

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

As I write, we are coming to the end of what must be one of our most successful lecture programmes ever. The number of lectures has increased over the years, and now stands at 10 annually, including the report on the previous year's study tour and the Berkeley Lecture. The numbers attending have also been increasing steadily. This year there have regularly been 70-80 at each talk, and two recent lectures reached well over 100, with many new faces. This is a great tribute to the quality of speakers that Joe Hillaby has been able to attract to speak to the Society. The 2014-15 series, currently being organised, promises to be just as good.

This year's excursion programme also promises to be a very good one, with several full-day and evening visits. Muriel Tinsley has told me that there is enough interest in each of the tours for them all to be viable, and I encourage everyone to sign up. There is no study tour this autumn, and the Orkney and Shetland tour is now fully booked.

Della Hooke, in her lecture on February 24, mentioned a lecture she was going to be giving in Worcester in March. Unfortunately the Medieval Settlement Research Group conference which this was part of turned out to be fully booked, but there is a possibility of an extra event in the summer, at Birtsmorton and Castlemorton Common. If this does happen we probably won't be able to circulate details by post, but we will make sure that an email goes out and that flyers are available at preceding excursions.

If you aren't receiving Bob Ruffle's email updates on events, it means he hasn't got your details. Please contact him (bob.ruffle@tesco.net) to make sure you get the most up to date information.

It is always a sad duty to report on the death of a colleague. Most members will have heard of the death earlier this year of Les Bishop, until recently the Society's Treasurer. Les had ably run the Society's finances since 2009, until having to relinquish the post through illness late in 2013. His financial reports were always clear and informative, and he left the Society in a strong financial position. A brief appreciation follows.

It is also sad to note the death of Professor Nicholas Brooks, who made important contributions to the study of medieval Worcester, and also chaired the Worcester Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee for many years. A colleague of his on the FAC, Richard Lockett, has provided an appreciation of his work in Worcester.

As announced at the AGM, in consultation with Ernie Kay, the Committee has made a decision in principle on how to allocate the Kay Memorial Fund money, generously donated by him. There are three projects: repair and display of Thomas Habington's chest, in time for a day school on Habington at The Hive next year; repair of a number of the older and more valuable books in the Society's library, so that they can be used; and work on conservation, storage and digitising of the Parker-Hore collection. Tile paintings from the collection will be travelling on loan to Chepstow Museum for an exhibition this year – information will be sent out by email when the dates are confirmed.

On behalf of the Committee and the Society, my thanks go to a number of outgoing members of the Committee and officers. Hal Dalwood resigned as publicity officer late last year. Stephen Price and Nick Molyneux stepped down from the Committee at the AGM. Both are ex-

Chairmen, and both served on the Committee for lengthy periods, helping to guide the Society through significant changes. This included drafting the new constitution which was adopted at the 2012 AGM. Stephen stays on as the Society's Curator. Two Committee members have new roles: Garth Raymer, who was co-opted as Treasurer in February, was elected at the AGM, and Bob Ruffle was elected as Deputy Chairman (he continues as Membership Secretary). Finally, we welcome two new members to the Committee. Paul Hudson is Learning and Outreach Manager at The Hive, and Rachael Trimm works for the National Trust at the Greyfriars.

James Dinn

Obituary: Les Bishop

Les Bishop, who died on 27 January this year, served as Treasurer of Worcestershire Archaeological Society from 2009-13. Archaeology was just one of his many interests, and he filled a great many volunteer roles in his very busy retirement. He was a trustee and later Chairman of Worcestershire Lifestyles, the charity which supports disabled adults, which he joined as a volunteer driver. His work with youth cricket led to him being awarded the Torch Trust Trophy, and recently the English Cricket Board Coaches Association / Sky Sports award for outstanding contribution and services to cricket coaching. He also coached several Worcestershire county players and was on the committee of Worcestershire County Cricket Club for 20 years. Les was Parish Clerk of Warndon Parish Council from 1991-2011, a period in which the population grew from a couple of hundred to over 10,000. Some members may also remember Cordle's, the delicatessen in St John's, which he and his wife Val, who survives him, ran in the 1980s.

WAS Committee 2014-15

Chairman	James Dinn	01684 567131
Deputy Chairman/ Membership Secretary	Bob Ruffle	01684 578142
Secretary	Janet Dunleavey	01684 565190
Treasurer	Garth Raymer	01386 554026
Programme Secretary	Joe Hillaby	01531 650618
Excursions Administrator	Muriel Tinsley	01905 616434
Editor (<i>Transactions</i>)	Robin Whittaker	01386 554886

Committee Members

Debbie Fox	Margaret Goodrich
Paul Hudson	Rachael Trimm

Other Officers of the Society (not on the Committee)

Archaeological Adviser	Chris Guy
Webmaster	Brian Browne
Editor (<i>Recorder</i>)	Caroline Hillaby
Curator	Stephen Price
Hon Librarian (University)	Roger Fairman
Technical Officer	Peter Walker

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

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

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

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

Welcome to new Committee Members

Paul Hudson

I'm originally from Cleveland, and have been interested in history and the past most of my life, especially castles, the Civil War and Saxons/Vikings, and going on to do a history degree on the edge of Worcestershire at Dudley. Like many my interest in history expanded into archaeology through programme like Time Team, which led to me going on a dig and getting hooked. I'm currently Learning & Outreach Manager for Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service, originally come to Worcestershire as the History Centre manager 9 years ago. Before that I was Local Studies Librarian in Derby. I also help with Worcestershire Young Archaeologists Club.

Rachael Trimm

I am the House and Visitor Services Manager for Greyfriars House and Garden, part of the National Trust. I studied at Exeter University, taking a BA in Ancient History and Archaeology and an MA in 'Alternative Histories through Art and Archaeology' in 2007. Archaeology has always been a passion for me and I even thought about going for jobs in the sector but realised I am very much a fair weather archaeologist.

I have worked in heritage for my whole career, starting volunteering at my local museum whilst at Exeter. I was then lucky enough to work at Buckingham Palace and the Queen's Gallery during the summer opening in 2008 and felt that heritage was the way to go for my career. After that I managed to get an intern position at Wimpole Estate in Cambridgeshire where I worked for a year gaining experience in all areas of a National Trust property. I am looking forward to working closely with the Worcester Archaeological Society especially considering the connection that the Society and Greyfriars has together.

Congratulations to our member, **Pat Hughes**, who has been honoured with the Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries of London. This is a well-deserved honour and the Society congratulates her.

For more information on Society members who are Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries, see Robin Whittaker's item in *Recorder* 80, since when Stephen Price, Margaret Goodrich, Victoria Bryant and George Demidowicz have also been added to the list which now, we believe, totals 11.

Obituary: Professor Nicholas Brooks, FSA, FBA.

Nicholas Brooks was a national figure in Medieval Studies with particular and early associations with Kent and Canterbury. At his funeral in Birmingham, one of those who gave brief reminiscences covering different aspects of his life, recalled a moment at the British Academy when his magnum opus, *Anglo-Saxon Charters of Christ Church Canterbury*, literally came out of the box. The delivery of copies of the volumes had been delayed and Nicholas had had to present his achievement without their physical presence. We were left with the picture of Nicholas's face filled with his wonderful smile when the volumes finally arrived and were revealed to this most distinguished company from whom his commission had come.

