to tell the personal story of the Homer family, Avoncroft has decided to display the cottage in the mid 1930s. This avoids extensive remodelling by the museum to 're-create' nailshops, and largely allows the building to remain unaltered as a testament to how buildings adapt and change over time. With much of the preliminary work complete, reconstruction work should start in autumn 2013 with the cottage open to the public by spring 2014.

Mark Clifford
nailer@avoncroft.org.uk; 01527 831363 / 831886

Recent Publications

Boydell & Brewer Special Offer

WAS members are offered a 25% discount on the paperback editions of *Trees in Anglo-Saxon England. Literature, Lore and Landscape* by Della Hooke and *English Medieval Miscellanies* by Paul Hardwick. Order online at www.boydellandbrewer.com and enter the special offer code 13080 at the checkout. Alternatively phone 01394 610 600. Offer ends 31 December 2013.

Trees in Anglo-Saxon England. Literature, Lore and Landscape Della Hooke, Anglo-Saxon Studies 13, Boydell & Brewer (2013) 322pp. RRP £17.99; to WAS readers, £13.49 plus £3 p&p

Della Hooke requires no introduction to WAS members, and this paperback copy of her remarkable study of trees in literature, lore and landscape is most welcome. To it she brings not only her acknowledged authority on landscape studies, but her love of literature; there are numerous literary quotations, translated where appropriate.

The book opens with a section on Tree Symbolism: Trees and Groves in Pre-Christian Belief; Christian and the Sacred Tree; Trees in Literature; and Trees, Mythology and National Consciousness: into the Future. The middle part discusses Trees and Woodland in the Anglo-Saxon Landscape, including the nature and distribution of Anglo-Saxon woodland and the place-name and charter evidence. Finally, consideration is given to individual tree species in Anglo-Saxon England.

There are 21 Figs, mostly maps but also including a drawing of the Franks Casket in the British Museum, which is inscribed with runes. Useful tables record the incidence of tree species in charters and early place-names; of tree species in early hundred and wapentake names; and of individual tree species in charters and early place-names.

We look forward to Della Hooke's talk to the Society, 'The Trees and Woodland of Anglo-Saxon Worcestershire', on 24 February 2014.

English Medieval Misericords. The Margins of Meaning Paul Hardwick (Boydell, 2011) ISBN 9781843838272. RRP £19.99; special offer to WAS members, £14.99 plus £3 postage

As the author firmly points out in his Introduction, misericords 'were commissioned by the clergy for installation in the devotional heart of the church', to be 'viewed by an exclusively clerical audience'. Consequently the author's central thesis is that 'symbolism is in fact the guiding principle of misericords decoration, and may be found everywhere'. His book therefore invites us to 'explore the devotional discourses at play in their design'.

These Hardwick explores in the subsequent seven chapters of his book, with the assistance of 29 well chosen and reproduced photographs of misericords from English churches. In addition there are two from the most westernmost set of misericords in Europe, at Limerick Cathedral; as well as one from Saint-Maurille, Ponts-de-Cé on the Loire, which shows a woman with a padlocked mouth, symbolising 'Masculinity and Power' within the medieval church!

The book includes a Gazetteer, with descriptions of the principal misericords of some 60 churches in the British Isles, including Worcester, Great Malvern, Ripple, Tewkesbury, Gloucester, Hereford and Ludlow. In the Index the topographical entries for churches with misericords are listed under 'churches', pp184-5. This is a work that can be recommended to all with a serious interest in misericords.

Joe Hillaby

The Business and Household Accounts of Joyce Jeffreys, Spinster of Hereford, 1638-1648 ed Judith Spicksley, British Academy Records of Social and Economic History, NS XLI (2012) £90

Joyce Jeffreys was the daughter of Henry Jeffreys of Ham Castle in the Teme valley, Worcestershire, by his second marriage, to Anne Barnaby of The Hill, Bockleton, Salop. Anne's first husband was John Coningsby, Lord of Neen Solars, Salop, by whom she had a daughter Katherine, married in 1587, and a son Humphrey, some four years older than Joyce. They were evidently brought up together, for they had a close relationship as adults. Humphrey was a keen traveller, who died under unknown circumstances. Joyce was his executor; significantly, she delayed proving his will for seven years. Like his mother she was left an annuity of 100 marks (£67); she also inherited lands and properties, and the family manor house at Neen Sollars. She inherited a further 200 marks on her father's death. Joyce was also a beneficiary under the wills of her mother and uncle, Sir Thomas Coningsby. She was thus a woman of considerable wealth.

