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WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Chairman's Letter

At the time of writing, the international situation is causing widespread concern, as we contemplate our own destiny and that of our country and way of life.

But the greatest threat to our English way of life is surely from within: the erosion of standards once taken for granted and now under attack from all sides. Firstly, the move towards European Unity and the adoption of European standards in preference to our own; secondly our own Government's desire to 'modernise' and abandon the old way of doing things; thirdly, the priority now given to minority groups and politically correct ideals, and coupled with this, the leveling of standards with the abandonment of the pursuit of excellence to reduce the risk of elitism. And finally, because we have become a nation of administrators and button-pushers, there is nobody left to do or make anything. The 'doers' have been overtaken by the 'admin' people. The bottom of the social ladder is reserved for those who work with their hands.

The history of the old Worcester Infirmary has recently been related to us. It was very much a part of the city, founded and paid for by Worcester citizens. Its wards were named after generous benefactors. The new hospital is owned by Bovis Lend Lease, and its wards are named after flowers. It is said to have more administrators than nurses. Its doings are deliberately kept secret from the public, its staff forbidden to talk about it to anyone, even its contractors compelled to sign secrecy clauses. The old Infirmary site, originally purchased by Worcester men, is now the sole property of Whitehall, who will sell it and keep the proceeds.

My point is that the preservation of our Heritage is not just artifacts, buildings, landscape and so on. It is more than this; it is our cultural and personal values that are being rapidly eroded. Our Worcestershire Archaeological Society seeks to enlighten us and inform us about this precious heritage; a heritage now under attack, and which we, its citizens must try to preserve.

Preserve it we must, and meanwhile we should enjoy it too, and share it with others. So keep up your membership, come on our excursions, and attend our lectures!

Brian Ferris

Worcestershire Archaeological Society: Committee Members 2002-3

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News from the County Archaeological Service

Late Roman Farmstead at Wyre Piddle

Between November 2002 and January 2003 the County Archaeological Service undertook an open area excavation and associated watching brief on land at Upper Moor, just off the new Wyre Piddle bypass. This was a developer-funded project in advance of development by Simms and Wood Ltd, in an area recently extensively investigated during a large-scale project in advance of construction of the bypass. This article is a brief résumé of the site with initial results and conclusions.

The site lies on the northern edge of the flood plain of the River Avon, immediately south of a slight rise below Throckmorton landfill site. Thus the geology on the site varied between clays, to the north, and river terrace drift, to the south. Little was recovered during a phase of fieldwalking, but a geophysical survey revealed a number of rectilinear ditches, which were confirmed in subsequent evaluation trenches. The lack of surface finds was attributed to the build-up of colluvium from the adjacent slope, which had sealed the archaeological deposits and thus contributed to their preservation. However a regime of open-field strip farming in the medieval period led to the formation of ridge and furrow and thus differential levels of preservation across the site.

The earlier bypass project identified settlement and cemetery activity from the Late Iron Age and Roman periods adjacent to the present site. In addition the surrounding area has been the subject of aerial photography, geophysical survey and fieldwalking which have revealed a landscape of field systems and small settlement foci, probably in the form of farmsteads, dating to these periods and possibly extending back into the Bronze Age.

The present project centered on one of these foci. A series of enclosures and associated field ditches was identified. The enclosures were rectilinear in form, similar in size and aligned north-south by east-west, compatible with the aforementioned landscape. Although a number of the ditches portrayed evidence of recutting, the artefactual and stratigraphic evidence indicates little distinct phasing. The site has therefore been determined to be of a single Late Roman phase, perhaps occupied for as little as a single generation.

The central enclosure measured approximately 20m by 25m with a single entrance to the east. This had been recut with a shallow gully across the entrance - presumably to allow increased drainage or simply as a form of cattle grid! A possible eavesdrip gully was identified toward the north-west corner of the enclosure, defining the location of a house. The deposits within the boundary ditch adjacent to the structure were identified to contain extensive cess deposits. These were sampled for environmental analysis, which will hopefully provide direct evidence of the inhabitants' diet. Two inhumation burials lay in the south-east corner of the enclosure. They were aligned head north, feet south beside a small burning pit. The cemetery area was further defined by a spur off the main enclosure ditch. The burials have been identified as juveniles, so their sex is indeterminate. However one was found to have been wearing hobnail boots and a necklace of small green and black beads, while the second had iron pins or brooches at either shoulder, possibly fastenings for a cloak or shroud.

The enclosure to the west was open to the north, containing staggered east-west spurs off the main ditch. They are postulated to be corrals for stock-control. A further enclosure was identified to the west, which continued beyond the boundaries of the excavation area. Another enclosure

lay to the south. Its western and southern limits lay outside the excavation area, although it clearly mirrored that to the north, with an east-west spur off the eastern boundary. This enclosure contained a large amorphous and irregular feature, conjectured to be the result of the trampling of boggy ground by stock. As it was a waterlogged area of the farmstead, it may also have been a pond used for watering the animals.

Further evidence of enclosures or field boundary ditches has been located within the on-going development works across the site, which confirm the settlement enclosure's position within an integrated agricultural landscape. Of note is one repeatedly recut north-south aligned ditch which lies alongside and parallels the present field ditch and hedge, indicating continuity of this boundary for the last sixteen hundred years!

The site was fully metal-detected. This revealed eighteen coins and an inlaid copper ring, plus indeterminate lead and iron fragments. This density of coins is previously unheard of from a rural site in the county, either indicating that the site was of local importance, possibly as a market centre, or simply highlighting the need for full survey, which has often been lacking on past excavations. The copper alloy coins date mostly from the reign of Constantine, AD 306-337.

The extensive finds of pottery confirm the late Roman date of the site. The assemblage comprised primarily local Severn Valley wares, although other types included shell tempered ware from the south Midlands, buff ware mortaria, grey wares and a small amount of (earlier) imported Samian ware. A large collection of bone was also recovered, mostly of domestic animals - cattle, sheep and pig - which reveals the pastoral aspect of the economy. However fragments of quern stones also highlight the arable side.

A large number of roughly squared grey limestone slabs was recovered from the ditches. Although no direct structural evidence was identified on the site, these blocks are conjectured to be post pads or dwarf walls upon which wattle and daub structures would have been constructed. A quantity of burnt stones was also noted within the ditches. These included both burnt limestone fragments and cracked pebbles. The former are interpreted as hearth stones, the latter as pot-boilers for heating water.

The site was the subject of a 50% sample of the features. This will allow spatial analysis of the artefacts and hence determination of zones of activity and some phasing of their deposition. The project is on-going, and it is hoped that the results will be published in conjunction with those from the adjacent sites.

