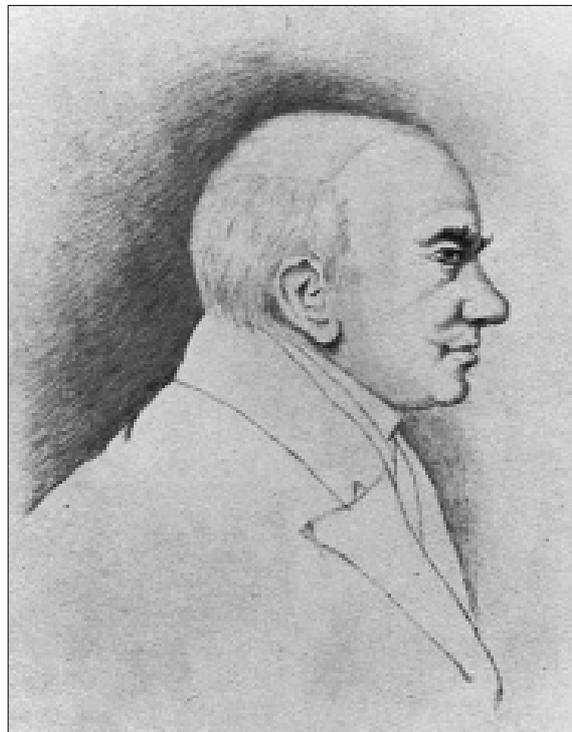


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CONTENTS

Page

Chairman's Letter	3
Worcestershire Archaeological Society: Committee Members 2003-4	4
Sesquicentennial Celebrations	4
The Society's Presidents and Chairmen	4
News from the County (WHEAS)	5
Recent Developments in Scientific Archaeological Techniques	5
A Young Archaeologists' Club for Worcestershire	8
News from the City	9
Monasteries and the Worcestershire Landscape – summary of lecture by James Bond	10
150 Years of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society, 1854-2004	11
Publications from the Society's Library on Exhibition, 17 April 2004	16
Who's Who in the Society – Some Notable Members	18
England and the World in 1854...	21
Book Reviews...	24
<i>Monastic Landscapes</i>	24
<i>Urban Growth and the Medieval Church. Gloucester and Worcester</i>	24
<i>Tewkesbury Abbey: History, Art & Architecture</i>	26
<i>Cider in the Three Counties</i>	26
<i>Almshouses</i>	26
<i>Roman Artillery</i>	26
Abberley and Malvern Hills European Geopark	27
Brickwalls Farm, Hanley Swan,	27
Diglis Basin, Worcester	27
The Shotton Project	27
WAS: Excursions Programme for Summer 2004	28

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Mr J H Evans, Bath Rd
Dr P Hall, Upton on Severn
Mrs R Bennett (associate)
Mrs E Toomey (associate)
Dr Mary Harcup (associate)
Ms Chris Harris, Worcester
Mr E Kay, Malvern
Catherine Richardson, Worcester
Mrs Jenny Grafton Green, St Johns Worcs
Miss M J Hebden, Malvern
Mr D Whitehead, Hereford.

Cover Illustration: Peter Prattinton, M.B. (1771-1840) from *Transactions* NS VIII (1931)

Chairman's Letter

Thank you for asking me to become your chairman during the 150th year of the society. This is a great honour and I will do my utmost to make this year a memorable one for the Society.

I came to work in Malvern as a GP in 1963 and soon learnt of 'The Rape of Worcester', as The Guardian described the destruction of medieval Worcester. About this time there were problems with the planners over historic Malvern buildings. As a result I became concerned about the destruction of our local heritage. I joined the Worcestershire Archaeological Society and was most impressed by the important work done by the late Philip Barker and 'Rescue', the pressure group for the proper preservation of archaeological remains throughout the country.



I am not sure in which year I joined WAS but I have a slide dated 1971, which I still use in my lectures, of a WAS excursion showing members walking across the northern wing of British Camp on the Malverns. Those were the days of Mr Matley Moore and his sister Elsie. I vividly recall evening meetings in the Greyfriars and the Berkley Lecture in the Worcester Museum. Then came the switch to afternoon meetings in the Old Palace. Because of my work commitments, attendance at meetings was then impossible and I am acutely aware that this is the case for some members today. I hope to arrange evening meetings during the year when the nights are lighter, so that both working and retired members can attend.