After her death in 1650 Joyce's business and household accounts remained in the hands of her family at Ham Castle until Henry Jeffreys, a great nephew and owner of Ham Castle, died in 1709. The manuscript, now BL Add MS 62902, passed into the hands of the Winnington family of Stanford Court, from whom it was acquired by the British Museum. In 1857 John Webb drew attention to the manuscript in *Archaeologia*, Vol 37 (1857) 189-223: 'Some passages in the Life and Character of a Lady resident in Herefordshire and Worcestershire during the Civil War of the Seventeenth Century'. F.R.James' Presidential Address to the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club in 1922 concentrated on Joyce as 'a Resident in Hereford during the Civil War'. Eleven years later R.G.Griffiths, formerly vicar of Clifton-on-Teme, published 'Joyce Jeffereys of Ham Castle, a 17th-century Business Gentlewoman' in this Society's *Transactions*, NS Vol X (1933), 1-32, XI (1934) 1-13, with a charming Appendix with illustrations on 'Some Costumes of the Period', XII (1935) 1-17. He included a detailed pedigree of the family.

We can now view Joyce Jeffreys in a much wider light, for Judith Spicksley has edited the full text of her 'Business and Household Accounts, Receipts and Disbursements', together with appendices detailing the economic and social status of some individuals named, as well as of persons listed as debtors in her accounts, and a transcript of her will. Professor Chris Dyer points out in his Foreword that, as a result of Judith Spicksley's work on this material, 'Jeffreys can join that select band of seventeenth-century individuals – such as Loder, Josselyn and Pepys – whose personal writings tell us so much about the society and economy of that period'.

One of the principal interests of her business accounts comes in the details it provides of her, not always successful, moneylending activities. Spicksley's Introduction includes a section where her business dealing and other financial activities are analysed. Details of receipts and disbursements are provided on pp142-292. The general reader will find much of interest in Spicksley's discussion of the impact of the Civil War and the siege of Hereford. Of wider interest are the emerging patterns of Joyce's consumption, her family and household, religion and charity, hobbies and pastimes. It is highly regrettable, however, that the British Academy and OUP should provide a map that is some 20 years out of date, showing the short-lived and hotly contested merger of the historic counties of Hereford and Worcester. It is hoped that Judith Spicksley will take part in the Society's lecture programme for 2014-15.

Joe Hillaby

Severn by Richard Hayman (Logaston Press, 2012) £15; pbk 272 pp, over 120 colour, 20 b&w illustrations

This book is a celebration of Britain's longest river, 'a powerful force of nature that 2000 years of civilisation and civil engineering has failed to domesticate'. It is divided into 16 chapters under six headings. 'The Natural River' opens with a dramatic description of the 1773 earthquake at Buildwas. Plynlimon, for George Borrow 'rather a shabby source for so noble a stream', has inspired many writers as the fountain-head of Wales; others, following the union of England and Wales, regarded the Severn as a 'natural expression of British nationhood'. 'The Sacred River' considers Sabrina, one of five sister water spirits on Plynlimon, and the literary and artistic achievements the river has inspired, including quotations from Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, *The Lamentable Tragedie of Locrine*, Swinburne, Michael Drayton's *Poly Olbion* and Milton. As a River of Churches from the 4th century on, the Severn attracted hermits, monasteries, hospitals and friars.

'The River as Frontier' considers Fords and Ferries, Severn Bridges, Castles and Kings, and the Civil Wars. Early fording points are recorded in place names, but a tenant farmer moved his entire stock of cattle, sheep, wagons, household goods and family across the mile between Arlingham and Newnham, the lowest point at which the river was fordable, as late as 1802. There were notable ecclesiastical associations with ferries; Tewkesbury Abbey for example owned Upper and Lower Lode ferries. Ferrymen augmented their income by keeping inns, barges or pleasure boats, or by net- and basket-making, fishing. Ferries could be dangerous, however, as Defoe noted, and there were numerous fatal accidents.