Tom Vaughan

Figs: plan and skeleton

Landscape, Location and Livelihood: The Worcestershire Tithe Map Project

The 18th and 19th centuries saw the formation of the English landscape as we see it today. Of critical importance for understanding this process are maps documenting the details of Inclosure and the later assessment of holdings during the survey of the Tithe Commissioners. Such surveys, consisting of detailed maps of land-holdings, are cross-referenced to tables that list each field, its owners, its tenant, and how it was used: information which is readily incorporated into a Geographic Information System (GIS).

For the past ten years Worcestershire Archaeology Service has been making copies of 18th- and 19th-century Tithe and Inclosure maps. These have been traced from originals and reduced to a 1:10,000 scale to overlay on to Ordnance Survey maps. These provide a fascinating insight into the agricultural landscape of the day, and offer clues, through place-name evidence, to earlier human settlement. Recently, through developments in GIS, whereby mappable data sets can be superimposed, the County Archaeology Service has been able to digitise these maps to provide a formidable research resource for archaeologists, historical geographers and members of the public. At present it holds copies of 138 parish Inclosure or Tithe maps at 1:10,000 scale, and 28 parishes also have digital copies of these maps.

The digitisation project consists of two related halves. Firstly, each field, building, road or watercourse drawn on the original is digitised on to the GIS as a separate entity. This process facilitates the display of the map as it appears on the original. Secondly, a database entry is completed for each field mentioned on the Award or Apportionment document accompanying the original map. By joining these two elements of data it is possible to recreate the land-use, ownership or holding extents of estates and individual farms.

The information contained within the GIS allows interpretation of the historic landscape. The integration of this data into the GIS allows information held within the original documents to be interrogated. Of prime importance for understanding the historic landscape is analysis of the land-use at the time the parishes were surveyed. This can be displayed through GIS, using data held in the Award database. Figure 1 shows an example of this for the parish of Elmley Castle. One of the most striking results of this process is the division between land classified as arable and that which was recorded as pasture. Figure 1 shows that the arable is mainly concentrated in the northerly third of the parish. From analysis of the map, no clear reason for this is forthcoming. However, GIS has a considerable role to play in the explanation of this feature of the post-medieval landscape of Elmley Castle.

By combining the information held within the Tithe map and documents with Ordnance Survey contour information it is possible to produce a 3D reconstruction of the landscape of this parish (Figure 2). This shows that the arable cultivation is mainly situated on the lower ground of the Avon valley, and the apparently abrupt break in this occurs where the land begins to rise up above 76m. In addition to providing elucidation of the reasons behind certain aspects of land use, 3D analysis of the historic landscape provides the opportunity to visualise past landscapes. In Figure 2, this has been carried out using the GIS; by extracting information from the digitised map the field boundaries, roads and even buildings can be reconstructed.

Further uses of the digital Tithe and Inclosure maps include analysis of land ownership and tenancy. These maps provide a 'snapshot' of land ownership in the eighteenth and nineteenth

centuries and, with the use of GIS, it is possible to accurately locate the extent of farm-holdings and, indeed, properties owned or occupied by certain individuals.

Figs 1, 2 & 3 (original 4, 5 & 7)

It is also possible to display tenants' holding extents (Figure 3) so that the pattern of land ownership and tenancy can be assessed. Further to this, it is possible to identify the particular residence of individual tenants. This will facilitate research by incorporating other disparate datasets such as census returns, sales particulars and probate inventories to provide an integrated research and educational tool.

The digitisation of Tithe and Inclosure maps, together with hitherto unmappable documents into the GIS will enable researchers and other interested members of the public to interrogate multiple documentary sources through historic mapping, and will facilitate research into 18th- and early 19th-century agricultural and domestic life.

Neil Lockett

News from the Worcestershire Record Office Accessions

The following is a selection of the accessions received by the Worcestershire Record Office in the period September 2002 to March 2003.

13,659	Malvern Cemetery records
13,666	Worcester Society of Oddfellows records (also Accession 13,671)
13,677	Deeds concerning Birlingham (Woodward properties) 19 th century
13,682	Deeds concerning public houses in Redditch, Worcester and Dudley, 1860s-1920s (mainly Allsopp Brewery)
13,687	Richard Smith of Worcester, Nurseryman. Catalogue 1870-71
13,690	Microfilm of journals of members of the Whitaker family of Caldwell in Stoulton
13,702	Rushock parish records
13,718	Redditch Cemetery records (microfilm)
13,729	Wichenford Village record (Millenium Publication)
13,731	Register of Bishop Lloyd's School, Worcester. 18 th & 19 th century (microfilm)
13,732	County Council correspondence concerning new bridge at Evesham, 1920s
13,734	Records of the Swan Theatre, Worcester. 1960s onwards
13,737	Various documents concerning Malvern per Malvern Library (water cure, sale of Malvern Chase) 17 th -19 th centuries
13,739	Videos concerning local history of Redditch (original at Forge Mill Museum)
13,744	Deeds concerning Priors Court estate and manor of Pendock, 17 th -19 th century (From Mr Philipson-Stow)
13,746	Transcript by Dr John West of the sea journals of Captain Edmund Lechmere, 1696-1704
13,747	Minute book of the Worcestershire Association, 1926-38
13,748	Worcestershire County Council Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act, 2003

Archive Awareness Campaign

The Worcestershire Record Office is preparing its plans for ways in which it will mark 'Archives Awareness Month' in September 2003. This event will inaugurate the national campaign, promoted by the National Council on Archives, and is inspired by a feeling that the potential of archives to illuminate people's lives is severely inhibited by their low profile and the lack of awareness of their value amongst many politicians, decision makers and funding bodies.

The theme for the month will be the opening up of archives to the general public, to help raise awareness of the treasures held. The Record Office will also be exploring ways in which it can liaise with other repositories in the West Midlands in marking this event. We want to target not only our existing users, but also groups that are currently poorly represented as users of archives. These include the under 24s, ethnic minority groups and students in Higher Education.

The themes that the campaign as a whole wishes to promote are: the *discovery* of the past that can help explain past actions; the *validation* that the authenticity of archives gives to a fair and democratic society; the *engagement* with the past that can be achieved through study of archives;

the sense of *belonging* to a group, place or community that archives can create through fostering a sense of identity; how archives can *challenge* the past, and transform our lives today; and an attempt to change the *perceptions* and stereotypes that can surround archival institutions.