I regret as a one-time medievalist at Birmingham University that I had moved away before Nicholas was appointed to the Chair of Medieval History there; as a result my contact with him and his work was via Worcester Cathedral only. It was long after my time at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery that Nicholas Brooks played a critical role in the initial study of the Staffordshire Hoard which led to its allocation to Birmingham and Stoke where it will in the future be enjoyed by countless museum visitors as well as those hordes of people already engaged with it through other media.

I would like to draw attention here to one of his lesser known activities as Chair of the Worcester Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee, from which he only retired last year. Along the way, he presided over the St Wulfstan 1,000th anniversary Symposium in 2008, having earlier co-edited with Julia Barrow *St Wulfstan and his World* published in 2005. Earlier still, in 1996, he edited with Catherine Cubitt *St Oswald of Worcester*.

The FAC is involved principally with maintenance and structural developments, both of which can prompt archaeological investigations of the Cathedral itself as well as other buildings within the Cathedral precinct. The completion of a 20-year campaign of structural restoration was celebrated in September 2011. During his chairmanship a major revision of the Cathedral's Conservation Plan was completed; this document is the background against which all future works are set. Nicholas Brooks was also a member of the Canterbury FAC and so Worcester benefited from his unrivalled experience.

A final memory of him in this FAC role is from the very day that he went into hospital when he attended an FAC meeting in Worcester nevertheless. Having put on the requisite hard hat, he climbed up the scaffolding to inspect works on the North Nave Aisle Parapet. Was the parapet originally crenellated? What was the sequence of renovations made between the early 12th century and the most recent 20th-century repairs? Nicholas Brooks remained totally involved to the last.

It would be very difficult to estimate his influence and achievement as a teacher reaching out from his base in Birmingham. Members of this Society however, who knew him as teacher, colleague and friend, will I hope be able to add their own experiences to this recollection.

Richard Lockett

See also <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/mar/06/nicholas-brooks>

News from the County

Budget Cuts to Services

Our Society and the CBA were among the many bodies and individuals to respond to the County Council's plans to cut funding to the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service by a further £310,000; this means that between 2012 and 2016 funding by the County Council will have reduced by 62%. Whilst accepting the economic causes, both fear the damage such cuts will inflict on WAAS, which is 'known for the quality of its work', has established a 'reputation for innovative approaches to partnership projects and initiatives', and is 'one of the most cost-effective of such services in England'.

The CBA notes that 50% of WAAS's funding already comes from external sources, including grants and commercial activity. As suitably qualified, experienced staff are required to generate investment from the private and commercial sectors, the cuts could decrease rather than increase commercial revenue.

It cited some impressive statistics for WAAS's first year of operation:

- 40,393 visitors to the service at the Hive;
- 2,711 people signing in to use the Historic Environment Record;
- 4,344 people accessing original archives;
- over 1,100 first time archive users;
- outreach activities involved over 6800 people.

In applauding the way WAAS has developed new audiences, the Society also emphasised its work with young people. An additional factor for the Society is that much of the research published in its *Transactions* is generated by WAAS staff, and nearly all depends on their archives and HER.

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service Revised opening hours

As a result of savings being made by the County Council, WAAS has reviewed its opening hours.

The new HER opening hours are:

Monday-Friday	1300-1600
Saturday	1030-1330

The Original Archives opening hours are now:

Monday	No access
Tuesday	1030-1600; closed 1300-1330
Wednesday	1330-1900
Thurs, Fri & Sat	1030-1600; closed 1300-1330

Excavation of Droitwich Town Watermill

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Hanbury Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire (NGR 39050 26335) in consultation with CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd, and focussed on the impact of the footprint of the new-build on the remains of Droitwich Town Mill.

The excavation identified several phases of mill, as follows:

- a) the earliest phase was represented by a timber ground frame (4.25m long and 1.03m wide), constructed with heavy timber beams laid across a palaeochannel, with vertical uprights along their upper surface indicating where a waterwheel emplacement(s) in the form of a timber trough had been located. Radiocarbon dating from the associated palaeochannel deposits suggest that the mill had occupied this location since the late 14th century;
- b) next was the largest timber ground frame (10.00m long and 6.50m wide), which supported a timber and stone external wall, the frame being supported on its eastern side by two large timbers which spanned the palaeochannel and prevented the building from sinking into the soft clays;
- c) followed by the first masonry phase, including a sandstone ashlar-built wheel pit, parts of the building (7.50m long by 4.40m) and sections of a mill pond wall;
- d) replaced during the post-medieval period by various brick buildings, including brick-lined mill pond, the wheel and cog pits, and a covered tail race, and;
- e) the final phase of water-power, which was represented by the installation of a water turbine.



Aerial view of timber phases of Droitwich Town Mill

Andrew Mann

Worcestershire County Archive & Archaeology Service

News from the City

Earl's Court Farm is the site of Worcester's first expansion westwards on to green fields for several decades. The medieval double moat is now at the centre of a housing development. Just to the south, close to the Bromyard Road, a medieval farmstead was excavated in 2010-13. This was a much lower status site whose heyday was in the 12th century, and it probably went out of use in the early 13th century. There are tantalising hints of much longer occupation, as much of the site's development is marked by features which produced almost no pottery, with only one late Anglo-Saxon sherd and one possible middle Anglo-Saxon sherd from the series of ditched enclosures and buildings which predated the main medieval phase. In all, four buildings were excavated, marked by postholes and beam slots. This is only the third medieval settlement of this date to be excavated in the county, while excavated Anglo-Saxon settlements are even rarer.

I reported in the *Recorder* 87 on the discovery of late medieval stamped tiles on the roofs of the Commandery garden wing and St Cuthbert's chapel, Lower Wick. Now that records of both collections of tiles have been made, it is possible to compare the two. They can also be compared with the 74 excavated stamped tiles from Deansway, and with a large number from

excavations around Worcester Cathedral. Most of the Deansway tiles were fragmentary, but this did at least make it easier to determine the fabric of the tiles – there was a close correspondence between fabric types and stamps.

The St Cuthbert's group is smaller, with 40 stamped tiles, and a small number of others with boot prints and animal and bird footprints. Three-quarters of the stamped tiles are variants on a circular impression with four raised pellets, with only three other patterns represented.

The Commandery group is much larger (over 150) and as reported earlier, must have come originally from another roof (or more likely roofs), probably elsewhere in the Commandery complex. Twenty patterns were noted, with over three-quarters being of one of four patterns. There was also a greater diversity of animal prints, with dog, cat, deer, badger and heron identified. Tally marks and other graffiti were also recorded.

A watching brief in Fort Royal Park, during the installation of new play equipment, did not encounter any Civil War remains, but did however pick up the remains of a World War II air raid shelter, dug into the hill slope.