Gloucester, Worcester, Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury had stone bridges by the 14th century, but timber was still used in the 15th at Upton. Due to the destructive power of the river no bridge survives from earlier than the 18th century. Some of Britain's finest bridges were built over the Severn: Telford's Over bridge at Gloucester has the longest masonry span in Britain; the short-lived Severn Railway Bridge was the longest ever attempted, with 21 spans and a swing bridge over the Gloucester and Sharpness canal; a viewing area was created for pedestrians to appreciate the revolutionary design of the Severn Bridge. Castles and Kings discusses border fortifications, and lesser castles that protected crossings or vulnerable manors. During the Civil Wars Upton Bridge is said to have endured more skirmishes than any other place in England, yet none of the Severn bridges was destroyed. As well as influencing the site of the battles the Severn was crucial for the transport of soldiers, ordnance, food and fuel. Each side tried to control river and hence trade at principal towns and bridges.

'The Working River' looks at the Severn as a focus of Industry since Roman times when iron was smelted at Worcester using iron ore from the Forest of Dean. Subsequently monasteries had mills near the Severn, which also serviced fulling, dyeing, tanning, brewing, wool, coal mining, brick and tile, porcelain and energy. There was fierce competition for trade between ports; raw materials such as wool, leather, skins, coal and timber were transported downstream whilst upstream went manufactured goods such as wine, soap, iron, pepper and exotic fruits. Remarkable details are given of mixed cargoes in the 17th century. In 1766 some 150 packhorses a week took woollen cloth etc from Manchester for export from Bristol. The vessels have gone, but quays, warehouse and inns survive. 'Nothing on the Severn', the author notes, 'has been abused and squandered more than its abundant gift of fish', of which there were 57 species in

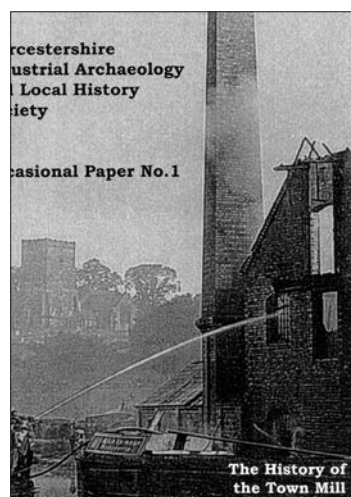
the early 17th century. Salmon, eels and lampreys figure largely, with quotes from John Gay's 'To a Young Lady with some Lampreys'.

Part 5 considers 'The Water of Life', 'Flood and Freeze'; and 'Found Drown'd'. The Severn was too prone to flooding to attract the finest country houses but many had parklands bordering the river. Finally 'From the River to the Sea' considers the remarkable Severn Bore and the Severn Sea, followed by an Afterword on 'The Present and Future River'.

Richard Hayman brings to this study, which abounds with symbolism, not only his experience as historian and archaeologist but many literary and artistic illustrations. In addition to those already mentioned there are quotations from Brett Young, Ivor Gurney and Lewis Glyn Cothi, c1461. The colour photographs are excellent, as also the reproduction of paintings by Samuel Ireland, F.W.Seville, Benjamin Williams Leader, Niemann and others, and of many historical black and white images; good use is made of maps by Buck and Speed, and of Lord Burleigh's Shrewsbury map of 1575, with some wonderful details. Not all, however, are referenced or attributed.

A History of the Town Mill of Droitwich Paul Jones LRPS. 43pp, £4 from Droitwich Heritage Centre and Grace Cards and Books Droitwich; online from www.wialhs.org.uk, £5.