Record Office events will include two Open Evenings (one on 17 September at the Worcestershire Library and History Centre with a 1960s theme) and two 'roadshows'. Katie Smith of Radio Hereford & Worcester will be bringing her afternoon show from the Centre on 2 September. On 2 November the Record Office conference, entitled 'Travel Back in Time', will have a transport theme. Look out for further advertisements with details of these and other events over the coming months.

Archive Task Force

The government department responsible for archives has set up an Archives Task Force, to undertake a thorough review of the state of the archival world. This body is drawn from representatives at the highest level from the world of archives itself, as well as academia, government, depositors and users. Readers may be interested to learn of a couple of local connections amongst this august body: Dame Stella Rimington, former head of MI5, whose first post, as a professional archivist, was at the Worcestershire Record Office in the 1950s/60s; and Prof David Cannadine, the eminent historian and Director of the Institute of Historical Research. Amongst many other positions he holds, he is the current President of the Worcestershire Historical Society. As this is written, we are currently expecting that the West Midland regional consultation exercise of the Task Force will be held in Worcester, probably in April.

Robin Whittaker

News from the City

Again the focus of archaeological attention has been on the city centre and its immediate surroundings. Work has particularly concentrated on the medieval defences.

Remains of the city wall, which were partly levelled in the 1970s, were recorded (and have been preserved in situ) at 31/33 Friar Street, as part of a watching brief during housing development (Cotswold Archaeology).

At County Mills, Dolday (the former Countrywide Farmers), a small length of the city wall was exposed in a lift pit. Following discussion with the developers, the lift position was moved and the remains, which are well below the raised floor of the building, but above the local ground level, have been preserved.

At 16/18 Sansome Street, evaluation and subsequent recording in advance of a housing development (Mike Napthan Archaeology) revealed the inner edge and upper fills of the city ditch. There were no surviving remains of the city wall on this site, though the site boundary probably follows the wall line, with the ditch and wall separated by a wide berm. On the inner edge of the ditch were a number of steep-sided features, cut into the natural sand and containing large assemblages of pottery, clay pipes, glass and other material dating to the later 17th or early

18th centuries. The features await further analysis but may be associated with Civil War defensive works.

A limited field evaluation at 4-5 Cornmarket (Mike Napthan Archaeology), in advance of housing development, recorded part of the city wall, including a semicircular bastion which was exposed by demolitions in the 1970s. The visible core of the bastion, and the upper part of the wall, were rebuilt at that time. The evaluation showed that the bastion was probably originally circular in plan, and hollow; the inner part of the structure had been robbed. The city wall had been cut into a pre-existing bank made up of alternating bands of clayey and loamy soil, the material presumably coming from a contemporary ditch, now under the City Walls Road; a similar make-up for the bank has been recorded on other sites. The bank survives to almost the same height as the city wall stonework, immediately below the mid-20th-century floor of a grain store building which is to be demolished. Nearly all the finds from the bank were Roman in date, reflecting the known extent of Roman occupation in this area. Below the bank was a 'dark earth' cultivation soil, and below that a series of Roman layers, of 1st-2nd century date, including a substantial deposit of pottery, iron slag and partly fired clay. The evaluation of this site was greatly helped by the presence of a 19th-century brick culvert which had cut through the bank and passed under the city wall, leaving a clean vertical section.

At 9 New Street, evaluation trenching in advance of a housing development (Worcestershire Archaeological Service) revealed what was probably the tail of the medieval bank, close to the city wall. The remains of a medieval stone cellar were also found, incorporated into an 18th-century brick cellar, and set well back from the street frontage.

The Public Inquiry into the 1996-2011 Local Plan for Worcester started in January. Discussions on archaeological matters have concentrated in particular on two scheduled earthwork sites – Middle Battenhall on the south side of Worcester, and Earl's Court to the west. While both are significant and interesting monuments, background research for Middle Battenhall in particular has drawn attention to the very high quality of the early-16th-century documentary records, not just for the fishponds, surveyed and published by Mick Aston, and the deerpark, but also for what was evidently a high status country house. Prior More's journals for 1518-35 were published by the Worcestershire Historical Society at the beginning of the 20th century, and describe in detail expenditure on the estate, including reglazing with stained and clear glass and other works in advance of a visit by the 9-year-old Princess Mary in 1526.

Development work on the Urban Archaeological Database is now complete and the record is being used to respond to enquiries to the Historic Environment Record. This is available for consultation at The Commandery, by appointment, while email enquiries can be sent to archaeology@cityofworcester.gov.uk.

We have recently agreed a programme with English Heritage for the next phase of the project, which will include characterisation studies of the archaeological resource in the whole of the area covered by the City Council (both above and below ground), a summary research overview, which will be designed to fit with the West Midlands Archaeological Research Framework, and an archaeological strategy for Worcester.

James Dinn

Excavations at Saxon's Lode Farm, Ryall Quarry, Ripple

Important new evidence for both Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon settlement has been found by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) during recent excavations in the south of the county at Ryall Quarry, Ripple. Proposed expansion of the gravel quarry to include land belonging to Saxon's Lode Farm provided the opportunity to investigate the archaeology of the site as part of the planning process. The site lies on a gravel terrace immediately above the eastern bank of the River Severn.

Consultation of the county Sites and Monuments Record had identified a Roman road passing immediately to the south of the site, possibly leading to a former river crossing at Saxon's Lode. Cropmarks identified from aerial photographs had also indicated possible prehistoric (or later) settlement activity within the area of proposed new quarrying. Trial trenching was therefore undertaken by CA in 1998, which identified Roman boundary ditches, pits and a possible hearth, indicating the remains of a Romano-British settlement in the immediate vicinity. The results clearly warranted full excavation of the quarry extension prior to gravel extraction, and this was undertaken by CA between October and December 2002, generously funded by the quarry owners, RMC Aggregates Western Ltd. Preliminary results from the excavation are reported here: detailed analysis of the excavation is currently ongoing, and a full excavation report will be produced in the future.

The Romano-British Farmstead

Stripping of the topsoil soon revealed the remains of the Romano-British farmstead enclosure, defined by large ditched boundaries on its northern, eastern and southern sides. The western extent of the farmstead lay beyond the limit of excavation. A break in the northern ditch may have provided access to farmland beyond the settlement. It is noteworthy that the modern hedgerow that formed the northern limit of the excavation preserved the line of this early boundary ditch, which had been redefined a number of times.

Within the enclosure there was very little intercutting between archaeological features, indicating that the farmstead had never undergone a major reorganization, and suggesting that it may have been relatively short-lived. This is supported by initial examination of the abundant and well-preserved Romano-British pottery recovered from the site which, together with a relatively small number of coins, brooches and other finds, indicate that the site was occupied during the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD, and was then abandoned.