James Dinn

**News from Museums Worcestershire :
The Lost Artworks of a Nineteenth Century Archaeologist**

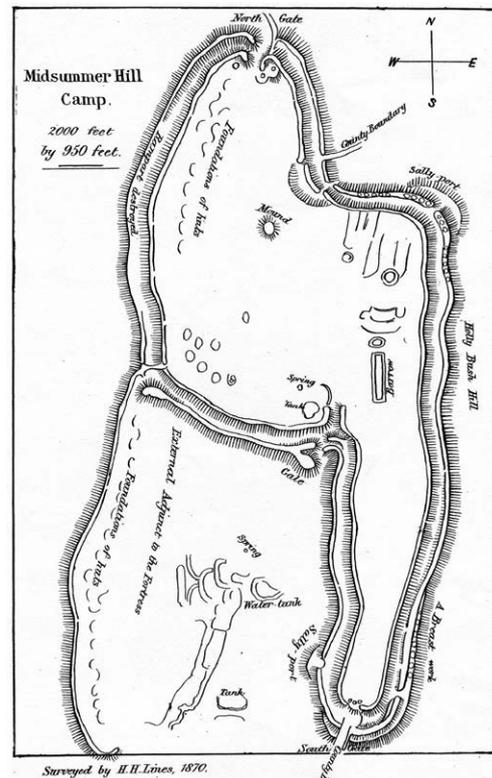
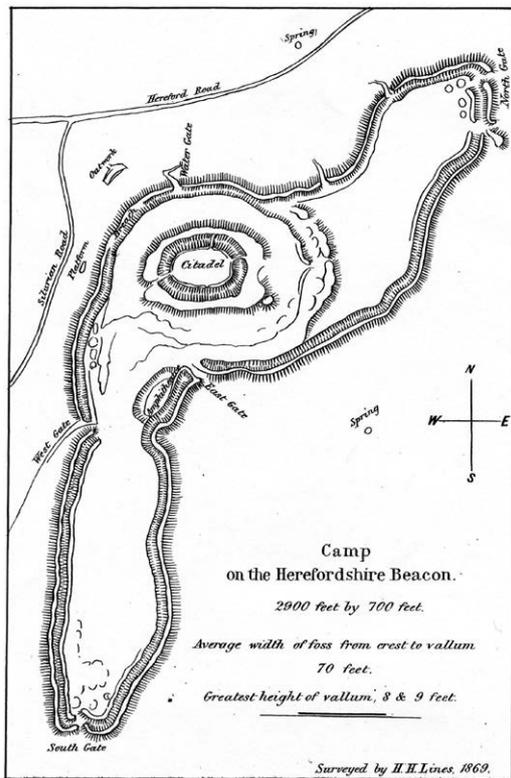
In the spring of 2011, the City Librarian told me that she had found something in the basement of the City museum, and then Library, that may interest me. The library staff had been clearing old stock from the shelves and hidden behind a quantity of Kay's catalogues were three dusty old books. To my amazement, and joy they were the works of H. H. Lines that I had been looking for over several years and had assumed missing or sold.

Henry Harris Lines (1800-1889) was born in Birmingham, the eldest son of Samuel Lines, founder of the Birmingham School of Art. H.H.Lines was an accomplished artist working in oil, watercolours, pencil and chalk. In 1832 Lines came to Worcester. He was already an exhibitor at the Royal Academy and the art galleries of Birmingham and Manchester. In Worcester, he became an earnest archaeologist, and he will be remembered for his studies and plans of the old camps of Worcestershire and the border counties. After his death his works were purchased for Worcester Museums and Library.

After dusting them off, I took them to the art store where I could spend a little time digesting them before I broke the good news to the rest of the museum collection team. They were much bigger than I imagined and to be perfectly honest, I cannot recall seeing them before – if I did, it was nearly forty years ago!

Over the passing months, during any spare time, I have studied these three volumes of plans of ancient British camps and it can clearly be seen that they go hand in hand with the watercolour drawings of archaeological sites by Lines that are already in our permanent collection. I have inventoried the collection. Of the 110 surveys and plans originally listed, we can now account for 100 of them. Most of the 100 are still in the three books but some had been removed in the past and framed for display. Volume 1, a fourth book, is still missing. The remaining 6 that are

still missing all came from volume 3. Five are surveys of local sites and the last is of a Welsh site.



Highlights from the collection include plans, surveys and detailed cross-sections of local prehistoric sites such as British Camp and Midsummer Hill. The majority of the collection depicts Welsh and Scottish Iron Age and Roman-British sites.

One of these volumes, and a selection of the framed drawings and watercolours are currently on display at Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum in the Barbarians: The Age of Iron exhibition. The exhibition has been partly sponsored by Worcestershire Archaeological Society and is on until the 7 June 2014.

Garston Phillips

Keeper of Natural Science and Museum Ambassador

Ashmolean Museum Broadway

In the heart of the Cotswolds, the Ashmolean Museum Broadway combines an important historic house with displays of fine furniture, ceramics and paintings. Works include paintings by Gainsborough, Reynolds and significant pieces from local craftsmen such as Sheldon tapestries and Winchcombe Pottery. Visitors to the Ashmolean Museum Broadway can travel through the centuries, from the 17th century to the present day. Most objects are on loan from the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and have been selected to help tell the stories of the building and the local area over time.

As part of Broadway Arts Festival on 30th May 2014, the museum will be launching its first exhibition, 'John Singer Sargent: Portraits and Travels', with a selection of the artist's watercolours and sketches. The exhibition will run until 27 July 2014

Tudor House, High Street, Broadway, Worcestershire, WR12 7DP. 01386 859 047
Open Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. £6 full price; £4.50 concessions; until 20 May 2014 free to residents of Worcestershire County, limited to one per household.

Proposed Changes to English Heritage

In December the government published a public consultation on its proposals to split English Heritage in two next year: its 420 castles, abbeys and other sites, the National Heritage Collection, to be managed by a charitable body retaining the name English Heritage, which will receive £85m to meet the backlog of repairs and, although currently running at a substantial loss, is intended to be self-financing within 10 years; planning and conservation services to be delivered by a non-departmental public body re-named Historic England. Both arms will come under a Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England. Amongst other things, there are fears that Historic England will be weakened by the split. The consultation having closed on 7 February, the government's decision is awaited. Proposed changes in Wales include the merger of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales with Cadw.

WAS *Transactions* Volume 24 (2014)

Progress is steadily being made towards production of the next volume of our *Transactions* in the autumn. All copy has now gone to our printers, 4Word of Bristol, and first proofs should arrive with your editor in May.

I trust the contents will once again offer members a very varied range of offerings. Three of the pieces arise directly from lectures given to our Society over the last year or so. David Whitehead's article explores the role of the Revd Treadway Russell Nash as a patron of the architect Anthony Keck, who not only modified Nash's own mansion at Bevere but was also involved in the construction of Worcester Infirmary and many other important local buildings, both in Worcestershire and adjoining counties. I am delighted that Dr Roberts of History of Parliament has organised the necessary permissions for us to publish his talk on how Worcestershire men contributed to the Parliamentary cause in the mid-seventeenth century. Finally, the Editorial Sub Committee has allowed me to include a version of my own talk on the recent history of the archive service in Worcestershire.

Other Society members are also represented. Our Chairman contributes a fascinating report on work so far to establish the nature of the Parliamentary siege works around Worcester in 1646, and two former Chairmen, Stephen Price and Nicholas Molyneux, have compiled a major article on a significant Worcestershire vernacular building, Bittell Farm in Alvechurch, which will not only throw light on this building, but also link it to other gentry houses of the period.