This new booklet (A4 format) has been published by the Worcestershire Industrial Archaeology and Local History Society as their first Occasional Paper. It has benefited from both documentary and site research, including the recent archaeological investigations carried out prior to redevelopment. There are numerous photographs and maps – both old and recent – including early 20th-century images of the Town Mill fires. The article fills in a substantial gap in our knowledge of this now lost industrial site. It describes a serious fire in August 1947 which led to the collapse of the roof and floors, left the mill gutted, and destroyed all of the machinery, and a store of pig and poultry meal. The fire service succeeded in saving the mill house and sheds, and in stopping the fire from spreading to fuel tanks at the rear of the mill. The damage was estimated to be over £35,000. Most watermills had gone out of business by the 1950s, so the 1947 fire at Droitwich only hastened the inevitable.



Thomas Tomkins: Musician, Citizen, Victim of War published by the Battle of Worcester Society, price £6.95, obtainable from the Cathedral Shop

This booklet by Canon Paul Tongue describes the eventful and long life of Thomas Tomkins, who lived from 1572 to 1656. He lived much of his life in Worcester and was buried at Martin Hussingtree. The booklet is not about the music of this famous musician, but about Thomas as a person, struggling to make his way in the world and coping with the stresses and misfortunes of the Civil War. Other members of the Tomkins family were in the church and in the music world, and their stories are also briefly mentioned.

Brian Ferris

***West Midlands Archaeology* 53 (2011)**

This volume is now available in the Hive. There is much of interest for WAS members, as more than a quarter of the text relates to sites in Worcestershire, including 21 in Worcester; amongst the 53 others are Crowle Court, Hanley Castle, Hindlip, Blackstone Quarry at Kidderminster, and Horsham Old Court at Martley.

Stop Press

The Lost Lake Stephen Clarke, Monmouth Archaeological Society, £15

Monmouth archaeologists have established that a huge post-glacial lake, formed some 10,000 years ago, covered most of the area until the 1st century BC. There was considerable human activity from the Middle Stone Age through to the Iron Age. Very well illustrated, *The Lost Lake* tells the remarkable story, and announces the discovery of evidence for prehistoric boat-building during the Bronze Age. This is of international significance.

In praise of ... Mary A. Green (1873–1941) See <http://vidimus.org/issues/issue-71/feature/>

Mary A. Green, ‘who can rightly be called the first female scholar’ of medieval stained glass, is the subject of an article by Roger Rosewell in the on-line magazine *vidimus*.

As Robin Whittaker noted in the sesquicentennial edition of the *Recorder*, Spring 2004: ‘Mary Green, who died in 1941, is remembered for her remarkable survey of the county’s medieval stained glass, published alphabetically by parish in the Society’s *Transactions* 1934-47. Most drawings were by Elsie Matley Moore, with others from the Prattinton collection (*Recorder* 67, Spring 2003, p21). Her work was warmly recognised by Professor Marks, the leading authority on English medieval stained glass, when he lectured to the Society on that subject in 2001.’

Until now little has been known about Mary Green’s life, so Roger Rosewell’s account is most welcome. She was born in 1873 at Whitford Hall, Bromsgrove, which was built for her father. The article includes a photograph of it as a prep school for girls before it closed in 1999; the building has since been demolished. In 1911 Mary became the first treasurer of the newly formed Bromsgrove Womens’ Suffrage Society, and Honorary Secretary of the Bromsgrove Nursing Association; in 1925 she was appointed as a magistrate, serving on the same bench as her father. In May 1924 she was elected a member of the WAS where she became close friends with Elsie Matley Moore (1900-85). This, Rosewell suggests, was a turning point in her life. Mary was working on a new publication about stained glass at her death.

Archaeology Day School. Saturday 16 November, 9.45-5pm

As in previous years, this will take place at the University of Worcester. Tickets £15 to include tea/coffee & biscuits on arrival, mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Bring your own packed lunch and cold drinks. Bookings can be made at the Hive Admin Team, WAAS, The Hive, Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester WR1 3PB; 01905 766352 or explorethepast@worcestershire.gov.uk. As usual there will be a wide range of topics:

Excavation of a Medieval Mill at Droitwich
'Know your Place': Historic Environmentalism for Local Planning
Bells and Bell Casting in Worcestershire
Dig Bromsgrove – Recent Excavations in the Town Centre
Hagley Historic Parkland
Searching for the Minister at Kidderminster
A Year in the Life of a Community Archaeologist
Roman Finds from Worcester
New Insights into the Old Stone Age

WAS Architecture Group. Programme for 2013-2014.