The distribution of features within the farmstead is of great interest, as groups of different types of features suggest areas of different types of activity. Fragments of *imbrex* roof tile were recovered from several ditch fills nearby, indicating the former presence of a substantial building on the site. Somewhat frustratingly there were no definite structural remains, but a rectangular area measuring 11m by 7m at the southern edge of the farmstead was one possible location for this building, bounded by a narrow drainage ditch with a break on its western side. In this region farm buildings of this period are likely have been of timber construction, possibly supported by low earth walls, and the dismantling or demolition of such structures would have left few traces.

To the north of the possible building was a sub-circular ditched enclosure, measuring approximately 42m by 28m. The ditch was deepest on its northern side where it met the northern boundary and a presumed entrance to the settlement. This enclosure may have acted as a 'corral'

for stock brought into the farmstead from outlying fields at certain times of the year. A smaller ditched enclosure, approximately 14m square, lay within the southern half of the 'corral' enclosure. The internal space within this smaller enclosure was not great and, although a stock-penning function is conceivable, its interpretation is currently uncertain.

An area of dense pitting within the farmstead was apparent towards the western limit of excavation. Two types of pit were recorded. A number of irregular, shallow pits may have been just used for refuse disposal, but many pits were circular and vertically sided, averaging 1.5m in diameter and 1m in depth, and had clearly been created for storage purposes. Abundant and exceptionally well-preserved charred grain deposits were recovered from several of these pits, sealed by deposits of gravel. Analysis of the charred grain will hopefully indicate the range of cereals cultivated on the farm.

Several areas without features, or blank zones, were located around the farmstead, and one lay within the enclosure at its eastern end. The absence of features in these areas does not necessarily mean that they were not used: the blank zone within the farmstead may have been a garden area, and other blank areas may represent open fields surrounding the farmstead. Such land-use could easily leave no archaeological evidence. An obvious area of specific use lay to the south-east of the enclosure, where a number of gravel quarry pits, up to 5.5m in diameter and 1m deep, were recorded. The relatively uneroded edges of these pits indicate that they were quickly infilled once extraction had ceased. The gravel gained may have been used for tracks or areas of hardstanding in and around the settlement.

Such well-preserved remains of a near-complete Romano-British farmstead were immediately recognised as being of considerable importance, given the relative paucity of excavated sites of this period from the region. However, the excavations were to yield a second and wholly unexpected phase of settlement, perhaps of even greater significance.

The Anglo-Saxon Settlement

As excavation progressed it became apparent that there had been a second phase of occupation on the site, when several large features were constructed through the earlier remains long after the abandonment of the farmstead. It soon became clear that we had discovered the remains of an Anglo-Saxon settlement, represented by seven sunken-featured buildings, or 'SFBs'. Such features have been widely interpreted as timber stores or craft-working sheds, with their characteristic sunken areas thought to have provided storage space or working areas, or the below-ground void for a suspended timber floor.

Most of the SFBs on site had the characteristic two large postholes at either end, thought to be for ridge-posts supporting a timber superstructure. However, there was considerable variation in the size of the SFBs, with the sunken areas varying from approximately 1m by 2m to 4m by 5m. Several of the buildings had traces of postholes and stakeholes within their sunken areas, whilst others had paired arrangements of postholes around the exterior (see photograph). Fragments of fired clay, including sections of annular loom weights, were recovered from most of the SFBs, as were sherds of organic-tempered pottery broadly datable to the 6th to 8th centuries AD.

No post-built hall structures, the typical house form of this period, were identified but at least one such building would probably have lain close to the seven SFBs that were encountered.

The remains of these buildings, although ephemeral, are of great interest since they attest to previously unidentified Anglo-Saxon settlement in the locality. It is thought that this may be the most westward settlement of this period so far excavated in Britain. Evidence from charter documents of Anglo-Saxon activity at Ripple suggests that an estate centre had been established here by the 7th century AD, if not earlier. The discovery of the remains of an Anglo-Saxon community living and working beside the River Severn will clearly contribute to our developing understanding of post-Roman settlement in the area.

Alistair Barber and Martin Watts, Cotswold Archaeology

NB: A talk to follow up this article is planned for the 2003/4 Lecture Programme

Illustrations:

- 1 Plan of the excavation at Ryall Quarry, with preliminary phasing
- 2 Recording one of the Anglo-Saxon buildings at Ryall Quarry

Conservation Officer Appointment at Wyre Forest

Wyre Forest DC now has, for the first time, a full-time Conservation Officer, Simon Roper-Pressdee, whose role is to provide specialist advice on the 650+ Listed Buildings, the 15 Conservation Areas, and other buildings and areas of historic interest. A public consultation is taking place on the designation of a new Conservation Area in the historic heart of Kidderminster, based around the medieval and 19th-century street patterns (or what remains of them), namely Vicar Street and Exchange Street. Simon is also building on work already achieved to produce an initial List of Buildings of Local Interest, as per PPG15. This will be initially in Kidderminster, but extending to the rest of the District within the next year.

The State of the Historic Environment Report 2002

2002 saw the publication of the first of the annual State of the Historic Environment Reports (SHER). The closing date for comments was 28 February 2003. There is a national audit of the State of the Historic Environment and a regional report for the West Midlands. Here only a summary of basic information is available but Regional Historic Environment Forums have been set up and it is envisaged that in future this document will be more comprehensive. Transport is identified as a major issue for the region, with controversial proposals under consideration for either a further extension of Birmingham Airport or a new major airport, larger than Heathrow, to the north of Rugby. The former would result in the loss of Bickenhall conservation area whilst the latter would mean the loss of two conservation areas, the adjacent historic landscape and significant numbers of listed buildings and scheduled monuments.

The region has 16 Heritage Economic Regeneration Schemes (HERS) in operation with a total allocation of £1.15m, covering a wide range of conservation areas, the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter being of particular interest. The West Midlands has the second largest conservation deficit and the second largest number of buildings at risk in the country; 11 buildings and monuments were added to the register in 2002, while 12 were removed. In July there were 1432 scheduled monuments in the region, the regional average being 2204. 94 applications for Scheduled Monument Consent were made in 2001/2 (6.6%) compared with the average 88 (4%). A similar picture emerges regarding the 35,660 listed buildings in the region, with a higher than average rate of consent applications. 5.2% of Grade I and II* buildings in the region were considered to be at risk, significantly above the average of 3.7%.

The West Midlands attracted 9% of English Heritage's funding in 2001/2, and 58% of local authorities in the region had a historic building grant programme compared with 51% nationally, the average grant budget being £21,560, above the national average of £19,779.

