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Newsletter of the

WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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A Warm Welcome to our New Member

Mr M. McCurdy, 56 Camp Hill Road, Worcester WR5 2HG

Cover Illustration:

Mitton cross-head; drawing by Bruce Watson (see p*)

Chairman's Letter

The summer is nearly upon us, and I look forward to warmer and calmer weather, and then our excursions programme will begin. I hope to meet many of you at these summer events, and especially ask you to support the coach excursions. Details will be forwarded to you in due course. Suggestions for future excursions, as well as speakers for the winter programmes, are always welcome.

Meanwhile we need to reflect on what has been achieved and what needs to be done for the future. We have had an especially successful series of lectures, thanks to Joe Hillaby's efforts. We need to increase our membership numbers, to improve our finances and to provide a larger pool of expertise and energy within our Society. A greater input from members would be helpful for we need someone to take on Publicity and Public Relations, Member Recruitment, and Excursions. If you feel you can assist in any of these matters, please speak to me or a member of the Committee.

Finally your Committee is proposing to change our lecture venue for next autumn. We propose to go to the Blind Association premises in Sansome Place, which has several advantages over our present venue: it is warmer, more comfortable, has better catering arrangements, and is considerably cheaper. It also has the advantage that it is situated more centrally and is nearer to car parks. Unfortunately there is no parking on site, though there is disable parking outside. Details of the change, with location map and other particulars, will be sent with the summer mailing.

I look forward to the summer's activities. Your participation is our reward for the considerable work that your Committee has to undertake.

Brian Ferris

Worcestershire Archaeological Society: Committee Members 2001-2

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-The Committee is pleased to welcome two new members, our **Secretary**, Janet Dunleavy, and co-opted member, **Dave Kendrick**, who is Collections Officer and Keeper of Archaeology at the County Museum at Hartlebury, tel 01299 250416 (work)

A Plea from our Membership Secretary

Prof Tim Moelwyn-Hughes, who is in his second year in this position, updates all our membership records on a computer, of both individual members and the subscribing and exchanging libraries and societies. This database is used to generate labels for all our mailings and obviously needs to be kept up to date. It would be appreciated if any changes of name or address could be reported directly to Tim at the address given above.

News from the County

Earlier this year the Archaeological Service carried out an excavation at Childswickham near Broadway. The earliest features were ditches containing Bronze Age and late Iron Age pottery, but the most substantial and surprising remains were those of a large stone building. This was built in the late Roman period, the 3rd or 4th century AD, and from its plan, and the finds associated with it, has been interpreted as a villa. Box flue tiles were found which would have formed part of the heating system and there were fragments of painted wall plaster which give some idea of the internal decoration of the main rooms. The remains of several barns and a stone lined well were also found. The only other known Roman villa in Worcestershire is the one at Bays Meadow, Droitwich, excavated between 1966 and 1977.

Archaeological excavations along the route of the Wyre Piddle Bypass have now ended and work on collating, analysing and publishing the evidence has begun. The excavations focussed on two sites. The first of these was Furzen Farm where the remains of a Romano-British farmstead occupied from the 1st to the 4th century AD was identified. The second area of interest was at George Lane where the bypass crossed the edge of a late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement as well as a Middle Iron Age farmstead. Environmental remains from the farm suggest that there was little cereal cultivation at the site and that its economy was probably pastoral, based on cattle and horses. Work on the bypass in conjunction with recent work at Throckmorton and a survey by the Four Parishes Archaeology Group is helping to develop a detailed picture of the changing settlement pattern in the Avon Valley over a period of 3000 years

A number of other, non-digging, projects have taken place this year. One of these is the exhibition *White Ladies Aston – unearthing the story of a Worcestershire village*. This exhibition uses the parish of White Ladies Aston to illustrate some of the processes used to interpret past landscapes. The exhibition is a collaborative project between Worcester City Museums and Arts, Worcestershire Archaeological Service and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. It can be seen at the Museum of Local Life in Worcester until the summer.

Work has just started on digitising all the tithe maps for the county. This means that these important 19th century documents can be viewed on computer with other historic and modern maps and the information on them integrated into the Sites and Monuments Record. This is

based on the work of copying and transcribing the tithe maps carried out over the last five years by a team of volunteers led by David Guyatt.

Victoria Bryant

Information and Records Officer, Worcestershire Archaeological Service

News from the City

New monument and event records are now being added to the Urban Archaeological Database at an increasing speed, with the database due to be completed in July and launched in the autumn. We are currently working on the design for the next phases of the project.

Worcester City Museums has recently launched its website, which can be found at <http://www.worcestercitymuseums.org.uk>. This includes pages on all three museum sites, as well as the Sites and Monuments Record, with further information on the Worcester 1250 model and the text of previous round-up reports on archaeology. This report will also be posted there, along with illustrations.

The most interesting fieldwork results over the last six months have come from watching briefs of various types. Work at all of the following sites listed was undertaken by Mike Napthan Archaeology. In the High Street, two trial boreholes were sunk to provide information on ground conditions for the proposed redevelopment of the Lychgate centre. Archaeological deposits here are over 5m deep, with some 2-2.5m of undisturbed Roman and medieval strata surviving below the backfilled cellars of the houses and shops which formerly stood on the east side of the street. One borehole encountered a sandstone structure, probably the wall of a stone undercroft.

A lengthy watching brief on excavations for columns and ducting for the latest extension of the CCTV network has produced interesting results in a number of places. Perhaps the most important was the identification of the foundations of the medieval postern gate in St Nicholas Street (the Gaol Gate or Trinity Gate), lying immediately below the pavement. Remains from the Roman to post-medieval periods have been recorded elsewhere in the city.

Foundation excavations at Kings' St Albans in Mill Street may have encountered the Civil War ditch which has been seen in previous work. A watching brief during large-scale alterations at the former Red Lion, Sidbury, recorded evidence of the timber-framed building which suggested that it dates to the later 16th century, with a wing at the rear which is possibly earlier, and is therefore a rare suburban survivor of the Civil War. There are deep deposits including medieval pits in the backplot. Roman deposits were reached in a small excavation for a new stairway at Tramps night-club, Angel Place, and in Severn Trent water-main works in Sidbury.