Due to fluctuating numbers attending this group, meetings will no longer take place at The Friends Meeting House, but at my house, 128 Bath Road, Worcester. This is about 12 minutes walk down the Bath Road from the Commandery. As accommodation is limited, it will be necessary to telephone 01905 354224 in advance to secure a place. In the event of overbooking, a re-run of the talk will be given at a later agreed date. Future meetings can be arranged at differing locations, including members' houses, providing that transport can be arranged.

The first meeting, on Ireland, took place on Wednesday 16th October; they will continue at approximately 1 month intervals. Future subjects will include: Germany, the Rhine; England in the 19th century; Members' choices; and Items relating to the Excursions for 2014. All meetings take place at 2.30pm, but evening meetings can also be arranged.

Brian Ferris

Epiphany Tea Party. 10 January 2014

As announced at our last meeting, there is to be an Epiphany Tea Party on Friday 10th January at 3pm at the Greyfriars. Tickets will be £7, and will include a chance to visit the house and gardens. 40 tickets will be available; profits will go towards a specific project at Greyfriars.

This departure from our usual calendar, this addition within the lecture period, has come from part of our history as a society and could find a place, almost as a commemoration, in our events. If we want a Tea Party, why at the Greyfriars and why in January?

When my wife Irene and I were custodians at the Greyfriars, some of the Matley Moores' closest friends were still alive who wished to tell us their memories so that we might record them. We persuaded one of them, Homery Folkes, a long standing member of the Society, to write down some of his memoirs about the Moores which would otherwise be so easily lost. He was very keen and, looking through his past diaries, decided to include a lengthy account of the Moores Epiphany Tea Parties. We now have copies in addition to those at Greyfriars. There are also some tape recordings of Homery, Audrey Pettigrew and Gwen Grice, all past members, talking of the Moores.

The idea of re-staging the party came after a chance conversation with Michael and Jenny Goode, who borrowed our copy. They were most interested because they had received an invitation on two occasions to the tea party. Firstly, it is to re-awaken the connection between us and the Greyfriars. That connection has been widely forgotten because, as important and as extensive as the implications were at the time, changes in our way of working and certainly in those of the Greyfriars, have removed us from its sphere of influence and are only emphasised by the passage of time.

The building we call the Greyfriars dates to c.1480 and was built by a prosperous merchant. It had no connection with The Franciscan Friary which stood on Friar Street. After a very mixed history, in 1938 a demolition order was passed on it. So it was during the Second World War and immediately afterwards that the Society became the most important challenger of that order and then the building's protector. It was because of the generosity of one of the committee, Major Thompson, who later became Chairman, that the building was saved. He managed to solve all the complications of leases, ownerships and city charity obligations to the tune of some £3,186 (at 1940's value) and then gave the building to the Society. This was on condition that his nominee as tenant was accepted and the Society was able to hold its meetings there. So No. 9 Friar Street, or The Old Friary as they mistakenly called it, or the Greyfriars as it was soon named, became the property of the WAS, whose library was housed next door in what is now a hairdresser's. None of this, it should be noted, had anything to do with The National Trust, and therefore our Tea Party is an event purely for the Society.

The tenant was Matley Moore, a long-serving member of the committee, for 59 years chiefly as Excursions Secretary, but never chairman. He, his sister and mother, who served on the committee for 43 and 25 years respectively, moved into the Greyfriars in 1949 during the last week of January, 65 years to the month of our party. He undertook to restore the house – at a final cost of some £15,000 – to be lived in and used for the Society to hold its meetings.

As leading members of the Society, it became their habit from the 1950s to host an Epiphany Tea party, usually on the first Saturday of January. This quickly became an institution, and to be invited was a mark of some achievement in Worcester society. Along with the higher clergy of the city and county, the Society was always well represented. It is, therefore, a noteworthy episode in our Society's story. Our ownership of the Greyfriars, (before being passed to the National Trust,) and our involvement in saving other buildings in that era of demolition, could from time to time be commemorated by reviving the Tea Party as a link between the Greyfriars, the personalities concerned and the WAS.