For details see www.historicenvironment.org.uk (where documents can be viewed and downloaded). Printed copies of the full report, its summary or its regional documents can be ordered from 0870 333 1181.

A Box Of Delights

Wichenford lies approximately five miles to the northwest of the City of Worcester. During research into various properties and estates in the parish a document box was accessed at the Headquarters Branch of the Record Office. Upon lifting the lid a seemingly typical collection of browning documents was revealed. Upon closer inspection, however, this impression was turned upon its head as the subject matter became clearer. Many entries were made in the first half of the 18th century and, apart from holding key facts relating to the estates under investigation, they provided fascinating reading and insights into a world now largely forgotten.

The contents of the box detail transfers in land ownership and matters rural which were of importance in the management of agricultural estates. A large proportion of the documents formed part of the collection made by a John Moulding, the owner of the Cockshott Estate in Wichenford. He was a keen amateur local historian and statistician. A note in the parish register

informs us that, “*In Queen Eliz. Reign Wichenford contained 27 Families. In 1730 by a Survey taken by Mr.Moulding it contained 53 Families and 287 Inhabitants: And by an accurate Survey taken by the Revd Edward Taylor Vicar July 18th 1782 It then contained 68 Families and 348 Inhabitants.*” Whether the inclusion of the word “accurate” casts aspersions on the Elizabethan and Moulding surveys is open to conjecture.

The handwriting on many of the survey sheets bears a close resemblance to that in an accompanying notebook. This fact leads to the conclusion that they were written by the same person. Furthermore, it seems evident that the scribe was John Moulding's wife, Elizabeth. This is deduced from the phrase, “...*my Father Nash*”, included in the text. The year 1698 is noted as the date when Thomas Nash, Elizabeth Moulding's father, arranged for the building of an extension to Cockshott Farmhouse. A ‘Yesteryear’ article in ‘Berrow's Worcester Journal’ dated 24th September 1932 describes John Moulding as “...*a very ingenious antiquary*” and claims that it is “*To Mr.Moulding's papers, [that] Dr.Nash acknowledges indebtedness “for many things” in his [book] Worcestershire*” which was published in 1781. Thus, it may be that Dr.Nash himself perused the very papers and notebooks which are now stored in this particular document box.

In preparation for the (self-initiated?) parish survey of 1730 John Moulding listed all the estates, their owners and tenants, field names, field uses and their acreage. He also made notes concerning:

- costings for the component parts of a farm waggon,
- units of measure appertaining to agriculture,
- definitive terms for a variety of plants,
- the materials used in extending Cockshott,
- the dimensions of rooms in Cockshott
- and plans for the new formal layout of the grounds.

The latter three of the listed items form a natural unit.

Perhaps the brightest jewel in the box of delights is a tattered notebook containing rough jottings of miscellanea relating to Cockshott. On one of its pages is a detailed list of the constituent parts of a 1738/9 farm waggon (see transcription). Mr.Moulding's aim in making the list seems to have been to assess the total cost incurred in purchasing a set of parts which could then be assembled.

At the foot of the page is a memorandum relating to a waggon bought in October 1732. Interpretation is uncertain due to the minimal description of each transaction. It may be that a Mr.W.Bullock was paid approximately £7.10s.0d. for shaping the components for the bodywork and frame of the cart and for shaping all the parts (probably numbering over sixty) for the four wheels. The £5 which was paid to William Walker of St.John's, Worcester, could well have been the charge for assembling all the parts into the whole waggon ready for immediate use. Total cost £12.10s.0d. On the 21st of March 1738/9 Mr.G.Bowen's estimate at £2.14s.10d appears to considerably undercut the charge of six years previously.

Having rather ‘put the cart before the horse’, the focus reverts to the main body of text on that page in the notebook. The transcription exercise made it abundantly clear that the majority of the names of the listed parts had originated in a specialist technical vocabulary and that expert advice would be needed in their interpretation. Mr.Robin Hill, County Museums Officer based at the Worcestershire County Museum at Hartlebury, who has professional knowledge of early agricultural vehicles, was duly contacted. Using illustrations and a glossary of terms in the book, *The Farm Waggon of England and Wales* by James Arnold (limited edition 1969, published by

John Baker, London), the vocabulary was clarified and the terms used are here explained using cross-referencing with the diagrams which are simplified versions of those in the book.

It is surprising to see elm quoted as an alternative type of timber for the construction of the shafts. The listed substitute, ash, would more usually be used due to its more springy nature. The fact that shafts are mentioned indicates that the waggon was drawn by a horse(s) which in turn suggests it was used mainly on roads and tracks rather than in fieldwork for which bullocks would have been used, harnessed to a central pole. The term, “vallys”, is a corruption (or maybe even a forerunner) of “felloes” being the felloe-portions of the wheel rim; there are usually two spokes to each felloe. The waggon sides and wreaths (shelf-like structures along the top rim of the sides) being eleven and a half feet long determine that measurement as the length of the main body of the waggon. Similarly, the crossledge width is the same as that of the waggon, being, in this case, five feet. The height of the sides may be indicated by the length of the sloats. Whereas the main sloats were four feet long, the intermediate sloats were two and a half feet in length. This suggests that the waggon sides were two and a half feet in depth and that the six main sloats (one at each corner and a further one half way along the two sides) projected vertically by some eighteen inches. It was a matter of some debate that no mention is made of components made of iron. It is possible that circa 1738 metal had not yet been substituted for some of the wooden parts.

It would seem that this document is unique in the county

Roger B. Leake

Illustrations

The illustrations are adapted from those in James Arnold’s book, *The Farm Waggons of England and Wales*. It should be understood that the diagrams and the photographs (taken by the author with the kind permission of the County Council) are of carts which date from well over a century later than the Wichford cart. Words in parentheses are added for clarity. I thank Mr Hill and his colleague for their assistance in interpreting the document.

Worcestershire Churches and Chapels with no name: Lost Dedications

One of the oddities of certain medieval English churches and chapels is the absence of any known dedication. Is this because the dedication has been lost or forgotten? The aim of this article is to describe aspects of ongoing research into this phenomenon in the West Midlands.

The dedication of a parish church or chapel refers to the saint's name or names given to a particular building. Within the Church of England today the term has been used interchangeably with consecration; thus to describe the dedication of a church is to outline the rite of consecration. Strictly speaking the church is dedicated to God in honour of a saint or a divine mystery. It appears that all English churches or chapels built before the Reformation (1533-53) should have been consecrated, and as part of this ceremony have received a dedication to one or more saints, or sometimes to a particular festival.