Two more extensive pieces of work have been carried out by the Worcestershire Archaeological Service. At 15/19 Fish St, a watching brief on foundations for a new apartment block has recorded important medieval remains. Part of this project comprised a small excavation to recover environmental samples from layers which had been recognised in earlier work at the site. Preliminary analysis has shown that the preservation of organic remains is exceptional, even including such materials as animal hair. At Tallow Hill, excavation and documentary research on an area of mid 19th century housing has started to throw light on the lives of Worcester's poorest inhabitants in the mid-Victorian era.

There have been field evaluations at the site of the proposed Tesco supermarket development (Christopher Whitehead School, St Johns; by Wessex Archaeology), and at the Studdert Kennedy Centre, City Walls Road (by the Field Archaeology Unit, University of Birmingham). Neither produced dramatic results, though there is potential for important archaeological remains to survive at both sites.

The chance to do underwater archaeology is rare in Worcester. However, the canal pound upstream of the Sidbury lock was recently drained for a short time for maintenance work. One area of the canal bed was relatively clear of silt, and several stone walls and foundations could clearly be seen. It seems likely that these relate to the Commandery, and that they represent buildings in an area just outside the city ditch which was taken for canal construction in the early 19th century.

And finally... Two of Worcester High Street's medieval survivals can now be viewed at leisure by the public. Keystones cafe-bar, below Marmion House, at the top end of Copenhagen Street, has as its centrepiece the remaining part of a medieval stone vaulted undercroft, the only one still to be seen in the city. Sadly most of the medieval building was swept away in the early 1960s, leaving just one bay intact. There is more detail on the history of this site (once known as the 'Earl's Post') on the City Museum website (<http://www.worcestercitymuseums.org.uk/content/plotpln/life/lif1.htm>). On the other side of the street, a new branch of Coffee Republic has recently opened in the former Golden Lion, a pub which closed around 1980 and has since been in shop use. This is a very important survival of a timber-framed 15th century merchant's house, concealed behind a Georgian facade.

James Dinn

Accessions to the Worcestershire Record Office

September 2001 to February 2002

The following are some of the recent accession to the Record Office:

<u>Accession</u>	<u>Details</u>
13 461	Deeds concerning Sidbury House, Worcester, 19 th century
13 462	Diary of Brian Ferris whilst a pupil at the Blind College
13 463	Deeds concerning Claines and Great Malvern
13 469	Home Guard manuals and other papers, Rowley Regis HG
13 503	Letters and order books of Bradley and Turton, iron founders of Kidderminster, 1837-1906
13 509	MS account book of the revenues, disbursements, patronage etc of the bishopric of Worcester 1803 (purchase)
13 514	Photos, notes, newscuttings and other papers of H.W.Gwilliam, MBE concerning local history of Worcestershire
13 516	Railway agreements, including agreement, 1849, to transport passengers from Worcester to the station at Spetchley
13 521	Rent ledger of the Wannerton Estate, 1934-54
13 531	Papers of Jas. Roberts & Son of Worcester, fellmongers, 1949-78
13 545	Further books and papers relating to Frances Ridley Havergal, late 19 th century (transfer from Worcester City Library)

- 13 552 Deeds concerning Beoley manor and other property in the parish, 1784-1823
(purchase)
- 13 554 Ledger concerning the building of Hagley Grange, Pedmore, 1909
(Homery Folkes collection)

Robin Whittaker

Tickenhill manor near Bewdley: A Tale of Two Princes

After the Norman Conquest of England in 1066 the manor of Tickenhill (or Tickhill) near Bewdley was given by William I to Ralph de Mortimer. Some few centuries later a direct descendant of de Mortimer ascended the English throne as Edward IV and the manor became a Crown estate. As such it was given by Henry VII to his eldest son, the heir apparent, Prince Arthur, as one of his two main residences, the other being Ludlow Castle.

Henry VII was the first king of the Tudor dynasty. His claim to the throne, somewhat debatable, had been confirmed by the overthrow of the house of York, and the end of the Plantagenet dynasty, in the person of king Richard III at Bosworth Field. Thence, carefully chosen marriages, first his own to a princess of the house of York, then of his children into European dynasties, were to form the foundations of a new and unquestionable line of kings. Prince Arthur had not been so named by accident. This was a time when the Grail legends and the first 'histories' of the fabled King Arthur had gained popularity. After the long and divisive Wars of the Roses the new dynasty could do no better than to name its first son after a quasi-divine king accredited in legend with the bringing together of a fragmented kingdom.

Prince Arthur of Wales was to marry Princess Katherine of Aragon, allying Spain and England. The marriage took place just over 500 years ago, at Tickenhill in May 1499. As was common with regal marriages at the time, the ceremony was conducted by proxy. At Tickenhill Manor the, to our eyes, somewhat bizarre scene took place, of a young prince exchanging marriage vows hand-in-hand with Prince Roderigo of Spain, the princess's representative. Katherine would come to England at a later date, already the Princess of Wales, to meet her husband and receive her coronet at Old St Paul's in London. But Prince Arthur was never to ascend the throne; a few years later he was dead at Ludlow, his cortege to pass through Bewdley to cross the Severn at Redstone Hermitage, Arley Kings, on its way to the burial at Worcester Cathedral. Here the prince lies to this day, in Prince Arthur's chantry in a plain oblong tomb chest modelled upon the legendary tomb of King Arthur at Glastonbury. Even in his son's death Henry VII was not to let a propaganda opportunity pass him by. And the young princess? To preserve the alliance and to retain her dowry Henry VII, claiming the marriage to have been unconsummated, had her married to Arthur's younger brother, who was to take the throne as King Henry VIII. Thus the course of English and European history was to be spectacularly altered by both the prince's death and the eventual outcome of the marriage of his widow to his brother. The young prince who took his vows in his home at Tickenhill could not ever have imagined what was to flow from that scene – Christendom split in two.

The second Tickenhill prince was, strangely, the eldest son and heir of the next, the Stuart, dynasty's first king. The eldest son of James I (James VI of Scotland) was Prince Henry of Wales. He, too, was given Tickenhill Manor as a residence by his father. Although not marrying there, he too died as a young man and never ascended the throne. Once again a second

son took the crown and once again altered English history. His name was Charles, the first of that name and nearly the last king of England.

One can only ponder what this land might have been like at the third millennium if either of these residents of a north Worcestershire manor house had not died in their youth. Many things may have come about anyway, but more gently perhaps. Who knows?