When it came to holidays in those early stressful days, I could not relax properly unless the English Channel was between me and my work and I was well away from a telephone. (This no longer applies in the days of the mobile phone!) Holidays were spent in viewing archaeological sites in Europe and the Mediterranean. So began my interest in digs. When Stanley Stanford and the Extra Mural Department of Birmingham University dug on Midsummer hill on the Malverns, some years back, I was a frequent visitor.

I would like to raise the profile of the society and improve publicity within the county. The 150th year is an ideal opportunity for this and we have already featured in Michael Grundy's Memory Lane spread in the Worcester Evening News. Our next step is to appoint a Publicity Officer. We hope to balance our lecture subjects between local history and archaeology and this year repeat some of the excursions which featured in our first season.

I want to publicise our library – one of the finest of its kind in the country and largely unknown. To this end we are arranging an exhibition during the 150th celebrations in the Commandery. Sir Edward Elgar was one of our members and donated books to the library. In this celebratory year I would also like to see a drive to attract new members to the society and onto the committee. We need to groom a new treasurer to take over from John Holiday and fill the vacancy already mentioned. Please let me know if you can help.

Dr John Harcup OstJ

Worcestershire Archaeological Society: Committee Members 2003-4

Chairman:	Dr John Harcup, 01684 574477
Deputy Chairman & Excursions Secretary:	Brian Ferris, 01684 354224
Deputy Chairman & Programme Secretary:	Joe Hillaby, 01531 650618
Secretary & Membership Secretary:	Dr Janet Dunleavy, 01684 565190
Treasurer:	John Holliday, 01905 620503
<i>Transactions</i> Editor:	Robin Whittaker, 01905 766353 (work)
Librarian:	Miss Barbara Ronchetti, 01905 351654
Archaeological Adviser:	Chris Guy, 01905 21004 (work)
Tim Bridges, 01905 25371 (work)	Vince Hemingway, 01905 426428
Mrs Barbara Plant, 01905 21554	Mrs Jean Whalley, 01684 564581
Dr Allan Laidlaw, 01905 353121	

Sesquicentennial Celebrations

The Society's 150th anniversary is being celebrated on 17 April 2004 at the Commandery, to include a buffet dinner. Both speakers are Society members. James Bond, lecturing on 'Monasteries and the Worcestershire Landscape', enrolled c1969 and as such is one of our most senior members (see p24). Robin Whittaker, well known as Editor of the *Transactions* and regular contributor to the *Recorder*, will be speaking about the Society's history. For the benefit of the many members unable to attend, and for the record, a brief summary of James Bond's and a transcript of Robin Whittaker's lecture are included in this issue. An exhibition is being held of a selection of publications etc from the Society's Library. Finally the Society is using the occasion to reprint Canon Buchanan-Dunlop's article, 'A Hundred Years, 1854-1954' from the *Transactions* NS XXX.

The Society's Presidents and Chairmen

I am trying to complete a record of the Society's 41 Presidents/ Chairmen. Our sesquicentennial year would be an appropriate time to achieve this so I hope members will help me to trace the remaining 16 images. If anyone has a photo/picture, or can give a precise reference to a published image of any of the following, I should be most grateful. I have not checked newspapers systematically, as they do not give good quality images, but may need to try this.

The Rt Hon The Earl Beauchamp, KG, KCMG (1895-1913)
A.H.Whinfield (1915-16)
C.J.Houghton (1917)
The Very Rev W.Moore Ede, DD, Dean of Worcester (1918-19)
The Rt Rev E.H.Pearce, LittD, DD, FSA, Bishop of Worcester (1920)
John Humphreys, MA, PhD, FSA (1921-23)
The Rev Canon J.E.H.Blake, MA, BSc, FSA (1926-28)
The Rev Canon C.Price, MA (1929)
The Rev Canon R.A.Wilson, MA, FSA (1930-32)
W.H.Knowles, FSA (1936-38)
F.B.Bradley-Birt, MA, FRGS (1939-41)
Philip Leicester, LLB (1952-55)
H.S.Williams-Thomas (1958-61)
W.A.Peplow, FSA (1967-70)
Peter Merry (1983-85)
Mrs Audrey Pettigrew (1985-88)

Robin Whittaker

News from Worcestershire Historic Environment & Archaeological Service (WHEAS)

Recent developments in scientific archaeological techniques

Introduction

Fifty years ago, all you needed to practice archaeology was a 4-inch pointing trowel and, ideally, a team of labourers to do the hard work. Nowadays a field archaeologist can call upon specialists in environmental archaeology, geophysics, computer mapping and even air support. It does, however, take the power of TV to call down, as the Channel 4 programme Time Team did at Kemerton in 1999, a Tornado photoreconnaissance aircraft to take a few air photographs!