A landmark contribution will be a long-awaited and ground-breaking report on the history of Worcester Castle. We are grateful for a generous grant in support of this piece by Kier Construction. In this article Mike Napthan synthesises much recent archaeological work on the site and as a result throws crucial new light on the origins of Worcester. You'll have to wait till the volume is published to find out exactly what! In a county not particularly noted for its castles, another, smaller, castle at Shrawley is the subject of an article paid for by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund obtained by the North Worcestershire Archaeology Group.

A number of articles explore a new way to publish results of research; three shorter articles report on various excavations by the County Archaeological service, taking the form of a short published piece in our volume outlining the nature of the projects and concentrating on the conclusions, the more detailed report being available on-line through the Service's web site. Similarly, a short report on a major, as yet unreported, coin hoard found near Pershore just over two decades ago gives us the key conclusions in summary form with the full report available in the proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.

Other articles address such topics as alehouse keepers in Upton upon Severn in the 17th century, early settlement at Eckington, a suggested new interpretation of the Anglo-Saxon boundary of Old Swinford, and a new explanation of the origin of the place name 'Kersoe'. Finally, Dr James Berrow, who has contributed to our *Transactions* before on the subject of church music, provides an account of one of the nineteenth-century Cathedral organists at Worcester.

I have thoroughly enjoyed compiling this latest volume and hope members will enjoy it as much.

Robin Whittaker

Hon Editor

New Series Back Numbers

As a result of clearance of duplicates by Evesham Library, the Society has a number of New Series volumes for sale which have not previously been in stock. Some are individual volumes bound in blue buckram, with various library stamps on the boards and title pages: 1-2, 4, 7-10, 12-14, 20, 22-23, 25-26, 28-41. These are available at a cost of £5.00 a volume to members. There is also a run of volumes where a number of issues have been bound together as follows: 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-18, 19-20, 21-23, 24-26, 27-29, 30-32, 33-35, 36-38, 39-41. These multiple volumes are available at £15.00 a volume. There is only one copy of each, although the Society does have a few unbound copies of New Series volumes 8, 9, 12-13, 18, 21-22, 27-41 at £1.50 a copy to members. If you are interested in obtaining any of these please contact the Hon Editor at robin.whittaker@btinternet.com

Robin Whittaker

Hon Editor

The Society's interest in Churches during the Victorian period.

When the Society began in 1854 it was known as the Worcester Diocesan Architectural Society, with the archaeological element being added to the title only in the 1870s. Although the Society covered local history and antiquities from the outset, much of its business centred on architectural matters, especially the rebuilding and restoration of Anglican churches across the old diocese of Worcester. The early volumes of the Society's annual *Transactions*, 1854 to about 1900, are therefore rich in information about its work to ensure the preservation of church architecture and monuments. Between 1879 and 1885 the Committee sent out a questionnaire to churches in the diocese to ascertain the state of parish churches. They asked 12 questions, ranging from the date of consecration of the existing church to its plan, the style of architecture, materials used in its building, the number of bells, stained glass, and other fittings such as font, lectern, reredos, organ and plate. Only 30 of the returns survive for churches throughout Worcestershire

and Warwickshire, but they are nevertheless a valuable source of information for the Victorian restoration of those particular places. The returns range from parish churches, both old and new, to the school church at Eldersfield, a mission room at Fernhill Heath (later part of the school), and the workhouse chapel for Evesham Union. We hear of the process of building in returns like that for St Agnes Moseley in 1884 which stated, 'at present we have only built the chancel and about one third of the nave'.

Not every incumbent returned the original form, preferring to send a written account of what had taken place, while others (eg Astwood Bank) simply sent copies of printed material that had been produced to raise funds for the building work. The return for Halesowen includes a flyer for a fund-raising bazaar. These returns are useful for details of architects and builders involved, but occasionally we find details from the architect himself, as at Hartlebury, where Frederick Preedy's letter tells us what he was able to do to move and repair the Norman font. It also tells us what he was unable to do; his idea to replace the font cover was blocked by the vicar because he would not upset the local worthy who had paid for it! Only one incumbent, at Rugby, answered the question about the church plan by preparing a sketch. This is particularly helpful because it marks in colour the then new additions designed by Butterfield alongside the medieval church.

The returns were used to inform the account of churches published in the Society's annual reports and both sources should be used to gain most information. The original returns were deposited by the Society some years ago in Worcestershire Record Office (BA 3752 Ref: 705:217) and are now available in The Hive for public access. The surviving returns cover Worcestershire (some places now part of Birmingham or the West Midlands) and Warwickshire.

Worcestershire

Astwood Bank, Feckenham: SS. Mathias & George, 1884
 Balsall Heath: St. Thomas-in-the-Moors, 1883
 Castlemorton: St. Gregory, 1880
 Charlton: St. John the Evangelist 1883
 Dudley: St. Augustine, Holly Hall, 1884
 Eldersfield: School Church at Corse Lawn, 1883
 Evesham: Union Workhouse Chapel, 1880
 Fernhill Heath: Mission Room
 Halesowen: St John Baptist, 1882
 Hartlebury: St. James (font), 1882
 King's Heath: All Saints, 1882
 Martin Hussingtree: St. Michael, 1883
 Moseley: St. Agnes 1884
 Upton on Severn: SS. Peter & Paul. n.d. but post 1879
 Wilden (Lower Mitton): All Saints
 Wribbenhall: All Saints, 1879

Warwickshire

Birmingham: St. Alban the Martyr, 1881
 Brailes: St. George, 1879
 Erdington: St. Barnabas, 1882
 Lozells: St. Paul, 1880
 Milverton: St. Mark
 Newbold Pacey: St. George, 1881
 Nuthurst: St. Thomas
 Olton: St. Margaret, 1881
 Shirley: St. James the Great, 1882
 Rugby: St. Andrew, 1879
 Seckington: All Saints, 1881
 Sherborne: All Saints, 1884
 Small Heath: All Saints, 1883
 Snitterfield: St. James, 1882

Stephen Price

A 'lost' post-medieval pottery group from Worcester, (almost) 50 years on

Almost 50 years ago, Philip Barker carried out a 'rescue' excavation on the site of the Worcester Blackfriars, in advance of redevelopment, in the area to the north of Broad Street and west of Angel Place, where part of the Crowngate Shopping Centre now stands. The excavation revealed a fragment of the Blackfriars buildings and several other features, including a section of Roman roadway. Among the features were four wells, two of which were interpreted as Roman and one as medieval, and these were given a full treatment in the published report. The remaining well was mentioned in passing:

'Another well, Well 2 on site 1, was brick-built, and contained a large and remarkable collection of drinking mugs, mixing bowls and chamber pots of the early 18th century, which presumably came from an inn, not yet identified. It is intended to publish this important group as a whole later.'¹

Publication did not in the event take place. However, Worcestershire Museums retain a number of boxes of material, labelled 'Broad Street, Well 3' (*sic*), which matches the published description. Most of the sherds and other material in the boxes are marked 'WBS (presumably Worcester Broad Street) Well 3'. The published site plan clearly shows Well 3 as Roman, and Well 2 as a 'Medieval & post-medieval' feature, and Barker's text follows this. No original site records have been found, so that the uncertainty about the identity of the well cannot positively be resolved, but it may be that the labels on the site plan were at some point transposed, and that this mistake was perpetuated in the writing up stage. The following account assumes that the assemblage in the museum store labelled 'Well 3' and that mentioned in the published report as coming from 'Well 2' are identical.