A further oblique Tudor royal connection is another north Worcestershire manor, that of Bromsgrove. Katherine of Aragon was given this royal manor in 1509. After her, four of Henry VIII's other five wives were to possess it: Jane Seymour in 1537, Anne of Cleves in 1540, Katherine Howard in 1541 and Katherine Parr in 1544. And the one who never possessed it? Anne Boleyn – who had taken Henry from Arthur's widow, Katherine of Aragon.

David Kendrick

(See **Arthur - the forgotten prince** on p*)

A Twelfth-century Cross-head from Mitton Chapel, Gloucestershire (Fig)

Today the hamlet of Mitton is a suburb of Tewkesbury, but in the medieval period it was an independent community and was part of Worcestershire. In the Domesday Survey of 1086 Mitton consisted of an estate of one hide, belonging to the Bishop of Worcester. It appears that during the 15th or 16th century Mitton was largely depopulated and shrunk to one large farmstead (Mitton manor) and a few cottages.

Mitton Chapel

Mitton formerly possessed a medieval chapel (SO 903 339) dedicated to the festival of the Holy Cross (14th September). The existence of the chapel was first documented in 1287, and in 1427 its congregation obtained the right to establish their own cemetery, while remaining part of Bredon parish (Sermon & Watson forthcoming). Latterly the chapel consisted of a nave, chancel and west tower, and was apparently still roofed in the 17th century. It was shown on an estate of map of 1702 (see fig 1), but by 1775 it had apparently closed and become ruinous.

In 1966 the site of the chapel was redeveloped for housing, this destruction revealed at least eight fragments of masonry, including window heads and jambs, most of which ended up in local rockeries (Sermon & Watson forthcoming). This development also revealed a cross-head, which is now displayed in Bredon church.

The Cross-head

The cross-head is carved from a single block of Oolitic limestone, its length (from top to bottom) is 395mm, and its width is 485mm (about 15½” and 19”). It has one decorated face, the rear one being very irregular, probably due to the cross-head having been split lengthways into two portions. The unweathered and crisp finish of the decorated face of the cross-head suggests that it may have been split during the medieval period, possibly to facilitate its reuse within the fabric of the medieval chapel. A number of the surviving fragments of cross-heads and shafts in the Midlands have been incorporated into church walls.

The cross-head has three short arms and its fourth arm is badly broken, where it presumably joined the shaft of the cross (see cover). This type of cross-head is sometimes referred to as

‘circle-headed’ with unpierced spandrels. The top arm of the decorated face is blank. The right-hand arm is decorated with one fleur-de-lis (lily) and a four petalled flower. The left-hand arm of the cross is decorated with a four petalled flower or a sprig of foliage and a small square divided by diagonal ridges into four triangles, each containing a circular bead or pellet. The outer portion of the centre of the cross is defined by a circular band of two interlaced strips forming a braided decoration. Each of the ovals within the braiding contains a single bead. Inside the braiding are a series of seven semi-circulars, overlapping strips, making an interlaced decoration. In the centre of the cross is a four petalled or quatrefoil flower.

The Mitton cross-head can be dated on stylistic grounds to *circa* 1150-1200, as very similar decorated motifs occur in a number of West Midland churches of this date. Quatrefoil flower or foliage decorations were a common decorative motif on late 12th century church doors and arches. The cross-head was described in the Courtauld Institute Survey of British Romanesque Sculpture as early 12th century. Dr Ron Baxter of the Courtauld Institute suggests that the cross dates from *circa* 1150-60, as it would be unusual to find examples of chip-carved work after this date (Thanks to Dr Baxter for his opinion and for supplying the unpublished data from the 1994 Worcestershire Survey by the late Geoff Pearson).

The Mitton cross-head is architecturally important as locally there are few examples of either Saxon or Norman cross-heads; the prayer crosses which are found in the grounds of some local churches are all of late medieval date. Research to date has failed to locate any other examples of 12th century cross-heads in the West Midlands, so the authors would be delighted to hear of any more discoveries (email us at - archaeology@gloucester.gov.uk or molas@molas.org.uk). The best-known local cross-head is from Cropthorne, Worcestershire, this splendid 9th century artefact was formerly built into the fabric of the church (Allen 1906).

Archbishop Theodore (AD 669-690) had allowed priests to say mass ‘in the field’ in the absence of a church. A century later, in the life of St Willibald, it was stated that it was the custom on the estates of many lords that there was no church, but only a cross raised on high for the daily service of prayer (Stenton 1947, 150). Perhaps during the 12th century when many local parish churches were being constructed, the small agrarian community at Mitton (shown by the Domesday hidage) could not afford to build a church, but as a first step raised a stone cross, which was later replaced by a stone-built chapel. At this time the cross might have been demolished and fragments of it incorporated into the fabric of the new building.

Bruce Watson and Richard Sermon

References:

- Allen, J. R. 1906 ‘Early Christian Art’ in *VCH Worcs* vol. 1, 183-89.
Sermon, R. & Watson, B. forthcoming (2002) The lost chapel of Mitton and its 12th century cross-head, *Glevensis* 35.
Stenton, F. 1947 *Anglo-Saxon England*.

Local History Week, 4-11 May 2002

May 4 to 11 2002 has been designated National Local History Week in an initiative by the Historical Association. To mark this event the Worcestershire Record Office is putting on a series of events through the week, culminating in a celebrity lecture on Saturday 11 May by Prof. David Cannadine, Director of the Institute of Historical Research and a well-known author and broadcaster. He will be giving a lecture entitled '**The Circumstances of Pomp: Sir Edward Elgar as a historical Figure**'. Full details of the Record Office events are as follows:

Tuesday 7 May	'Latin for Beginners – A Workshop' (WLHC)
Wednesday 8 May	'Maps for Local History' (WRO HQ)
Thursday 9 May	'An Introductory Palaeography Workshop' (WLHC)
Friday 10 May	'Oral History Workshop' (WRO HQ)

All these workshops will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., either at the Worcestershire Library and History centre in Trinity Street, Worcester (WLHC) or the Headquarters Branch of the Worcestershire Record Office at County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester (WRO HQ).

All events will be FREE OF CHARGE but places will be limited. To book your place please contact the Record Office at County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP, Tel: 01905 766351 Fax: 01905 766363 e-mail: RecordOffice@worcestershire.gov.uk

The Celebrity Lecture will take place in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester at 2.30 p.m. It will be essential to pre-book a ticket, details as above.