Technical advances mean that we can identify more precisely where archaeological sites are, provide better dating, set site specific field investigation within a wider context and also greatly increase the amount of information that is recovered from what, 50 years ago, would simply have been thrown away as 'dirt'. In some instances, archaeology has provided a useful test-bed for new technology, able to offer newsworthy results from a profession that generally seizes readily on new ideas and potential. This can breed strange partnerships. In the early days of the development of ground penetrating radar, the author was involved in development work with a German armaments firm, with the search for buried Roman foundations proving a less dangerous means of testing a technology designed to identify East German landmines! In many cases, archaeology departments were the first branches of local government to take up Computer Aided Design, with the former Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Service taking a notable lead.

The following article summarises some of the scientific techniques that are now available to us in everyday work. Not all are suitable in every circumstance and the likely success of each must be carefully considered in relation to its cost.

Site Identification

Building on expertise developed by the RAF in World War II, the use of aerial photographs to identify archaeological sites in the late 1940s revealed a hitherto unsuspected density of Prehistoric and Roman occupation. Locally, the work of Arnold Baker, Graham Webster and Brian Hobley in the Avon Valley in the 1960s demonstrated that the area had been much more densely settled in the prehistoric period than had previously been considered (Webster, G. & Hobley, B. 1965 'Aerial reconnaissance over the Warwickshire Avon'. *Archaeol. J.* **121**, 1-22). In all, 900 sites have been discovered in Worcestershire through aerial photography. Now, it is possible to rectify an aerial photograph, which may have been taken at an angle, so that it fits perfectly onto an Ordnance Survey map base and is therefore scaleable. Further, this map base can also be converted into a three-dimensional terrain model, allowing a much more sophisticated reconstruction of past landscapes than was previously possible. Such techniques often provide a more accessible way of presenting evidence than reliance on a simple line-drawn map. Even just five years ago, this technology would be available only in a University research laboratory – or in a TV studio. Now such presentations have become an integral part of the Historic Environment Record. For the future, high-resolution satellite imagery is also becoming more widely available and this will become increasingly important for monitoring monument condition.

The three most commonly used geophysical techniques are magnetic susceptibility to provide a rapid overall scan, and then magnetometry and resistivity. Magnetic techniques map differential patterns of magnetism in the soil, with buried archaeological features such as pits or ditches typically showing up where filled with burnt or partly burnt materials. Resistivity is a slower form of survey where electrical current is passed through the ground at regular points on a survey grid to measure variations in electrical resistance. Buried archaeological features such as ditches and

pits have a higher moisture than stone walls and both stand out compared to the soil around them. The regular use of these techniques on Time Team has greatly increased public awareness of the potential of 'geophys', always with the tension of the geophysicists waiting to see if their analysis will be proved correct by field-testing in front of an audience of five million.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) is the most recent of the geophysical techniques now in general use. High frequency pulsed electromagnetic waves (generally 10 MHz to 2,000 MHz) are directed into the soil and reflected by underground structural variations back to a receiver. The resolution of the scan and the depth of penetration (up to c.20 metres) vary depending on the wavelength used. Unfortunately the technique suffered from considerable 'over-selling' in its early days of development, with extravagant claims of success that proved fallible when tested by fieldwork. It works best when used on sites of a single period where the complexity of buried remains does not confuse the signals.

Mention should also be made of the traditional 'low tech' technique of dowsing – using hazel rods or even wire coat hangers! This is a proven technique for identifying broad areas of disturbance, but claims of being able to identify features in great detail still await independent confirmation and must be tested as with any other method of remote investigation. With all of these techniques there can be a tendency to over-interpret. Multi-coloured computer print-outs can appear very seductive but the results need to be tested by field evaluation. Different techniques will work in differing circumstances. The most expensive, or newest, techniques will not necessarily be the best.

If broad areas of interest have already been identified, then comparing variations in the phosphate concentrations in soil can help to delimit sites and identify different zones of settlement activity. Human activity tends to increase the amount of soil phosphorus in the areas occupied. The concentrations remain chemically fixed in the soil and can be recovered using small samples of 50mg that are digested in a solution of hydrochloric acid and the colour variations then measured in a colorimeter.