It seems a pity that the promised publication did not transpire, since the group is a substantial one and adds to our knowledge of the material culture of 18th-century Worcester. It comprises 470 sherds weighting over 26kg in total (although the weights are distorted by restoration in some cases). Much work has in fact been done during the years since the group was recovered, in sorting it into joining families and in restoring some vessels. The restoration has in eight cases amounted to reconstruction, with missing pieces replaced by plaster or similar material. Further sorting in the course of the author's own research has revealed more associations. A few sherds in the boxes (16 out of 470) are unmarked, or marked 'WBS Dist'. It is not known what the latter meant; perhaps they were unstratified sherds from elsewhere on the site.

No contextual evidence other than that contained in the published report apparently now exists, so that it is not possible to say anything about the stratigraphic relationships of the well, even if, given the conditions of the excavation, they were recorded at the time. Neither is it known if the well was bottomed, or whether more material was left in it. All that is known is its very approximate location (now under a later development than that which destroyed it in the first place), and its description as 'brick-built'.

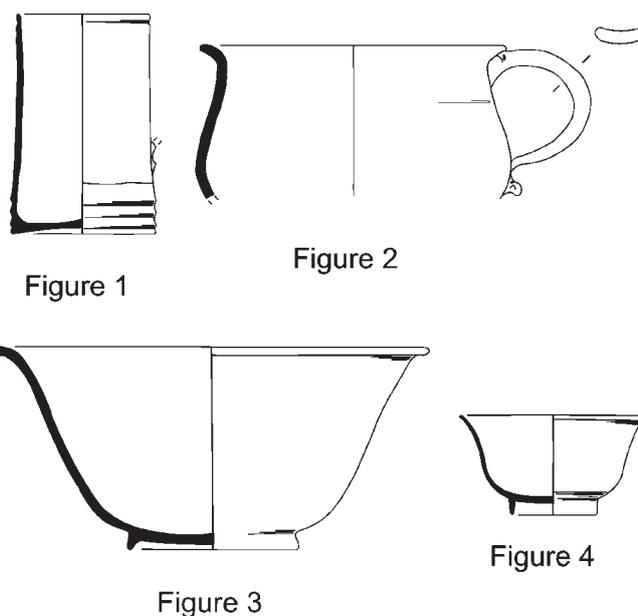
It is impossible now to be certain that the assemblage as it exists in the museum store is complete after almost 50 years. For example, the associated clay pipes amount to no more than three bowls and two stem fragments, and in view of other assemblages of a similar date, it is difficult to believe that more pipe was not originally in the well deposit. Either clay pipe was not thought at the time to be important enough to recover more than a few examples, or the assemblage was later 'pruned' of all but those examples.

The main pottery types present, in terms of numbers of sherds, are tin-glazed earthenware, white salt-glazed stoneware, brown stoneware and slipwares, with some blackwares. But, if 'estimated vessel equivalents' are used (a method which relies on measuring fragments of rims and bases and estimating the proportions of vessels represented), over 70% is accounted for by the various forms of stoneware, with tin-glazed earthenware a substantial contributor (11.2%), and slipwares and blackwares making up most of the rest. Other types are by comparison relatively insignificant.

Added to this, the variation within the broad categories of wares is limited. Virtually all the white salt-glazed stoneware is of the fully-developed type, introduced in Staffordshire in the 1720s, very finely potted, thin, white tableware, one of the outstanding ceramic developments of the 18th century; almost all the stoneware is plain English brown stoneware, probably also from Staffordshire, except for a very small amount of Nottingham/Derby ware, and one vessel imported from the Rhineland; and all the tin-glaze except for one or two decorated plates consists of plain white-glazed utilitarian wares.

When we look at forms, the outstanding characteristic of the group is the very large number of mugs, that is straight-sided drinking vessels with one handle; depending on the method of estimating numbers, there are probably getting on for 100 represented. In addition, there are two globular type mugs (or 'gorges', one English and one from the Westerwald in the Rhineland). The vast majority of the mugs are in brown stoneware with a rilled base, the base then dipped in white slip (Figure 1). The colour of the salt-glazed exterior of the mug varies between dark brown and very pale brown, and the interior colour varies almost as much, but does not have the typical 'orange-peel' appearance of the exterior. The handles, where any survive, are strap forms with a raised cordon and smoothed-in bottom attachment, with no bottom terminal. Many complete bases survive, in contrast to rims, which are very thin, with a simple turned line on the exterior. The fabric colour is light to dark grey, with prominent and abundant black specks.

The next most frequent forms are bowls, chamber pots and dishes. The latter, of which there are about 20, are almost all press-moulded slipware dishes with 'pie-crust' edges, most with the familiar brown and yellow striped and feathered decoration, but one with a male figure in a coat and full-bottomed wig, formed over a carved mould and the spaces rather inexpertly infilled with coloured slip. The 21 chamber pots, except for three or four possible examples in blackware, are in plain white tin-glazed earthenware, their bulbous form, with wide strap handle, familiar enough and virtually unchanged into the 20th century (Figure 2). The 27 'bowls' are of two main kinds: plain, wide tin-glazed types, probably to be interpreted as basins (Figure 3); and much smaller examples in white salt-glazed stoneware, some of them probably tea bowls (Figure 4).



Scale 1:4

Other forms are much more sparsely represented: eight ‘butterpots’, relatively tall cylindrical vessels, mostly in a coarse reddish earthenware fabric with exterior black glaze; half-a-dozen plates in tin-glazed earthenware or white stoneware; two wide conical shaped pans, also in coarse red earthenware; and a few cups, saucers, jugs, porringers and ‘ointment pots’.

The substantial amount of white salt-glazed stoneware means that the date of deposition must be after about 1720, probably sometime after this. On the other hand, there is no refined redware or creamware, which might perhaps be expected after the middle of the century, so that a date in the second quarter of the 18th century seems possible. The slipware dish with the figure of a man in wig and coat may be from the same mould, dated 1751, as another known example². If so, the deposition date would have to be somewhat later. As indicated above, only three clay pipe bowls and two stem fragments are associated with the group. One of the bowls has a mark on the base of the spur, akin to Broseley type 4 (c1680-1730), but the mark is indecipherable. All three bowls are late 17th- or early 19th-century types³.

Given the number of brown stoneware mugs, chamber pots and basins (‘mixing bowls’ according to the published note, but the tin-glazed examples at least are probably better interpreted as washing basins), the original interpretation that the assemblage ‘presumably came from an inn’ seems plausible, although none of the brown mugs had an ‘ale measure mark’ on it; a mark consisting of a crown and the monarch’s initial was supposed by an Act of 1700 to be placed on all vessels used to sell beer or ale, a requirement that seems to have been more honoured in the breach than the observance. In the absence of excavation records or a published report, little more can safely be said, though it might be postulated that, if the group represents a single discard episode, it was the result of a clearance following an inn closure or perhaps a restocking with more up-to-date or fashionable utensils, at a date around the middle of the 18th century.