Local History Forum, 27 April 2002

As an introduction to Local History Week the Worcestershire Local History Forum (of which this Society is a member) is to hold a Day School on the theme of 'Worcestershire Sources'. This will take place at the Methodist Centre, Kidderminster on Saturday 27 April 2002, starting at 10 a.m. and running through to 4 p.m. Speakers include Victoria Bryant of the Worcestershire County Archaeological Service on 'Finding the Pieces of the Jig-saw: the Evidence for Past Landscapes', Patrick Baird of Birmingham Central Library and Sian Roberts of the Birmingham City Archives talking about 'Worcestershire Sources at Birmingham', and Dr Pat Hughes on 'Tax Lists, Title Deeds and Topography'. There will also be a number of shorter presentations by speakers from local societies. There will be exhibitions and stands put on by local bodies.

The cost to members of a Society affiliated to the Forum is £4, to others £5. A lunch (a baked potato and filling plus a yoghurt) can also be booked at £2 (optional). If you book through the Society Secretary you can claim the lower rate.

The two previous Day Schools organised by the Forum have been very enjoyable. Book early to ensure your place! Tickets are also available direct from Teresa Nixon at the Worcestershire Library and History centre in Trinity Street, Worcester, tel 01905 765922.

Robin Whittaker

CBA West Midlands Summer Day School, 8 June 2002
The Archaeology of Britain Revisited. A Tribute to Phil Barker

Leading archaeologists will review and update key areas of archaeology to which the late Philip Barker made a major contribution, both to our understanding and to the excavation and research techniques employed. Topics covered are: Late Roman Britain, Urban Archaeology, Archaeology of the Castle and Landscape Archaeology.

10am to 5pm at the Arts Building, University of Birmingham
£17 (£12 concessions) less £5 for members. Phone 0121 414 8065 to book

NB. Congratulations to WAS member Tom Pagett who has recently been elected Chairman of CBA West Midlands

Arthur - the forgotten prince, 1-4 May 2002

Worcester cathedral's celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the burial of Prince Arthur include a two-day conference on 1-2 May; and a performance of Abelard and Heloise, and re-enactment of the funeral procession followed by Vespers on 3 May. A commemorative exhibition is being held in the cathedral during April, May and August.

The conference, chaired by Professor Nicholas Brooks of the University of Birmingham, includes an impressive range of topics and speakers, culminating with the keynote address by Dr David Starkey. The theme of Day 1 is 'The Iconography of Kingship', including 'The Portraiture of Prince Arthur and Katherine of Aragon' and of Day 2 'Commemoration and Memorial – The Funeral of Prince Arthur', including 'The Commissioning of Royal Tombs: the Context for Prince Arthur', 'Regional Architecture or National Monument? the Chantry Chapel of Prince Arthur' and, with WAS member, Chris Guy and Professor John Hunter of the University of Birmingham, 'Prince Arthur's Chantry – An Archaeological Investigation'.

For further information contact Lee White or Jean Armstrong, The Chapter Office, 10a College Green, Worcester WR1 2LH, tel 01905 28854/21004

Book Reviews

Death of a King R.M.Haines. Pentland Press, £12.95 + £1.75 p&p. Copies available from R.M.Haines, Soundings, Water Street, Curry Rivel, Nr Langport, Somerset TA10 0HL

The author has written extensively on the Worcester diocese in the first half of the 14th century, including a valuable study of the administration of this diocese in the period and editions of the registers of bishops Orleton (1327-33) and Bransford (1339-49). He has published a book on Orleton's career, not only at Worcester but earlier, as bishop of Hereford, and later, as bishop of Winchester. Orleton, one of the prime players in the drama, was denounced by one chronicler as

'the architect of Edward's fall and death'. In Haines' view however he has been 'much maligned both in his own time and subsequently'.

Haines has now turned to a new genre. The bold cover prepares the reader for this, factually based, historical 'whodunit', subtitled 'An account of the supposed escape and afterlife of Edward of Caernarvon, formerly Edward II, King of England' (1307-27). The chapter titles, notably 'Impending catastrophe', 'Jezebel's triumph', 'A Dark deed at Berkeley', 'Who killed the king?', 'Hunting down the culprits', 'But did the king really die?', continue the theme, as does the 'Who's Who' at the end. Each chapter commences with translations from original sources, some accompanied by historical and literary extracts including Thomas Gray, Christopher Marlowe and Vita Sackville-West.

In seeking to attract the general reader, the author has thus managed to avoid footnotes. However an index, possibly incorporated into the 'Who's Who', would have been useful and the Further Reading section is difficult to use. Certainly Haines succeeds in bringing the history to life and conveying a flavour of the times. One almost sees him in the role of Poirot. He seems to have enjoyed writing the book as much as the reader should enjoy reading it.

Roy Haines has kindly agreed to participate in the Society's forthcoming lecture programme and will be talking on 'Death of a King: the Fate of Edward of Caernarvon' on 14 October 2002.

The Historical Atlas of the Celtic World ed J.Haywood. Thames & Hudson (2001) £19.95 Hb

This atlas is a wide-ranging survey of the Celtic world in terms of both chronology and geography. Part 1 opens with a detailed map of 'Early Bronze Age Europe and the Urnfield Culture 2000-750 BC' and ends with 'The Celtic Languages Today'. Its territorial range extends from a portrayal of the Celtic homeland in central Europe and the subsequent migrations to Gaul, Belgica and then Iberia and Britain but also eastward into the Danube basin and Greece, and even as far as the Dnieper and central Anatolia. For recent times it outlines the Celtic diaspora within and beyond the British Isles to North America, Australasia and even those Welsh settlements of Y Wladfa (the colony), Porth Madrun and Cwm Hyfryd in Patagonia.

The broad context in which the Hallstatt (700-450 BC) and La Tène (450-50 BC) cultures are displayed are a valuable corrective to the restrictive way in which 'Hillforts and Oppida' and 'Villages and Farms', for example, are often considered in this country. It is also instructive to be shown so clearly the importance of trade and exchange in Celtic society at this time and, in particular, of Britain's importance as a source not only of tin but also of gold and copper.