Site Characterisation

Traditional archaeology relied on an interpretation of surviving artefacts to identify the date and nature of occupation on a site. This was a very distorted sample. The balance has been redressed by microscopic analysis of the soil to recover a much wider spectrum of evidence. Samples of soil are sieved to recover evidence of cereal grain, chaff, and seeds to identify the type of crops that were grown, or seeds, molluscs and insects to identify the nature of the surrounding landscape. At microscopic level, the recovery and analysis of pollen and diatoms (the silica cell walls of simple algae that accumulated at the bottom of rivers and lakes) can provide a remarkable picture of the development of landscapes over the millennia. Cores of soil are taken and a profile built up of changes at different depths. By this means, and linked to the excavation of farmsteads across the landscape on both light and heavy soils, one of the most crucial post-war discoveries in archaeology has been to identify the widespread clearance of the forests in Worcestershire from the Bronze Age. Pollen sequences show woodland species replaced by a flora that is more characteristic of open land. Subsequently, there has been a complicated cycle of woodland clearance, change in land use and later woodland regeneration which has been masked by the modern pattern. 'Ancient woodland' can therefore be a very misleading term. Although the techniques of environmental archaeology are now well established, there is a national shortage of people qualified to undertake this type of analysis. Worcestershire is fortunate in having one of the few environmental archaeology sections outside of the universities and hopes to expand its service to the region during 2004/5.

The study merges with that of geology, with an interest in analysing how the soil itself accumulated or was eroded, and thereby how use of the land may have changed at different periods. Although on rural sites archaeological remains are typically very shallow (within half a metre of the surface), in river valleys they can be deeply buried beneath alluvial flood deposits and therefore invisible to conventional means of remote detection. A current project lead by the University of Birmingham (the Shotton Project, see p27) is trying to map the geological deposits where it may be possible to find in situ remains of Palaeolithic activity (as opposed to the recovery of stone tools as chance finds).

Dating

Earlier means of dating archaeological sites relied on typologies of the finds contained within them. This was itself based upon stylistic assumptions and the compilation of stratigraphic sequences. Science has brought absolute dating to archaeological sites (albeit within bands of probability). Carbon dating has now become almost commonplace. This relies on the plotting of the known rate of decay of the radioactive carbon isotope 14 (C14) which occurs after the death of plant material or animals. Now only milligram-sized samples are required for testing, allowing the method to be used on irreplaceable material. The level of accuracy has also greatly improved, using new high precision measurement techniques. This is an international market, with samples from Worcestershire being processed in New Zealand because it can be cheaper than using British laboratories! Dating using Thermoluminescence relies on the fact that a mineral (as with objects made of clay – hearths, pottery etc) emits light while it is being heated. The amount is proportional to the mineral's intrinsic sensitivity to radiation and the total amount of radiation energy that it has absorbed. The age of a sample since it was last heated (a 'clock-changing event') can be calculated. Similarly, some minerals are sensitive to light and Optical Dating is therefore suitable for the dating of a wide variety of unheated sedimentary deposits such as alluvium.

The costs of such analysis continue to fall, meaning that they may be used not only in exceptional circumstances. Nonetheless, there is no point in using a particular technique when it will not add significantly to more conventional means of analysis. For example, the margin of error means that Radio Carbon dating is only of limited value in the medieval period.

DNA

The study of DNA has moved from being a highly specialised study to a technique that is now part of the A level syllabus. This has led to the development of a 'molecular archaeology' with forensic techniques being used to extract ancient DNA. This can identify gender and family groupings, allowing an assessment of likely geographical origin. As a pilot, DNA was successfully extracted from an Anglo-Saxon burial at Offenham, by a student at University College Worcester. This opens the possibility of future research on the extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Beckford and eventually comparison between 'Romano-British' and 'Anglo-Saxon' populations.

The above is not an exhaustive list and new techniques continue to be developed. One of the most exciting aspects of this field is the speed with which they can be developed from a very narrow experimental base into the everyday life of archaeologists. This is important as the predominance of developer-funded excavation means that it is important to be able to offer a reasonable expectation of success, rather than expect a developer to fund some speculative new toy! The development of scientific archaeology has transformed the subject by increasing the scope and definition of analysis. In turn, we are able to provide more comprehensive reconstructions of past ways of life. There is, however, still the need for that 4-inch pointing trowel wielded by a sensitive hand and for the exposed remains to be viewed with a keen eye and questioning mind.

Malcolm Atkin

A Young Archaeologists' Club for Worcestershire

A new branch of the CBA Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) for Worcestershire was launched on a freezing Sunday afternoon, 23 November 2003, at Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings. The Launch event included a Roman camp re-enactment by the Ermine Street Guard and some soldiers from the Fairfax Battalion, Civil War Society, demonstrated 17th-century weapons and crafts in the Merchant House. WYAC members were also able to have a go at brick-making. The Launch was very successful with over 60 members signing up there and then!