Changed Dedications

It is well known that dedications can be changed. For instance, the medieval parochial chapel of Bengeworth in Worcestershire was originally dedicated to the Blessed Trinity and rededicated, to St Peter, after the Reformation when it became a parish church. Surviving records of the dedications of medieval English parish churches are not common, one example being St Michael's church in South Littleton, Worcestershire, which was dedicated on St Giles day (1st September) 1204 by the abbot of Evesham, as it was then a parochial chapel of the rural deanery of Evesham Abbey.

Lost Dedications

Until the Reformation English churches were full of images of the saints such as statues, figures depicted in stained glass windows and wall paintings. This popular cult of the saints was one of the first targets of the Protestants during the 1530s. The second set of Injunctions issued in 1538 dismissed the cult of the saints as 'leading to idolatry and superstition'. Once the images of the saints were either removed from churches or covered over in the case of wall paintings and the feast day of the dedication saint cancelled, there was no reason to remember these individuals. In fact there was considerable pressure to forget them. The cult of the saints simply had no place in the Tudor Anglican church and this must have been a major factor in the loss of many dedications. A number of English church dedications appear to have only been recovered within the last 100 years by antiquarian research.

Churches and Chapels serving Deserted or Shrunken Villages in the West Midlands

Study of West Midlands churches attached to either deserted medieval villages (DMV) or shrunken villages (defined as one or several adjoining farmsteads) has revealed that at least five examples have no known dedication: Netherton and Grafton chapels are of 12th-century foundation and were converted into farm houses during the 16th century, the latter only rediscovered in 1925. In c1543 Grafton chapel was described as derelict. It appears that until the 19th century the hamlet of Grafton consisted of three farmsteads, so it is likely to be a shrunken medieval village. Ullington chapel was in existence by 1281 and demolished before the 18th century. The Norman church at Pendock, Worcestershire, is situated on the edge of a DMV, which during the 15th century shrank down to a few farmsteads. However, it apparently remained in use, serving a small, scattered rural community, until the early 20th century when a small wooden church was built nearby at Pendock Cross.

Many of these examples served medieval settlements without parish status, situated on marginal arable land, which during the 15th and early 16th centuries generally shrunk down to one or two large pastoral farms. These parochial sub-units are generally poorly documented, which means there were few opportunities for chapel dedications to be recorded.

A Preliminary Survey of the Nameless Churches and Chapels of the West Midlands

When considering churches and chapels without a dedication today the first question must be, how rare or common is this phenomenon? I have attempted to answer this question by checking all the medieval churches and chapels listed in the *Buildings of England Series* for Worcestershire and for the neighbouring counties of Herefordshire and Warwickshire. All churches and chapels with either architectural or documentary evidence of a pre-1500 foundation have been included, except those within the various county towns and cities; cathedrals, former monastic churches, private chapels, chantries and bridge chapels were also excluded. It should be stressed that these architectural guides were not intended to serve as archaeological gazetteers and entries do not routinely include details of total rebuilds of medieval churches and chapels, which potentially could distort the figures. To determine the extent of this possible distortion the figures obtained from the Worcestershire volumes were cross-checked against a gazetteer of parochial chapels in the diocese of Worcester.

Documentary research increased the figures from Pevsner's Worcestershire from 138 (90% of the final total) to 153 examples, where documentary evidence could confirm the existence of earlier buildings which had been totally rebuilt during the 19th century, plus 38 additional examples provided by other documentary research. The results are, for Worcestershire 191 examples, 32 of which have no known dedication (17%). The surviving examples are: Aston Somerville, Bell Hall chapel at Belbroughton, Grafton chapel, Netherton chapel, Pendock, Stoke Bliss, Throckmorton chapel, and Wyre Piddle. Recently both Aston Somerville and Wyre Piddle churches have acquired dedications.

Discussion

Though the figures compiled for the West Midlands are certainly not complete and will doubtless be revised by more detailed research, they nevertheless show some interesting results. Firstly, churches and chapels with no known dedication occur in varying numbers in all four counties. Worcestershire has the highest number per 100 churches/chapels -17%. Herefordshire with 11% has the second highest, Warwickshire has the lowest with (4%). The high figures for Herefordshire and Worcestershire are largely due to the wealth of published research by David Annett in his *Saints in Herefordshire* (1999), P.Hair, 'Chaplains, Chantries and Chapels of Herefordshire, c1400' *Trans Woolhope Field Club* 46(i) & (ii) (1988 & 1989), F.Houghton, 'Parochial chapels of Worcestershire' *Trans Birmingham Archaeological Society* 45 (1919) and the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, *Herefordshire* (1931-4). In all these counties some examples are functioning churches, not ruins. Secondly, the impression is that the majority of these nameless churches and chapels were relatively small buildings often consisting of just a nave and chancel. Of the 24 examples in the three counties where something is known of either their architecture or ground plan, only 7 examples (29%) possessed a tower. Thirdly, of the 24 examples where something is known of their architectural history 10 (42%) are of 12th-century foundation. Within the West Midlands a relatively high proportion of churches and chapels retain Norman fabric. James Bond, writing in *Minsters and Parish Churches* ed J.Blair (1988), gives figures of 63% for Worcestershire; 58% for Herefordshire; and 39% for Warwickshire.

The mechanism of dedication loss

As all completed medieval churches and chapels should have possessed a dedication, the mechanisms for loss should be considered.

1. Depopulation for economic reasons

The total or partial abandonment of a rural settlement which a church or chapel served could obviously lead to its being closed on either a temporary or permanent basis. Often chapels without burial grounds were converted to secular usage, as discussed earlier. A period of temporary closure for more than a generation could explain the loss of the dedication. Subsidiary units of parishes are often badly documented, offering few opportunities for research to 'recover' the dedication.

2. The ending of the medieval cult of the saints.

The most probable reason for the loss of the majority of dedications, where there is no evidence of depopulation, is simply the ending of the veneration of the saints during the English Reformation. With the strenuous opposition of the Tudor church to the cult of the saints, the dedication of a parish church could easily pass into oblivion.

Bruce Watson

Book Reviews

John Cotton: The Life of a Midlands Architect 1844-1934 (2002) by Jennie McGregor-Smith, £20 from Coombe Cottage Books, 56 Alcester Rd, Finstall, Bromsgrove B60 1EW

Jennie McGregor-Smith is to be warmly congratulated on her privately published *Life* of John Cotton. This outstanding book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with his long life, 1844-1934, and Part Two with his works, classified under such headings as 'Student Work', 'Churches', 'Houses and Mansion', 'Cottages and Smaller Houses', 'Commercial and Public Buildings', 'Farm Houses and Farm Buildings' and 'Schools'. The book is handsomely illustrated with eleven colour plates and hundreds of photographs, plans, sketches and maps accompanying the text of both parts. There can be few provincial architects to whom such a splendid tribute has been paid. This book is a must for all who are interested in Bromsgrove or in the 19th- and 20th-century architecture of the county.