Part 2 examines evidence of the 'Atlantic Celts', those of Britain and Ireland. Some 24 maps include such subjects as 'Brochs and Duns', 'The Origins of the Picts', 'Scots and Picts', 'Celtic Missions to Europe', 'The Lordship of the Isles', 'The Plantation of Ireland 1605-57' and 'The Highland Clearances 1763-1886'. In the clear and yet highly detailed map of 'Glyndwr's Revolt 1400-10' Worcester finds a place. This is a reference to the ill-fated French expedition which landed at Milford Haven in August 1405. The force, estimated by one French source at 10,000, consisted in fact of 2,600 men, including 800 men-at-arms and 600 crossbowmen under the command of Jean de Hangest. Marching along the south Welsh coast they reached Worcester by the end of the month. They plundered the town and then took up a defensive position on Woodbury Hill in the lower Teme valley. As the expected royal response never came, Glyndwr

was unable to bring Henry IV to a decisive battle. Nor was contact made with Henry IV's northern opponents such as Henry Percy who had attacked Chester the previous year. The French withdrew.

The modern Celts are dealt with in Part 3. How many of the Society's members who visited Abergavenny some years ago and were awe-struck by the priory's immense timber Jesse will have realised that the First Pan-Celtic Congress was held there in 1838, anticipating the First Inter-Celtic Congress at St Brieuc in Brittany by 30 years? There are more than 50 clearly drawn maps in colour, with many colour illustrations as well as photographs and diagrams. However the extensive list of further reading at the end would have been far more user-friendly if it had been broken up and placed at the end of each of the relevant parts of the book. This is but a small criticism of what is otherwise a remarkable achievement.

An Atlas of Rural Settlement in England ed B.K.Roberts & S.Wrathmell. English Heritage (2000) £25

The atlas arises from the need for a national framework to identify and analyse evidence of medieval settlement sites. At the two extremes some landscapes contain only nucleated and others only a thin scattering of dispersed settlements but the majority are distinctive combinations of both types. The *Atlas* is an attempt to sketch out such broad patterns of post-Roman development. This is of especial significance when the national, and county, planning process is becoming ever more concerned with landscape analysis, description and protection.

The basic data is taken from the Old Series 1" Ordnance Survey maps of the early and mid 19th century. It reveals three broad provinces:

1. South-eastern, extending from the Wash and East Anglia and the Thames valley to the Hampshire area, with its northern boundary along the Chilterns and Marlborough downs;
2. Central, extending from the Tweed and the Wear, through the Tees and Humber to the Trent valley, the Midlands plain, the Cotswolds and most of Somerset and Dorset;
3. Northern and Western, on the western side of the Pennine chain and stretching through Cheshire, Salop, the Teme and Wye to include all land west of the Severn, as well as the West Midland heartland. In addition there is the detached sub-province of the 'Southwest Peninsular', that is Exmoor and the Blackdown Hills and all lands to the west.

These, the editors argue, represent 'deep structures which are directly linked to the distribution of cleared lands and wooded lands over a thousand years earlier'.

Worcestershire, apart from its southeastern quadrant, falls within the West Midlands sub-province in the Northern and Western zone. Its eastern boundary is defined by a sharp change in the number of nucleations present. In 1086 this was already a cultural boundary, seen in the distribution of woodland and plough teams, while place-name evidence projects it back into the Saxon period. Compared to the land to the east it had significantly lower numbers of nucleations and with the exception of the Severn valley very high densities of dispersed settlement, including hamlets, many called 'Green', common edge scatters of small farmsteads and cottages, roadside cottages and isolated larger farmsteads, generally moated, many being of medieval foundation. There are only limited numbers of nucleated settlements which are small except when industry developed.

The survey's results are of great interest but production, unfortunately, does not meet the requirements of the project. The size of the volume is virtually 12" x 16½". Of the many maps only six are colour coded; the remainder have to rely on complex black-and-white codes. This makes most if not all the maps of the 25 sub-provinces extraordinarily difficult for the layman to read.

Joe Hillaby

Members interested in David Whitehead's article on the Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust (*Recorder* 63) will be pleased to know that his *A Survey of Historic Parks & Gardens in Herefordshire* is now in print. Published by the Trust in collaboration with Herefordshire Council and with an Awards for All grant through the Heritage Lottery fund, it is a handsome volume covering some 300 sites of which 23 are registered by English Heritage. The *Survey* coordinates previously published and archive material, with descriptions enriched by personal observation, and frequent use of the first edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey map to illustrate the original design. The sites being in alphabetical order, there is a useful parish index and an index of personal names.

The Last Hours of Simon de Montfort

A major contribution to our knowledge of the events of August 1265 is found in a new account of the battle of Evesham in a 14th-century roll belonging to the College of Arms. With text and translation, this has been analysed by Olivier de Laborderie, John R Maddicott and David A Carpenter in *English Historical Review* vol 115 (April 2000) 378-411. The Simon de Montfort Society has, with the authors' permission, published a brief summary as a LION Occasional Paper, available for £1.50 plus p&p from the Chairman, Mrs I Pinkstone, tel 01386 446781.

The Society hopes to become a registered charity on 18 April when it will drop Evesham from its name. New members are welcome and should contact the Secretary, Mrs M Nilsson, on 01789 772943.

Medieval Tiles at Worcester Cathedral

(FIGS): a. umbrella in roof vault of chapter house (slide)

b. tiles in the 'Old Singing Room' (lay clerks vestry) J.H.Parker *A Glossary of terms ... Gothic Architecture* (1850)

c. tiles in gallery above chapter parlour (slides/prints)

An intriguing visit to areas of the cathedral not usually open to the public included a tour of the roof space over the north aisle of the nave and parts of the central tower. This revealed the different build periods, as well as a vertiginous view of the nave, and the occasional tight squeeze for some of us. Moving out onto the roof we saw the remarkable timber umbrella above the central shaft carrying the chapter house vault. (Fig a)

The tour started however with some of the medieval tiles. The carpet was rolled back for us in the Chapter Parlour (Pavement 2) but sadly very little survives of the original designs of the tiles

of this pavement. The gallery above however was very rewarding. Here are 32 of the 48 tile patterns to be found in the cathedral, including five complete 4-tile patterns, two made up of single tile designs, and the beautiful centrepiece of a 9-tile design. The heraldry includes the arms of England, Beauchamp, Clare, Botiler, Warren and Hereford. (Figs c)

The earliest interest expressed in the medieval tiles was when the British Archaeological Association visited Worcester in 1848. In his paper Llewellyn-Jewitt explained:

‘In the passages leading from the vestries ... and the adjoining singing room he had discovered .. on the removal of a large quantity of decayed furniture and rubbish, some pavements of the finest character ... for the most part remaining in their original arrangements.’