There has been no YAC branch in Worcestershire for several years and the YAC West Midlands Regional Group, which included Worcestershire, folded three years ago. With a huge demand from local young people who wanted to get involved with archaeology, we managed to gather together a team of professional teachers and archaeologists to run the Worcestershire branch and its activities. The club will have a monthly meeting/event and a quarterly newsletter for which we are hoping the older group will act as reporters and photographers. A website is already set up for the youngsters to add their own photos, drawings, articles and comments on-line. A thoroughly modern club, we also have a facility to text members on their mobiles with information, news and quiz questions.

The first meeting was at the WHEAS offices in January when the young members were able to wash pottery from an excavation and learnt the basics on how to draw pottery using rims from Roman pots. They were able to look at all the resources available from the Historic Environment Record and in particular to see transcribed Tithe maps and hear about the Worcestershire Tithe Map Project (*Recorder 67*, Spring 2003). They also learnt how to use map grid references (most important for budding archaeologists) with the help of an orienteering exercise and finally they were shown an Anglo-Saxon burial with skeleton (not a real one!) and replica grave goods which they could handle. 53 members turned up, and 25 parents, so they had to be split into five groups - it was like a military operation to move each group on to the next activity around the Archaeological Service's building. Although it was a bit overwhelming and exhausting, it was a very rewarding day and enjoyed by all.



Young Archaeologists washing pots

The second event was a visit in February to Worcester Cathedral where WYAC members had a tour and learnt how to use archaeological planning frames to record a stone wall in the cloisters. As a special treat it was arranged for them to go up the tower where they could see the extent of the recent floods - a spectacular view.

The next meeting will be held at the Worcestershire Record Office where we hope the historic documents will stimulate ideas for personal projects, which could lead on to practical fieldwork. We are having a problem coping with the large numbers and have already had to arrange two sessions for the Record Office. For this event we will be banishing parents to the Countryside café as there is no room for them. We think the parents are enjoying the club just a bit too much!

Future events will include activities at Avoncroft in April and fieldtrips to British Camp at Malvern for an Iron Age experience, to Chedworth Roman Villa when we hope to link up with the

Birmingham branch of YAC for a coach trip, and to Hartlebury Castle for National Archaeology Day. A day event at the Wyre Forest Discovery Centre will enable WYAC members to look at 'Invisible Archaeology' by learning about natural woodland resources and crafts.

We hope to arrange fieldwalking on a Roman rural site in the Autumn and archaeological earthwork surveying training sessions at Bordesley Abbey, with follow-up work on processing and drawing the finds or producing survey plans and finally writing up a archaeological report for the WYAC Newsletter. We have a great group of ten members aged 14 to 16 years old and have already managed to do an earthwork survey training session for them at Upper Bean Hall, at Bradley Green. We spent a very cold but sunny day recording two fields with six earthwork features including a holloway, building platforms and some shallow depressions. They picked up the techniques very quickly and produced some very passable plans which we will be able to send to the site owner.

So far we are delighted, if a little overwhelmed by the numbers, with the success of the Worcestershire Young Archaeologists' Club. We have now started a waiting list for new members until we have a better idea of how many will turn up to each event and how many CRB checked adults we can get to help at events. If anyone would be interested in helping or joining our committee please contact Deborah Overton for further information on 01905 855494, or email doverton@worcestershire.gov.uk

Deborah Overton

News from the City

Archaeological fieldwork has continued in many parts of the city centre, with some interesting and important results. At 8/12 The Butts an early Roman pit was followed by a stone surface, but this did not seem to be the road which would have been expected on this site. Both were cut by a large ditch which may have been part of the Civil War defences – similar ditches have been seen on sites to either side. At 14/24 The Butts an ongoing watching brief has revealed a Roman stone-lined well.

A borehole investigation was recorded archaeologically at Newport St (the former bus station, now a car park). This type of archaeological recording is increasingly common, and is a cost-effective way of gaining a view through deep deposits with minimal disturbance to the remains. This site, which is in the Severn floodplain, has a very large depth of archaeological deposits (perhaps up to 7 or 8m), with Roman slag layers in some cases reaching 1.5m thick, and evidence of water-logging. A full archaeological evaluation of this site is now underway, with several trenches open.