Two more books from **Shire Archaeology**, £5.99 each, from booksellers or Shire Publications. Tel 01844 344301; email shire@shirebooks.co.uk

Medieval Castles by Oliver Creighton & Robert Higham

For books on castles the market place is quite full, but *Medieval Castles*, at £6, is good value. It packs seven chapters, with sections on sites to visit and further reading, an index, 58 illustrations and plans into its 72 pages. It examines the archaeological and architectural evidence for their development, the castle as a status symbol, as well as the landscape and townscape contexts. Above all the book is written with full reference to the most recent development in castle studies.

Siege Mines and Underground Warfare by Kenneth Wiggins

Undermining is among the earliest and most primitive forms of siege warfare, yet even the strongest wall was found to be vulnerable to unseen attack from miners, sometimes protected by moveable covers called tortoises by the Romans, later cats or sows. Thus it was one of the mainstays of siege warfare for thousands of years. Mining was a skilled business and was invariably undertaken by men who were already miners by trade. At the siege of Bedford castle in 1224 the miners came from as far away as the Forest of Dean.

This excellent book looks at the course of siege mining from as far back as Nimrud in the 9th century BC to the last use by western armies, the unparalleled mining of Messines Ridge in Belgium in the First World War. It outlines its origins and development through the ages, its impact on fortress warfare and on the design of fortifications, such as the development of round-angled towers and keeps, its treatment in military literature from the 4th century BC, as well as the potential that archaeological excavation has in shedding more light on the subject. At St Andrews castle in Fife the remarkably spacious mining and countermining galleries were found intact in the 19th century, and in Gloucester a Royalist approach trench or sap at Southgate Street was excavated in 1988, highlighting the potential for further archaeological discovery relating to the siege of the city in 1643. The book concludes with a Further Reading list. It is well illustrated and is to be warmly recommended.

The Beauty of Holiness: Stained Glass Windows of Bromsgrove and Redditch, Worcestershire (2002), by Roy Albutt.

The most eye-catching aspect of many Worcestershire churches and chapels is the kaleidoscopic stained glass of their windows. Therefore it is pleasing to see this topic receiving the attention it deserves.

Roy's book is a detailed account of the stained glass of 41 churches and chapels in the Bromsgrove and Redditch area of north Worcestershire, plus Harvington Hall, magnificently illustrated with 25 colour plates from his own photographs. The scope of the publication is all stained glass present in these buildings, including medieval survivals, but the vast bulk of the material surveyed is of 19th- or early 20th-century date. It includes a comprehensive gazetteer, a section on the process of producing and designing stained glass, plus useful appendices on stained glass makers, their marks, the range of subjects represented, and the various people commemorated in stained glass.

Fig

My own favourite is the John Hardman's (1911) beautiful window depicting scenes from the life of St Thomas More (illustrated) at Harvington Hall, a feature of the hall which is not mentioned in Pevsner's otherwise detailed account of the building. I strongly recommend this book to anyone interested in Worcestershire churches and hope that it inspires further research on the rest of the county's stained glass.

Copies can be obtained from the author at 11 Great Calcroft, Pershore, Worcester WR10 1QS. Tel. 01386 552127, cost £12.95p each plus £1.50p post & packing (cheques payable to Roy Albutt). It is also on sale in Ottakars Bookshop in Bromsgrove, W.H.Smiths in Redditch and Worcester Cathedral bookshop.

Bruce Watson

Members interested in the county's medieval stained glass may like to refer to the extensive survey published in the Society's *Transactions* from 1934 to 1947. The parishes were surveyed alphabetically by Mary Green, with drawings by Elsie Matley Moore and from the Prattinton collections (see cover illustration).

Abberley to Clifton-on-Teme	Vol 11	Cofton Hackett to Droitwich St Peter	Vol 12
Droitwich to Evesham	Vol 13	Fladbury to Frankley	Vol 14
Hadsor to Heightington	Vol 15	Himbleton to Honeybourne	Vol 17
Huddington to Kempsey	Vol 19	Kidderminster to Mamble	Vol 21
Martin Hussingtree to Ribbesford	Vol 22	Ripple to Wolverley	Vol 23
Worcester	Vol 24		

R.M.Thomson *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Medieval Manuscripts in Worcester Cathedral Library* has been published by Brewer at a cost of £95. Companion volumes are the catalogues of Hereford Cathedral Library manuscripts by R.A.B.Mynors & R.M.Thomson (1993) and of Lincoln Cathedral Chapter Library by R.M.Thomson (1989), both also published by Brewer.

Worcester Archaeological Society *Transactions* Volume 18 (2002)

Our member, Les Fenton, writes to applaud the quality of the Society's 2002 *Transactions* and to congratulate our Editor, Robin Whittaker, on its production, and on the illuminating talk he gave at the 2001 AGM. Next year, he reminds us, will be the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Society. He wishes the Committee success in the forthcoming year, in particular with the organisation of these 150th anniversary celebrations (see note on p24). In conclusion he states, we have a tremendous history, an exciting, albeit tasking, present. Let us all ensure that we have a future that we can be proud of to pass on to the generation that follow us.

From the Society's Library: Items from Exchange Publications

The Society receives a regular supply of publications from nearly 40 societies with which we exchange publications. These make up a very valuable resource in our Library which members can consult by appointment. Very often articles relating to other counties will be useful in giving a wider context for our own local issues, and may well suggest sources and lines of approach for research. Looking through the most recent selection of publications received the following articles were ones we thought might interest local members.