Vince Hemingway

See *TWAS* 3S, 17 (2000) 303-312

Orkney and Shetland trip, August 2014

Working with the specialist tour operator Brightwater holidays, John Harcup is offering a 5-night 6-day package tour, flying from Birmingham. The tour includes the Ness of Brodgar (see *Current Archeology* October 2013 for details of a superb example of a Neolithic incised stone discovered there). A detailed itinerary is available from John Harcup or Ernie Kay. We hope the annual dig will be active when we visit. There are two possible departure dates: Mondays 18

or 25 August. The probable all-inclusive price of our tour is £1125, based on a minimum of 15 participants. This is by far the cheapest way of getting this tour together.

There is a distinct possibility of seeing excellent wildlife – puffins were still on the islands this year in August. Other wildlife such as midges can be a local problem on the islands, so insect repellent should be packed, but they should not spoil the holiday. Most of the 15 bookings necessary for the trip to proceed are promised but there is availability. If you would definitely like to come please contact John Harcup as soon as possible, 01684 574477 or drjwharcup@aol.com, or Ernie Kay on 01684 567917 or ekmalv@tiscali.co.uk. Payment details will be forwarded when we have confirmed the trip.

John Harcup

WAS Excursions Programme 2013

An exciting programme included afternoon/evening trips to visit the surviving parts of the Romanesque Cathedral and monastery Worcester Cathedral Romanesque; Hagley Park; Hellens, Much Marcle, with supper; Chaddesley Corbett; and Stoke Orchard and Oxenton churches near Tewkesbury. Day trips took in the industrial archaeology of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal at Tardebigge; a visit to a cluster of 19th-century Warwickshire churches; and Silchester Roman town. The Coventry trip was postponed but is planned to take place during 2014.

WAS Lecture Programme 2013-14

This year's programme commenced on 9 September with a most entertaining talk by **Peter Hughes**, Estate Manager on the **Madresfield Estate**. He explained the history of Madresfield Court and the Lygon family who have lived there for the last 800 years, and some of the changes he has encountered during his 35 years working there. The most extensive change, to which he referred in some detail, was the recent renovation of Madresfield Court to allow for the arrival of the next generation of the family. The programme of work, both maintenance and improvement, was enormous, exacerbated by problems such as dry rot and asbestos, and not least six different species of bat. These, being protected, have their own housing requirements, as we saw.

On 7 October WAS member **John Hemingway** gave an illustrated talk on the pioneer photographer, **Benjamin Brecknell Turner**, who had strong Worcestershire connections. He ran a Tallow Chandler's business in the Haymarket, London; Brecknell Turner Saddle Soap is still made but no longer by his enterprise. Benjamin married Agnes Chamberlain of Bredicot in 1847, and for two decades the family spent holidays with their grandparents in the village. He was an acquaintance of William Henry Fox Talbot who invented the process of negative-positive photography in 1839, which Turner took up as a hobby in 1849. Most of his photographs were of country scenes; a proportion are of Bredicot and other sites in Worcestershire. He became one of the leading lights in photography; his photographs were well received at exhibitions in London, Manchester, Glasgow and Amsterdam. Turner is now acknowledged as one of the early masters of the art and his prints are very valuable. Major collections are held by the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Photographic Society. John's talk concentrated on the Worcestershire aspect of his work, and included the earliest photograph of Worcester Cathedral.

**28 October The Revd Treadway Nash, Bevere and Anthony Keck:
Architectural Patronage in late Georgian Worcestershire**

Helping with the VCH Herefordshire at Eastnor Castle, WAS member **David Whitehead** has been able to scrutinise the many diaries and notebooks belonging to Treadway Nash in the Castle muniments. Not only do they throw light upon the building and embellishment of Bevere House and its landscape, but they also provide an insight into the close relationship that existed between Nash and his architect, Anthony Keck of Kings Stanley in Gloucestershire, whose talents he assiduously promoted among his friends, relations and the many institutional committees with which Nash was involved. Nash's patronage made Keck the most successful provincial architect in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire in the last three decades of the 18th century. His work and his reliance upon Nash will be the subject of this illustrated lecture.