¹ P.A. Barker *The Origins of Worcester TWAS* 3S, 2 (1969) 63

² P.C.D. Brears *The English Country Pottery: Its History and Techniques* (1971) 52

³ A.Oswald *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist* (1975)

Bob Ruffle

Bromsgrove Cemetery and the John Adams Memorial

In 1856 the graveyard surrounding St John’s church had become so full that there was a need to create a new cemetery. This was to be used by all denominations in the town – Baptist, Wesleyan (Methodist) and Independent, as well as Anglican. Burials were discontinued in St John’s churchyard, and in the other burial grounds, on 31 December 1857. Glebe land had been purchased for the new Cemetery from Baroness Windsor, who leased it from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The architect of the Cemetery and its original buildings [see Cover], now demolished except for the south-east lychgate, was C.H. Cooke, of John Street, Bedford Row. At the time it was the most fashionable of designs, described as such in *The Civil Engineer and Architects’ Journal* (1858). The Cemetery was laid out with paths mostly at right angles and a central circular area where the John Adams memorial is set as the Cemetery’s focal point. There are unconsecrated areas for those without religion, numerous unmarked paupers’ graves and, after 1914, some 35 war graves. A further circular area was planted with a Wellingtonia – a tree only brought to England by plant collectors in 1853.

The Cemetery was consecrated on 6 January 1858, at which ceremony John Adams read the prayers; this was the day before he died. The first burials were of two little girls aged one and two years. John Adams' funeral was next, on 14 January.

The John Adams memorial was erected by Revd Thomas Housman, incumbent of Catshill (and grandfather of the poet A.E. Housman), who was one of Adams' executors, and Dr John Day Collis, Headmaster of Bromsgrove School, who contributed one third of the expense.

The memorial was built originally from four differing coloured stones in a strong high-Victorian style designed by William Prosser, who was then working on the restoration of Bromsgrove church with George Gilbert Scott. The steps are red Corsehill sandstone, the column is grey Forest of Dean ironstone, and the base and superstructure are Base Bed Bath Stone. It was taken down on safety grounds in 2007, but restored by Croft Stonemasons in 2013, with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund, and support from Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, The Bromsgrove Society, The Housman Society, The Victorian Society and Bromsgrove District Council. The new parts of the memorial will gradually lose their strong colour and fade to match the old stone.



The two large boulders just outside the Cemetery gates were originally at the north end of Bromsgrove High Street and were moved to the current location in the 1890s. The boulders, of which there were many in the area (most now removed, usually by burial on site), are glacial erratics, brought down from the Arenig Hills of Snowdonia.

The Cemetery boasts one of the finest tree collections in Worcestershire. Some natives, such as the English Oak and Lime and some Yews, were probably here before the Cemetery. The establishment of the Cemetery saw the addition of Yews bordering the avenues, and a number of more exotic species. Pines from Austria, Macedonia & Corsica now rub shoulders with Cedars from Africa and Lebanon, Sweet Chestnuts from Spain, Southern Beech from New Zealand,

Monkey Puzzles from South America and Giant Redwoods from California. Just coming into their prime after 150 years, most of these are still some way from their full size and majesty.

John Adams

Born in 1766, John was son of Thomas and Mary Adams of Ashby de la Zouch. By 1792 he was a partner in Coltman Adams & Co, hosiers, Leicester. He moved to Bromsgrove to spin worsted yarn for the Leicester hosiers, using Arkwright's water frames under licence. He leased the Lower Mill, formerly the town's manorial corn mill. The mill pond is still the major feature of Bromsgrove's Sanders Park.

In 1792, John Adams married Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Fisher of Caldecote, Warwickshire. She died in childbirth in 1796, leaving Adams without an heir. He subsequently promoted the careers of his three nephews, John, William and Thomas Housman, sons of his sister Jane. In 1835 John Adams married Kezia, widow of Revd Richard Ramsden, but the couple had no children.

In 1802 John Adams bought Charford Mill, Bromsgrove, and installed spinning machinery. Adams was now by far the largest employer in Bromsgrove but also was heavily involved in local activities. He was Captain of the Bromsgrove Volunteers and a Trustee of the Bromsgrove to Worcester Turnpike road.

In 1819 John Adams bought Perry Hall, the largest and most prestigious house in central Bromsgrove. His nephew William Housman, then a London solicitor, was party to the transaction. With this purchase came land on the other side of Kidderminster Road where he constructed steps and a path to St. John's church. This path became known as Adams' Hill – a blue plaque, set by The Housman Society, marks the connection. Perry Hall is now part of Bromsgrove School and has been renamed 'Housman Hall'. John Adams converted the ruins of an earlier Perry Hall on the site into a factory to manufacture extract of indigo, used in dyeing locally made linen cloth. Some of these ruins still remain. Adams was also in business in Bromsgrove with another nephew, John Housman, as a woolstapler. In 1824 John Adams closed down the worsted spinning mill – a building later used as a cholera hospital – but continued the manufacture of extract of indigo.

In 1828 John Adams was appointed Distributor of Stamps for the district, and in 1831 became Chairman of the Committee for Bromsgrove's new Town Hall. In 1838 he subscribed to the building of a new church at Catshill, near Bromsgrove, his nephew Revd Thomas Housman being the first incumbent. John Adams was great-uncle of Edward Housman, A.E. Housman's father, who after Adams' death in 1858, became a life tenant of Perry Hall.

Dr J.D. Collis, whose grave is on the right hand side of the first section in the cemetery, was not only the man who saved the 16th-century Hop Pole (now Tudor House) in Bromsgrove, but was instrumental in restoring the parish church, and was a champion of the poverty-stricken nailers.

Julian Hunt & Jennie McGregor-Smith

NB. A Bromsgrove Cemetery Walk has been prepared; leaflets are available from Bromsgrove Library or may be downloaded from www.bsoc.co.uk/cemetery-walk.html

Worcester Cathedral Annual Symposium

The 24th annual symposium took place on 28 March, with a wide range of papers. Chris Guy first explained four areas of the archaeological work undertaken in the last year: were the west bays of the north nave aisle crenellated? and three small excavations – to the south of College Hall; in the basement of the Old Palace; and in the southern undercroft of the rere-dorter. Later Chris looked at the surprising extent to which memorials had been moved within the cathedral. Many have moved twice, the effigy of the lady now in the crypt but originally adjacent to the Harcourt effigy in the SW Transept at least three times. That of Bishop Philpott (1860-90) has only moved once, but its position has been the subject of much debate.



Rere-dorter undercroft

From Graham Davison of the Worcestershire Bat Group we next heard about the Lesser Horseshoe bats that hibernate in the rere-dorter undercroft, the only bats to hang upside down. They have increased in number from 11 to 19 following the installation of bat grilles to keep rough sleepers out. It is thought the cathedral precinct also houses a maternity roost. Daubentons bats are also present.

Vanda Bartoszuk introduced us to a ‘medieval dynasty’ of Worcester bell-founders, named Seynter or Beleyeter, who could be tracked over several generations, owning up to 11 properties in and immediately outside the city. One was an MP in 1334, but there were also records of malfeasance. A later dynasty had also been discovered.