The tiles were the subject of a further paper by Laurence Keen when the BAA visited Worcester again in 1975. He reviews the six surviving pavements, containing some 35,000 tiles. Two pavements are still in good condition, that in the gallery (Pavement 5) which we had the privilege to view and that in the adjoining Music Library (Pavement 6) which was unfortunately not accessible to us. However we are fortunate that all have been comprehensively recorded. Other than the individual designs the most striking thing about the pavements is the carpet-like effect achieved by the alternating patterns of plain and decorated tiles: in the case of Pavement 5 a simple pattern of 4-tile diagonal squares, alternating plain and ornamental (see photo); in Pavement 6 a more sophisticated pattern of 9- and 16-tile units bordered by plain tiles. Pavement 3 (illustrated) and Pavement 2 are both of three panes divided by single-tile bands with a 2-tile border on the north and a 3-tile border on the south but the former has a more elaborate arrangement of the tiles. (Fig b)

Altogether there are 48 tile designs, including seven 4-tile, of which three are heraldic, a 9-tile and a 16-tile design. There are also nine single heraldic designs although it is suggested that the heraldry was used more for decoration than to indicate patronage. It is believed that the tiles were made locally, in a specially built kiln in Worcester, about 1377-80, and that they had an important influence on the 15th-century Malvern floor-tile industry. Most of the 48 designs are also found at Blackfriars, Greyfriars and Gloucester cathedral.

For further details see L.Keen, ‘The Medieval Decorated Tile Pavements at Worcester’ in *Medieval Art and Architecture at Worcester Cathedral*, BAA Conf Trans 1975 (1978) 144-60

Memorial Plaque at Great Malvern Priory

In the Parish Magazine for November 1922 the vicar, Reverend Linzee Giles, wrote:

"Parents who lost their sons in the Great War are receiving notice that the wooden crosses placed temporarily over the graves of their dear ones in the war cemeteries will shortly be removed and sent to them, since stone headstones with suitable inscriptions are being erected. The Churchwardens and I will gratefully accept these crosses and provide a place for them in our Churchyard, where they will be cherished and as long as possible preserved. I shall be glad if parents will in the first instance communicate with me. It will be understood that we can only accept crosses from those whose sons were regular worshippers in the Priory Church."

Only one of the original crosses survives, the others having been replaced due to ongoing vandalism and deterioration. A plaque has recently been placed to commemorate these men:

Everard Ferguson Calthrop
Richard Hartland Woods
Ernest Henry Huntington
Humphry Nisbet Swann
John Lancelot Walmsley Stock
James Mulock Thompson Stock
Charles Gilbert Andree Wylde
Frank Bailey Perkins
Stanley Colt Faber
John Arden Acworth
Douglas Harry Acworth

We will remember them

October 2001

All but three of the names are also on the war memorial in the Priory. Col Calthrop, whose original wooden cross survives and is still in situ, is on a memorial in St. Andrews Church at Poolbrook but Walmsley Stock and Faber have not been traced.

With thanks to Michael Martin, Churchwarden of Malvern Priory for the above information.

‘Buildings’ of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (Fig)

95 gas lampposts in Malvern, mostly in Malvern Wells, West and Great Malvern, six of them in the churchyard of the Priory, were listed in November 2001 as a result of private individuals’ direct approach to the Ministry of Culture, Media and Sport. Produced by various companies, one example by Horsley & Company of Tipton is dated 1856. The vast majority are complete and in working order, giving Malvern probably the greatest concentration in the country. Only some 400 lamps are listed in the country, other large numbers being in Sheffield and Brighton. However the Brighton lamps are electric and those at Sheffield were converted to electricity prior to listing.

Not everybody is pleased at the news. The lamps were under threat because of the cost of maintenance and the perceived inadequacy of lighting causing highway and pedestrian safety problems.

St Helen’s Church

On 19 December 2001, following the Record Office’s vacation of the building, about 20 of us took advantage of the first opportunity for many decades to view fully the interior of St Helen’s in the High Street, Worcester. It is a spacious building with nice 15th-century arcades and a fine collection of post-medieval monuments. The east façade was remodelled in Georgian Gothic but the upper part of the east window boasts some nice glass by Preedy. The church was restored by Aston-Webb in the 19th century when the dormer windows were removed and the outer wall of the south aisle rebuilt. The south doorway contains a fine 14th- or 15th-century pair of wooden doors in good condition.

Robin Whittaker outlined the Record Office's occupation of the building during the latter half of the 20th century. We saw photographs of the early 13th-century Exeter Psalter which, though at Exeter Cathedral since about 1400, was originally made for St Helen's, as an inscription in the text informs us. The County Record Office agreeing to take over the diocesan records, St Helen's was made available to house the records of the county as well. The church has not been de-consecrated and can still be used for worship. Tim Bridges then described the architecture and fittings of the church and Dr Nigel Baker expounded on the history of the parish. The site was of great antiquity and significance, controlling various parishes in Worcestershire from a very early date. This suggests an importance before the founding of the diocese in 680, though no archaeological evidence is yet available to support this. A parallel exists in Gloucester, with St Mary de Lode having a similar antiquity and jurisdiction over other parishes. In that instance the church was excavated, revealing a Saxon church beneath the present building and underneath that a Roman building which may also have been a very early church. It is suggested that the situation at St Helen's might have been similar.

James Dinn told us about recent excavations in Fish Street where the medieval archaeology is very near the surface. On the north side of the church is believed to be the site of the original ditch of the Roman town defences, which might account for the outward lean of the church's north wall. Finally Will Scott, the City Conservation Officer, outlined the policies when attempting to find uses for ancient buildings. Considerable sums will need to be spent to put the church into repair and restore its fine monuments.

Brian Ferris

NB. At the time of going to print the future of St Helen's is still unknown.

WAS 2001-2 Lecture Programme

Sensitive Repair of Ancient Monuments: Recent Projects

Bob Tolley, Conservation Architect

Bob's lecture illustrated from four local examples the nature of the careful conservation as opposed to restoration work now undertaken on major historical buildings. At Stokesay a series of remarkable slides shows stages in the conservation of the great stone-tiled roof. At Ludlow, during a similar programme, major restoration work had to be undertaken when a considerable length of the high southeastern section of the perimeter wall collapsed. In August members can judge the success or otherwise of this work for themselves.