**25 November The Medieval Peasant House in Midlands England
Dr Nat Alcock, Warwick University**

A project that started some 20 years ago, to survey and date standing medieval houses of peasant status in the Midlands, has finally been brought to a conclusion, and is in print in *The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England* (Oxbow, 2013). This talk will give an overview of what we now know about these houses, based on the data gathered for the 120 buildings examined during the project. The great majority are of cruck construction, and range in date from the later 13th century onwards, although one extraordinary house has been dated to 1205. Mid- to later 15th-century dates predominate and the final examples are of the 1550s. In status, they can be linked to peasants farming yardland or half-yardland holdings, or occasionally to cottagers.

**16 December An Insider's View of the Staffordshire Hoard
Dr David Symons, Birmingham Museums Trust**

David is Curator of Archaeology and Numismatics at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and is the lead curator dealing with the Staffordshire Hoard for Birmingham. He has been involved with the hoard since just a few days after its discovery in 2009. In this talk he will tell the story of the hoard and reveal some of the discoveries that have been made over the past four years.

NB. This lecture will take place at **Perrins Hall, RGS Worcester** (see below)

2014

**13 January Tales from the Riverbank. Investigating the Archaeology of the Severn Valley
Robin Jackson, WAAS**

The past 10 or so years have seen many important archaeological discoveries at sites strung along the length of the River Severn as it passes through Worcestershire. Ranging from remarkable Neolithic pits, through enigmatic Bronze Age burnt mounds to the wealthy settlements of Iron Age, Roman and later farmers, these sites have largely come to light as part of the work that WAAS has undertaken working alongside developers on the floodplain and gravel terraces that flank the river. This paper will highlight some of these discoveries and show how the information from them has been used to underpin other research funded by English Heritage

and thereby advance our understanding of the history of early settlement alongside this stretch of Britain's longest river.

**3 February New discoveries on Coventry's first cathedral (St Mary's)
and on Coventry's second cathedral (St Michael's)**

WAS member **George Demidowicz**, for over 20 years head of conservation and archaeology with Coventry City Council, is an Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of History at the University of Birmingham and a member of Coventry Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee. He will talk about remarkable discoveries at two of Coventry's three cathedrals, the first made during excavations which took place between 1999 and 2002 at St Mary's as part of a Millennium scheme. St Mary's, founded as an abbey in the early 11th century, was the only cathedral in England to be destroyed at the Reformation. George will also present some of his recent research on the former parish church of St Michael's, elevated to cathedral status in 1918 and gutted during the Blitz in November 1940. He will be leading a guided visit to Coventry next year.

**24 February The Trees and Woodland of Anglo-Saxon Worcestershire
Dr Della Hooke, University of Birmingham**

Worcestershire was a well-wooded county in the early medieval period; in Domesday Book only the more intensively cultivated Vale of Evesham was to have little woodland recorded. This would not have been, however, the dense woodland envisioned by earlier historians but more open woodland pastured by domestic stock, especially pigs, on a seasonal basis. It is possible in the west of the county to reconstruct series of parallel drove ways that led into the woods. These were also used for hunting and later, under the Norman kings, much of Worcestershire was to be declared royal forest. By examining early records it is possible to identify which species of trees were present and to reconstruct, to a certain extent, the character of the local countryside.

24 March AGM, followed by report back on study tour to Suffolk

**28 April Romano-British Mosaics in and around Worcestershire
(Berkeley) Steve Cosh, D Litt FSA**

Co-author with David Neal of the Society of Antiquary's four-volume corpus of the Roman mosaics of Britain, Steve Cosh will explain the history, manufacture, purpose and modern recording of mosaics before examining the mosaics of the region. Kenchester had some very fine pavements, and the mosaics from Cirencester and the villas around it are of internationally importance, notably the enormous Orpheus pavement from Woodchester.

All lectures take place on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. All are at St George's Church Hall, Sansome Place, Worcester WR1 1UG apart from 16 December which will be at Perrins Hall, RGS, Upper Tything, Worcester, WR1 1HP; access is from Little London (off Upper Tything).

Items for the next issue should be sent to the Editor, Caroline Hillaby, email recorder@worcestershirearchaeologicalsociety.org.uk by **21 March 2014**.