Deirdre McKeown followed up with a ‘Heritage Analysis of the Edgar Tower’, built 1346-7 to replace a 13th-century stone gatehouse. She looked at its murder holes and portcullis, and noted that the janitor had safe custody of prisoners. Overall, however, she concluded that it was built more to symbolise power than for defence.

The last speaker was Chris Romain, soon to retire after 18 years as Cathedral Architect, following 10 years as assistant to his predecessor. Commencing with a tribute to Phil Barker, he showed interesting snapshots of his time, which covered most of the 22-year, £10m restoration that followed Worcester’s classification as enjoying the worst physical state of all English cathedrals. Stone for the cathedral came, we heard, from at least 39 quarries. Worcester is one of only eight cathedrals to have its own stone masons. Recent flood damage, and exposure to 82 mph winds whilst on the roof were remembered, as was a nightmarish trapping in the narrow space above the cloister roof. The symposium was rounded off with questions and discussions.

The Weavers' Cottages, Horsefair, Kidderminster

A project of the Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust

The Trust was established in 1965 with the main objective to rescue listed historic buildings 'at risk' and to preserve them for the benefit of all, as having special historic or architectural interest. The Trust had been dormant for many years, prior to embarking on this project and has been rekindled by the support of the West Midlands Historic Building Trust with financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Architectural Heritage Fund. Membership is open to all concerned about and interested in the conservation of historic buildings at risk.

The charitable objectives of the Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust are to rescue local buildings at risk and to identify future, appropriate sustainable uses; this project is central to these objectives.

Kidderminster has a long established tradition of weaving, becoming a world leader in carpet design and manufacture, now sadly diminished by changing economic conditions; the Weavers' Cottages are unique in the town as the only tangible remains of the early origins of this weaving tradition. As well as providing a new sustainable future for the cottages, educational activities will utilise the historic buildings as a resource to engage the interest of people in the associated heritage stories, including opportunities for training young people in heritage-related skills and developing interpretation using visual and performing arts.

Built in the 18th and early 19th centuries (the earliest dating from around 1709), these Grade II listed buildings are seriously at risk. The present owners have agreed to transfer freehold ownership to the Trust when all funding has been secured, but otherwise intend to pursue a listed building consent application to demolish.

Kidderminster Civic Society campaigned and successfully applied to have the cottages listed in 2000. Long-term survival requires that they are returned into a financially viable use. English Heritage introduced the owners to the Trust in response to their application to demolish.

The project is based on the recommendations of a Single Option Appraisal Report carried out in 2010 and has been developed to the stage of obtaining statutory consents with financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Architectural Heritage Fund. Our professional team who carried out the original study has been re-appointed and instructed to develop the project up to seeking builder's tenders for the work.

The project will:

- a) repair and conserve the cottages to current standards, bringing them back to use as dwellings, without detriment to their historic integrity (modern facilities will be accommodated within reconstructed rear extensions which had been extensively vandalised); and
- b) work with local interest groups (such as the Kidderminster Civic Society and the Kidderminster Museum of Carpets), schools and colleges to interpret their significance to the history and social development of the town; to raise awareness of the relevance of the historic built environment to local communities, and of the processes involved with historic building conservation.

A range of heritage-based activities will include ways in which volunteers can participate in the project: open days to view the conservation process; training in building conservation skills,

including training for young people; and interpretation and educational resources developed by pupils and students working with a heritage education/interpretation facilitator, which will include creating and participation in visual and performing arts activities.

The total project cost is approximately £1,151,000 including volunteer time and other non-cash contributions, capital works and related costs, professional fees and heritage based activities, all as required by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The HLF grant award takes the Trust tantalisingly close to being able to deliver this long awaited rescue. The Trustees are excited by the prospect of being able to bring to realisation a project which has been developing for a number of years, and hope to encourage support from all in the county who are interested in projects of this type. We hope to commence work on site in early 2015.

Robert J Tolley BSc Hons, Dip Arch, RIBA, AABC
Chairman WBPT

The Feckenham Forester

The Feckenham Forest History Society launched its new magazine, *The Feckenham Forester*, edited by Dr Richard Churchley, on 11 February. It is hoped to become an annual magazine, with articles and snippets about the history of the Redditch, Feckenham, Tardebigge, Hanbury and Inkberrow area. Priced £3.50, this first issue includes fairground folk from Astwood Bank, Hanbury's district nurse, a Hanbury curate who became rector of Kington (Worcestershire), a local windmill, the early years of Lower Grinsty Farm Feckenham, an Astwood Bank childhood, the disafforestation of Feckenham Forest, the collapse of two local churches, a Redditch Riot, a Redditch Murder, the history of the White Hart pub at Headless Cross, and the story that Shakespeare's skull may lurk in the vault of a local church.

The magazine is available from various local outlets, at Feckenham Forest History Society meetings, or from Richard Churchley, tel 01527 892361, email rachurchley@totalise.co.uk See also the society's website www.feckenham-forest-history-society.org.uk

Stanford, Peter Thomas (1860-1909). From Slavery to Ministry

History West Midlands draws our attention to the remarkable story of Birmingham's first black minister. Stanford was born into slavery in 1860 on a plantation in Hampton, Virginia. When the end of the American Civil War formally abolished slavery, he was taken in, aged 5, by native Americans, who taught him their language. Subsequently taken to an orphanage in Boston, he was adopted by a coal merchant, Peter Luther Stanford, and his wife, but ran away after 5 years to live on the streets in New York city. Following conversion to Christianity he studied at Suffield Baptist Institute, Connecticut, and was ordained in 1878 as pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Hartford, a mission church for African Americans from the southern states.

Stanford came to England in May 1883. In London he was employed as an evangelist by the Revd Michael Baxter, editor of the *Christian Herald*. After two years in Yorkshire, he moved to the Birmingham area in June 1887, and next year was married to an English woman. In May 1889 he became minister of Hope Street Baptist Chapel, Highgate,

Birmingham. The city had been at the forefront of the campaign to abolish slavery and, after slavery ended in the United States, had many organisations which supported the freed slaves, so Stanford was very welcome. That year he published his life story, *From Bondage to Liberty*.

Probably early in 1891, Stanford took over the Union Church, Priestley Road, Sparkbrook, whilst continuing at Hope Street. The Priestley Road church was renamed the Wilberforce Memorial Church in honour of William Wilberforce, and fund-raising was later commenced to build a new, larger church in Sparkbrook as a memorial to Wilberforce.

By 1894 Birmingham had become a centre of the campaign against the lynchings of African Americans in the USA, and Stanford left Birmingham for Boston, Massachusetts, in September 1895 to investigate these. Finding that the number and form of lynchings were worse than the reports in England indicated, in 1897 he published *The Tragedy of the Negro in America*, placing them in their historical and social perspective. He remained in America, where his activities included founding a home for homeless women and children, and serving as vice-president of both Christ's Medical and Theological College, Baltimore, and the National Baptist Convention in Massachusetts. He died in Massachusetts in May 1909.

For short film <http://historywm.com/films/peter-thomas-stanford-remarkable-life-of-freed-slave-who-became-a-famous-baptist-minister/>. See also ODNB entry.