The new techniques, which include full regard for the natural environment of the site, can best be seen at Wigmore castle. Unfortunately members were not able to explore the site last year, when they visited Wigmore Abbey, due to Foot and Mouth restrictions. Bob's last example was of a very different character, the consolidation of the excavated ruins of the Grandmontine priory at Craswall, over 1,000' high on the edge of the Black Mountains. These the Society visited some years ago when, due to the narrowness of the road, members had to be ferried the last few miles in private cars. Here, to prevent water penetration of the remains of the walls, they have been sealed with a plastic membrane and capped by turf and look most attractive.

Metchley Roman Fort, Edgbaston

Alex Jones, Assistant Director, Field Archaeology Unit, University of Birmingham

Alex Jones spoke about the site and the various stages in the evolution of the Metchley Roman fort. Situated where the Droitwich and Alcester Roman roads come together before proceeding to Letocetum (Wall) on Watling Street. Its layout was described by Hutton in his *History of Birmingham*. Subsequently the site was dissected, first by the canal and then by the railway. Excavations have revealed four stages: I, mid 1st century AD, a square fort defended by double ditch and rampart with timber-framed barracks, granaries, a work shop and store-building for legionaries and auxiliaries; IIa, annexes were added on all four sides for storage, small-scale industry and exercising horses; IIb, it became a stores depot with sheds, livestock compounds, stables etc; III, military occupation with construction of a smaller fort; IV, site continued in occupation into the late 2nd century, possibly as a *mansio*, a staging-post for official travellers.

A handsomely illustrated leaflet was distributed to members. For details of the Metchley excavations and other BUFAU projects see <http://www.bham.ac.uk/bufau>

John Nicholson, organ builder of Worcester

Dr James Berrow

Dr Berrow talked about John Nicholson, his origins and successors, with the emphasis on local social, ecclesiastical, trade and biographical issues. The company produced some of the finest and most adventurous examples of Victorian work in this field, in an era of unprecedented change in technology and organ building. We caught fascinating glimpses of the conditions for the ordinary working man in Worcester, the intellectual world of the church organist, and the instruments themselves. Reference was made not merely to Nicholson organs but to those of a number of his competitors, with evaluations of their varying merits. Although many Nicholson organs survive in the locality and beyond. The factory is now situated in Malvern.

The Defence of Worcestershire 1940-44

Mick Wilks

One might not anticipate a need for Worcestershire to be heavily defended during World War II but the evidence is all around us, from drill halls and other buildings to air-raid shelters and bunkers, spigot mortar bases, rifle ranges and trench systems, pill boxes and black-out markings on trees. Mick Wilks, who has worked on the Defence of Britain project for some six years, explained the main reasons. In 1940 the county was chosen as a potential evacuation site for the government and royal family, Madresfield Court being prepared for the latter, even down to the stocking-up of the wine cellar. The defences reflect the need to protect the vital armaments industry of the West Midlands, including Blackpole, Summerfield and Redditch in this county, and the proximity of Birmingham. Part of the defence network for Worcestershire consisted of Hotchkiss naval guns which were designed in the 19th century for use on the dreadnought. It is clear that an attack from Ireland was anticipated. Mick Wilks also spoke movingly about the GHQ Auxiliary Units. His most interesting talk was well illustrated with numerous slides, including the human aspect. In one church the vicar hid a transmitter under the altar.

Although the Defence of Britain Project has come to an end, the Defence of Worcestershire Project is being reborn and a joint launch with *The Mercian Maquis*, by Bernard Lowry and Mick Wilks, will take place on 25 April. The new project will include 19th- as well as 20th-century defences. Anyone with information of any civil or military defence sites in the county is asked to contact Mick Wilks at the County Archaeological Service, tel 01905 855455.

Malvern Hills Archaeological Survey, Preliminary Results

Mark Bowden, Senior Investigator, English Heritage

Mark Bowden described the remit of the project and the methods being employed, with a discussion of the results to date, detailing work on British Camp, Midsummer Hill, the Shire Ditch and Bronsil Castle. Since his article in the *Recorder* 63 he was pleased to be back in the field following the Foot and Mouth outbreak. The best new results, he reported, are coming from the woodland survey, including some new pillow mounds on the edge of Old Storridge Common and some very impressive strip lynchets near Crews Hill, near Alfrick. He had also visited the doubtful hillfort on Berrow Hill near Martley and confirmed to his own satisfaction that it is a hillfort. In conclusion Mark outlined the work still to be done and the publications etc which are planned.

Worcestershire Archaeological Society 2002 Excursions Programme

The excursions programme is given in the list which follows. We will be using Astons Coaches which means we can have free parking at their depot at Clerkenleap. We are aware that some members do not have their own cars and thus may be unable to get to the "Own Transport" excursions. In such cases, it is suggested that individual members approach a friend who may be attending; failing that, speak to Brian Ferris who will try to find someone to help you.

We are grateful to Les Fenton who will be helping with the booking and administration. Queries in connection with the details of the trips should still be addressed to Brian Ferris: financial and booking numbers to Les Fenton.

Initial details of the excursions are as follows; the approximate cost is shown in brackets. Coach trip costs include morning coffee, entrance fees, and (sometimes) afternoon tea:

Thursday 30th May, OWN TRANSPORT. Evening visit commencing 7.00 p.m.

Firstly to Croome church, a mock Gothick structure attributed to Robert Adam. The frilly gothick detail of the interior is complimented by a series of magnificent monuments. Then to nearby Pirton church, with a unique half-timbered tower and other details; here we hope to receive a cup of tea or coffee. Tim Bridges will be our leader. (£3.50).

Monday 24th June: Full day COACH trip to Llangollen.

First we will visit the beautifully sited Cistercian abbey of Valle Crucis. Founded in 1201, the church has a fine early 13th-century east end and west front. The sacristy and chapter house, with dormitory above, are well preserved. In addition there are some fine tomb slabs. Nearby is Eliseg's Pillar, erected by Cyngen, died 854, in memory of his great-grandfather. We drive up the famous Horseshoe Pass to enjoy the magnificent scenery, and spend the rest of the day in Llangollen where we can visit the romantic Plas Mawr, home of the Irish 'Ladies of Llangollen',

Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby, whose visitors included Wordsworth, de Quincy, Wellington and Walter Scott. It is full of collected antique panelling, stained glass etc. (£19.50).

Tuesday 16th July: full day COACH trip to Newbury to visit the Sandham Memorial Chapel, a 20th-century building with wonderful murals by Stanley Spencer. Then to Highclere Castle, a large Gothic mansion started by Charles Barry in 1830. This is the home of the Earl of Caernarvon, and there are mementoes of the Tutankhamen discovery. There is magnificent parkland and a tea room where we can partake of refreshments. (£19.00).