Britannia 33 (2002)

'The North-South Divide Revisited' provides a valuable summary of the distribution of villas, temples, shrines, military sites etc as plotted on the 5th (2001) ed of the *OS Map of Roman Britain*

Journal of Chester Archaeological Society 76 (2000-01)

'Further inscribed Roman salt pans from Shavington, Cheshire' (useful with our local salt industry interests)

Essex Archaeology and History 32 (2000)

'Our triple Jubilee: the Essex Archaeological Society 1852-2002' (interesting parallels as we approach our own sesquicentenary in 2004)

Leicestershire Archaeological and History Society 76 (2002)

'Migrant memories, migrant lives: Polish National Identity in Leicester since 1945' (parallels with the Polish communities in Worcestershire)

'The Confraternity Seals of Burton Lazars Hospital and a recently discovered matrix from Sussex' (your Editor hopes to include a short note on a confraternity deed in the next volume of our *Transactions*)

Lincolnshire History and Archaeology 36 (2000)

'The tithe files – a source for the local historian' (a case study in the local use of a particular source from the Public Record Office)

The Local Historian 32(1-4) (2002) is to be warmly congratulated on achieving its 50th anniversary issue. To all working on local projects, this journal has provided unassuming and friendly but invaluable support. The November issue includes details of 'The Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs in England and Wales to 1516', available on line at www.history.ac.uk/cmh/gaz/gazweb2.html, and a *Review article: the Hearth Tax Series*

Midland History 27 (2002)

Reviews *Records of Hanley Castle c1147-1547* and Vols 1 (600-1540), II (1540-1840) & III (1840-1950) of the *Cambridge Urban History of England*

Montgomeryshire Collections (Casgliadau Maldwyn) 90 (2002)

'Henry Tudor's Journey through Powys' (for Richard III enthusiasts)

'Market Charters of Trefnant 1279-1282' (interesting parallels for typical charters of small towns)

Prehistoric Society 68 (2002) combines archaeological and palaeo-environmental field work to provide evidence of ‘Late Prehistoric Pastoralism in the Avon Levels’, the site of the second Severn crossing.

Surrey Archaeological Collections 89 (2002)

‘The Papermaker and the Prophetess: Elias Carpenter of Bermondsey, supporter of Joanna Southcott’

Review of *London Bridge – 2000 Years of a River Crossing*. Bruce Watson, one of our own members, is a co-author of this book.

Postscript: As neither *Medieval Archaeology* nor *Post-Medieval Archaeology* is apparently aware of the demise of Hereford & Worcester, it is reassuring to find Worcestershire recognised as a county by *Britannia*.

Robin Whittaker & Joe Hillaby

Worcestershire Archaeological Society: Excursions Programme 2003

9 May: evening visit by car to north Worcestershire visit the 12th-century church of St Kenelm’s, **Romsley**, and St Saviour’s, **Hagley**; leader Tim Bridges

20 May: own transport to visit **St Paul’s** in London for the **Festival of the Sons of the Clergy**

25 May: visit by car to **Evesham Abbey and Manor**, with Almonry Museum (members only)

17 Jun: coach trip to Oxfordshire: **North Leigh**, visiting St Mary’s, with Saxon tower and Norman porch, and the remains of a Roman villa and on to **Ditchley Park**, ‘the supreme example of the work of James Gibbs’ in the 1720s, ‘with magnificent interiors by William Kent and Henry Flitcroft’ and a later Adam-style ceiling. The mansion is only accessible to groups.

9 Jul: coach trip to **Bradford-on-Avon**, with one of the earliest and smallest stone churches in England, via **Castle Coombe**, and returning via **Lacock Abbey** (NT)

23 Jul: evening visit by car to **Bewdley** for tour led by Terry Vaughan.

7 Aug: a visit by coach in the morning to the studio of Jim Budd, **stained-glass designer** and restorer, at Ffoyce Farm, **Gladestry**, just west of Kington, and in the afternoon to the medieval borough of **Hay on Wye**. For most people noted only for its bookshops, it has however a large ringwork with square keep of c1200 and a splendid mansion of c1660, as well as a substantial area of the line of its medieval town wall and a large Roman fort of some 23 acres on the north bank of the Wye. Leader Joe Hillaby

20 Aug: coach trip to **Nantwich**, rebuilt in a rich Elizabethan style after a great fire in 1583, with fine churches and half-timbered houses surviving, and return via **Little Moreton Hall** (NT), one of the finest half-timbered houses in England, scarcely changed since it was built between 1559 and 1580

17 Sept: coach trip to **Chastleton House** (NT), little altered since it was built c1603, and **Minster Lovell** to see the 15th-century cruciform church of St Kenelm and the remains of the 15th-century Hall; leader Les Fenton.

It is hoped to visit **Worcester Cathedral**, where the chapter house floor is being excavated in conjunction with investigations in the slype and externally, led by our own Committee Member, Chris Guy.

Worcestershire Archaeological Society's 150th Anniversary

Members may be aware that the Society was formed 150 years ago in an attempt to rescue the cathedral's Guesten Hall. A provisional date has been set, for Saturday 17 April 2004, for full-day anniversary celebrations to take place at Avoncroft Museum, which site has been chosen because the Museum holds the roof of the Guesten Hall. There will be several talks, and possibly a tour of the museum, with buffet lunch provided. Full details will be sent to members before the AGM in November but in the meantime please make a note of the date.

Dates for your Diary

CBA West Midlands Dayschools in the Arts Building, University of Birmingham

10 May 2003: 'Sound all the Lofty Instruments of War'; speakers Prof Michael Jones, Prof Anne Curry, Prof Christopher Allmand, Pamela Porter, Tony Pollard

15 November 2003: 'Experiment in Archaeology'; speakers to include Mike Stokes, Christine Shaw and Dr David Sim

Further details: Mike Stokes, tel 01743 361196, mikestokes@shrewsbury-atcam.gov.uk

Rodney Hilton's Middle Ages (400-1600)

Conference at the University of Birmingham, 13-14 September 2003

Sessions include:

'Lordship, rent and social structure. What was the impact of lordship on society and economy?'

'The peasantry as class and communities. Can we talk of a "peasant society"?''

'Non-feudal islands in the feudal seas. How did towns relate to feudal society?'

'Bond men made free. Rebellion and liberation.'

'Feudalism to capitalism. Changes in medieval society and the origins of the modern world.'

Non-residential price £25. Contact Dr Heather Swanson, Dept of History, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT; 0121 459 4038; hcs4@tutor.open.ac.uk

Worcestershire Archaeological Society: Lecture Programme 2003/4

Provisional dates, all Mondays, are as follows:

6 October; 10 November (AGM); 1 December; 12 January; 2 February; 16 February; 15 March.

The Berkeley Lecture is to be combined with 150th anniversary meeting on 17 April (see above).

Speakers and indicative titles (to be confirmed):

Adrian Lucas: 'Music in the Cathedral'

Ted Rowlands, MP: 'The Foley Family and the Party Politics of Worcestershire'

Martin Watts & Alistair Barber: 'The Romano-British Farmstead and Anglo-Saxon Settlement at Saxons Lode Farm, Ryall Quarry, Ripple'

Victoria Bryant & Neil Lockett: 'Landscape, Location and Livelihood: The Worcestershire Tithe Map Project'

Dr Alan Taylor: 'The Changing Role of the English Heritage Inspector'

James Dinn: 'Reflections on Recent Archaeology in the City'

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 Friday 26 September 2003. Please remember this is your newsletter.