Are you interested in slavery? Dr Judith Spicksley, who will be addressing the Society on 'The extraordinary accounts of Mistress Joyce Jeffreys of Ham Castle and Hereford, 1638-48' in December, has put her discussion paper, 'Death, obligation and the origins of slavery', on the University of York website for anyone interested and would be happy to receive feedback. See <http://www.york.ac.uk/media/economics/documents/cherrydiscussionpapers/1302.pdf>

The Spring 2014 edition of *History West Midlands* is devoted to **Glass and Glassmaking**, with some 20 articles providing 'a visually rich and detailed exploration of glass and glassmaking in the West Midlands'. Subjects range from 'Glassmaking: The Growth of an Industry' to 'Family and Faith: Stained Glass Windows in Medieval Parish Churches'. Several concern the glass industry in Stourbridge, Birmingham and Smethwick. Altogether a most interesting publication.

Staffordshire Hoard Update

Since Dr David Symons' talk last December, there have been further developments. Last month Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery reported that, for the first time, all items from the treasure, now numbering some 4,000, had been brought together in a cleaned state, enabling experts to analyse them in greater depth. This grouping exercise follows six years of painstaking and delicate cleaning of the objects using natural thorns to remove mud without damaging the soft metalwork.

'Like the oldest and most expensive jigsaw puzzle' (Councillor Adrian Knapper, Stoke-on-Trent City Council), broken fragments have been joined together, revealing new objects. Pairs and groups of sword fittings have been matched, showing what the original sword hilts looked like; mystery cloisonné fittings have been matched up into suites decorating these. There is at least one helmet, composed of over 1,500 pieces; only five Anglo-Saxon helmets were previously

known. The cleaned objects have confirmed the exquisite workmanship in an extraordinary range and quality of art and iconography.

The research, conservation and scientific analysis have revealed the composition of the alloys used to create the objects; the presence, alongside the gold and silver, of woods such as hornbeam and ash, animal horn, and glues and resins made of animal and plant extracts. A variety of types of Saxon and re-used Roman glass has also been identified.

The Anglo-Saxon specialist Chris Fern, who has examined each item, is quoted as saying: 'The great Anglo-Saxon poem Beowulf, once believed to be artistic exaggeration, now has a true mirror in archaeology.' As the land owner, Fred Johnson, said, 'it is amazing to think that potatoes and carrots had been growing in the same place as ancient buried treasure'.

Work on the hoard continues, with cataloguing and specialist analysis due to be completed in May. A second phase will then begin to publish a research volume about the treasure and an interim online catalogue.

Taken from <http://www.bmag.org.uk/news?id=325>

Dates for the Diary

12-27 July: CBA's 24th annual Festival of Archaeology

Over 1,000 events nationwide will be organised by museums, heritage organisations, national and country parks, universities, local societies, and community archaeologists. For details see <http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/>

5-10 October, 2015: Study tour to Cornwall, led by Michael and Jenny Goode.

Another interesting trip to be enjoyed, this one based in a comfortable hotel in Falmouth. Further details to follow.

WAS Excursions Programme 2014

Thursday 1 May **The Great Houses of Malvern;** own/shared car.

Parties limited to 30; members can book either or both visits.

Morning: **Little Malvern Court**, home of the Beringtons; organised by Janet Dunleavy

We will see the remaining part of the Little Malvern Priory, its Church, the extensive gardens of the Court (at their best at this time of year) and the replacement RC church, where Elgar and family are buried, built on Berington land in the 1860s.

Own lunch arrangements in Malvern

Afternoon: **Madresfield Court**, organised by Ernie Kay.

The moated home of the Beauchamp family has had recent renovations, as described by Peter Hughes in his recent lecture to the Society.

Wednesday 21 May **Coventry's Cathedrals;** make your own way to Coventry

As a follow-up to his lecture in February 2014, member George Demidowicz will lead us round two of the city's three cathedrals (St Mary's cathedral and priory and the bombed cathedral of St. Michael's), including recently excavated undercrofts and crypts not normally seen by visitors. Former head of Conservation and Planning in Coventry, George has recently completed a major research project on St Michael's archaeology and architecture for the World Monuments Fund.

Friday 13 June **Border Castles**; in our own cars, led by James Dinn

At **Clun**, the centre of an important Marcher lordship, the dramatic ruins overlook earthwork remains of medieval pleasure gardens. There will be a chance to visit its medieval planned town. **Hopton**, built in imitation of Clun, has recently been restored. Lady Brilliana Harley famously defended **Brampton Bryan** Castle during a 10-week Royalist siege in 1643. The medieval church at Brampton Bryan was damaged during the Civil War; the present church is a very unusual Commonwealth rebuilding.

Thursday 3 July **Stonor Park, Ewelme & Dorchester Abbey**, led by Margaret Goodrich

In the Chilterns, the fascinating house at **Stonor Park**, where the family has lived for 850 years, has a fine collection of portraits, stained glass and contemporary ceramics. **Ewelme** church, unchanged from 1450, contains the tomb of Chaucer's granddaughter, and has a cloister of almshouses established in 1437. **Dorchester Abbey** dates from the 12th century; its site takes us back to the earliest roots of English Christianity. Here St Birinus baptised King Cynegils, King Oswald of Northumberland standing as godfather. Treasures include a Norman lead font, a 12th-century effigy of a knight drawing his sword, and a 13th-century Tree of Jesse window.

Thursday 31 July **The Lost Town of Trellech**; coach trip led by Garth Raymer

In the late 13th century Trellech, home of the de Clares, earls of Gloucester, lords of Usk and Glamorgan, was the largest urban centre in Wales. With the demise of the de Clares at Bannockburn the town lost its industry and was gradually deserted and forgotten; the later present settlement was developed to the north. The remains of the old town have for the past 12 years been the subject of excavations, to which the Director, Stuart Wilson, will give us a conducted tour. The village's other interesting archaeological sites include early bronze-age standing stones, a Norman tump, a Virtuous Well and the parish church. Morning refreshments and lunch will be available at the Lion Inn, Trellech.

Tuesday 12 August **Medieval and Modern Churches on the Lickey Hills**, evening visit led by Tim Bridges

St Michael, **Cofton Hackett**, is a tiny late-medieval village church in a charming rural setting, close to railway and industrial sites. The mainly 15th-century features are complemented by good Victorian additions, furnishings, stained glass and interesting Tudor and Stuart memorials. St Catherine, **Blackwell** is an unusual, late 'Arts and Crafts' building by little known Herbert Luck North; its story reflects the 20th-century development of this part of North Worcestershire.

Thursday 4 September **Yardley and Solihull**, own cars

To mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War this trip takes us to **Blakesley Hall** at Yardley, once part of Worcestershire. Our member Jenny Goode will introduce the special exhibition there about her ancestors' role in the Great War, explaining how it affected one family in which two brothers and their sister saw active service and contributed to the war effort. In the afternoon we will take a close look at what remains of the historic core of the medieval town of **Solihull**, paying particular attention to the magnificent parish church of St Alphege.

Items for the next issue should be sent to the Editor, Caroline Hillaby, email recorder@worcestershirearchaeologicalsociety.co.uk by **1 September 2014**.