Thursday 6th June; OWN TRANSPORT, evening visit to Pull Court, Bushley near Tewkesbury, to visit this Victorian House, which is Bredon School. Before this, we will visit Bushley church. We will be shown round the old buildings of the school, and in the grounds is an ice-house; we will conclude with light refreshments which consists of a FINGER BUFFET and soft drinks. So this is a social visit as well as a bit of history. Commences at the church at 6.30 and at the school at 7.00p.m. (£6.00).

Wednesday 31st July; OWN TRANSPORT to visit the village of Feckenham in the evening, where a local historian (Elizabeth Atkins) will take us for a walk-about. In the 18th and 19th centuries this village was a centre for needle-making. There are many old buildings to see (exterior only). Some field-walking involved. Group limited to 30 persons. (£3.00).

Thursday 15th August: full day COACH TRIP to Ludlow, with more listed buildings per head of population than any other town in England. In the afternoon we will visit Burford Church and have tea in the adjoining Garden Centre. See below for further details. Our leader will be Joe Hillaby. (£14.00).

Thursday 29th August, OWN TRANSPORT, visit to Witley Court in the afternoon, where we will be shown around by a guide; we can learn of all the fresh developments at this important ruin. We will also have another chance to see the famous church with its beautiful 18th-century stained glass; there is a tea room here which we can use. (£5.00).

Thursday September 19th, full day COACH TRIP to Northamptonshire to visit Rothwell, 'one of the most attractive towns' in the county, and its splendid Norman church with charnel house, then to Brixworth church, 'the most impressive pre-Viking church in England'. It is 160' long, built of brick and rubble with crypt and west porch with chamber over, as at Deerhurst. Originally it had four *porticus* to the north and south and the impressive arcades with double rows of brick voussoirs can still be seen, as well as the large clerestory windows. Finally we go to Lamport Hall, with 17th & 18th-century façade by John Webb and the Smiths of Warwick. The High Room (1655) has magnificent plasterwork, and the 18th-century library contains books from the 16th century. There are fine furnishings and many paintings, including portraits by Van Dyck, Kneller and Lely. We will have tea here before starting homeward (£20.00).

Further events:

- (a) We are investigating the possibility of a private visit to Evesham Abbey House, to complement the Berkeley Lecture in April; no further details available as yet.
- (b) At the Cathedral, the floor of the Chapter House is to be excavated, probably later on this year, in conjunction with investigations in the Slype and externally; we will have a chance to visit this excavation under the guidance of our own committee member Chris Guy.

Please support your Committee and the Society by attending some of these events, especially the coach trips where good numbers are essential to avoid financial losses.

NOTE: some dates subject to confirmation.

Brian Ferris

Ludlow and Burford. 15 August 2002

In Ludlow the visit will concentrate on three aspects of the early medieval town:

1. to look at the way the present street pattern evolved in the 12th and 13th centuries, noting in particular the highly ambitious rectangular market place extending from Castle Gate on the west to the Bull Ring on the east. There at right angles it linked with the line of Old and Corve Streets, the early north-south routeways. Unlike most medieval market towns, Ludlow retains much of its market encroachment – the shop rows with their narrow lanes.
2. the course of the town walls, begun in 1233. Weather permitting, we shall follow the northern section from the site of Corve Gate on the east to the former Linney Gate and the castle on the west and then the southern section, from the site of Dinham Gate to the gates which still stand at the end of Mill and Broad Streets, ending up at the site of Old Gate on the town's main south-north axis.
3. examine the fine late medieval stained glass of St Laurence's church, which is of great iconographic as well as artistic interest: the Edward the Confessor and the Palmers, the Apostles' Creed and the St Christopher windows in the north, St John's, chapel, the 14th-century Jesse windows in the south chapel and the glass in the chancel which includes illustrations of the twelve commandments.

On the way back we shall visit the former minster church of St Mary by the Teme at Burford. The church has a large collection of monuments, including that of Princess Elizabeth, daughter of John of Gaunt, and that of Richard Cornwall, which is in the form of a painted triptych with the Apostles and heraldry on the projecting wing panels and three members of the family, painted by Melchior Salabuss, and the tomb of Lady Caroline Rushout by Westmacott.

‘The Restoration of Hewell Grange Gardens and Parklands’ by Hazel Fryer
7.30 pm at Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School
Tickets £5, available at the door. For further information tel 01527 871354

- 27 April 2002: **Local History Forum** (see p*)
- 1-4 May 2002: **Arthur - the forgotten prince** (see p*)
- 4-11 May 2002: **Local History Week** (see p*)
- Tuesday 7 May Latin for Beginners – A Workshop’ (WLHC)
Wednesday 8 May ‘Maps for Local History’ (WRO HQ)
Thursday 9 May ‘An Introductory Palaeography Workshop’ (WLHC)
Friday 10 May ‘Oral History Workshop’ (WRO HQ)
Saturday 11 May **‘The Circumstances of Pomp: Sir Edward Elgar as a historical Figure’**
 Prof. David Cannadine, Director of the Institute of Historical Research
- 8 June 2002: **CBA West Midlands Summer Day School** (see p*)
- 15 August 2002: WAS Excursion to Ludlow and Burford (see p*)
- 14 October 2002: **WAS Lecture: Death of a King** Roy Haines (see p*)

Looking for Authors

Breedon Books Publishing of Derby are promoting a ‘Worcester book Project’ and are looking for local authors who could prepare volumes on the history of Worcester. Two possible themes they suggest are a wide-ranging, well-illustrated narrative history of the City, or an illustrated account of the social and material changes that have occurred over the last 100 years. Both should incorporate a good number of comparative old and new photographs. Another suggestion they have made is a street history of the City, again highly illustrated.

Breedon specialises in pictorial books, but they also produce highly illustrated books with a substantial narrative text so they would look seriously at either approach to the history.

Anyone who might be interested in working with this firm should contact Rupert Harding, e-mail Rupert@breedonpublishing.co.uk.

Many thanks to all contributors for their submissions.

Items for inclusion in the next issue should be sent to the Editor, Caroline Hillaby, at The Roughs, Hollybush, nr Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1EU, tel/fax 01531 650618 to be received by Monday 14 October 2002. Please remember this is your newsletter.