Evaluation in the centre of the Cathedral roundabout showed that, while much of the earlier archaeology had been removed by cellars, Anglo-Saxon and medieval deposits survived in between the cellars. At the Guildhall, a borehole investigation revealed about 5m of deposits, with evidence of Roman structures or demolition, post-Roman 'dark earth' cultivation soils, and medieval deposits including a possible floor.

Evaluation at the Commandery, on the sites of two proposed lifts, attracted press attention when burials were found under the staff room floor. These are as yet undated and could be medieval or later. In the other trench, medieval floor and wall remains were found.

Assessment of a 17th-century building at 32/34 Lowesmoor has shown that this probably dates from the rebuilding of the suburb immediately after the destruction of the Civil War. The building contains many important features, including early stencilled wall decorations.

Two sites beyond the city centre have also proved interesting. Previous fieldwork has demonstrated the importance of the Perdiswell area in the Bronze Age and in the Roman and medieval periods. A watching brief at Perdiswell Young Peoples' Club proved the presence of a ditched enclosure which had been identified from aerial photographs – it is just visible as a dark line on the Worcester Photomap. So far the enclosure has not been dated, as there are virtually no finds, which means that it is most likely to be either prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon in date. Meanwhile, a large evaluation on the site of a proposed Park & Ride car park at Whittington Road did not find any of the expected medieval features, but instead a scatter of flints indicating Mesolithic occupation.

2004 is a big year for publications on Worcester. Already out is the final report on Nigel Baker and Dick Holt's research on the church and town planning - *Urban growth and the medieval church: Gloucester and Worcester* (see p24). Their work has already provided the underpinning for archaeological research into medieval Worcester for over a decade, through a paper drawing on this project and the results of the Deansway excavations which was published in *Antiquity* in 1992. Later in the year, the Deansway excavation report itself will appear. Titled *Excavations at Deansway, Worcester, 1988-89: Romano-British Small Town to Late Medieval City*, this massive publication will be a benchmark for the study of Worcester's development up to around 1600. Together, the two reports will help to take research into the city's past on to a new level.

Worcester City's Historic Environment Record is now staffed – Sheena Payne was appointed as the city's first Historic Environment Record Officer in November, with a remit to develop the record and make it more accessible to the public. She can be contacted by phone on 01905 361824, at archaeology@cityofworcester.gov.uk, or at The Commandery, Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HU.

Work on the Worcester Urban Archaeological Strategy project continues, with a launch event planned at the Guildhall on April 26th. So far the work has concentrated on the landscape and deposit characterisation, and on drafting period statements for the summary research framework. Reports on all of these will be available on the website, www.worcestercitymuseums.org.uk.

James Dinn

Monasteries and the Worcestershire Landscape – summary of lecture by James Bond

The monastic presence was particularly strong in medieval Worcestershire. The estates of the ancient Benedictine houses, Worcester Cathedral Priory and the abbeys of Evesham and Pershore, together with the post-Conquest Benedictine priories of Great and Little Malvern, dominated the south and centre of the county, while there were also important monasteries of the later reformed orders, the Cistercians at Bordesley and the Premonstratensians at Halesowen, in the more wooded, less developed lands in the north.

Monastic houses were able to maintain a continuity of ownership over their lands for several centuries in a way that no secular landlord could hope to achieve, and they therefore had both the opportunity and the incentive to invest in major modifications to the landscape. This illustrated lecture will explore some of the ways in which the monastic houses of Worcestershire developed their estates, by improving agricultural production, clearing and managing woodland, building houses, barns, dovecotes and churches, diverting watercourses, constructing mills and fisheries and developing new towns. The evidence of monastic chronicles and cartularies will be set against the evidence which still survives in the present landscape of Worcestershire.

150 Years of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society, 1854-2004

When I joined the Society in 1976 it seemed, to my 25-year-old self, to be one where certitude reigned, things didn't change and that this state of affairs seemed likely to continue indefinitely. The great influences on the Society, such as the Matley Moores, Canon and Mrs Leatherbarrow, Rev Lockwood, etc, seemed to have been running things forever. However, from study of the reports and minutes of the Society it soon becomes evident that the Society has been continually changing, right from 1854 onwards, reflecting changing social, cultural and intellectual conditions. Indeed, its very name has changed twice, from its original 'The Worcestershire Diocesan Architectural Society' to 'The Worcestershire Diocesan Architectural and Archaeological Society' in 1876 (when the Society almost folded) and to its present name in 1910. In fact, a further name change was seriously proposed in 1968.

The Society had its origins in national movements of the 1830s and 1840s. It did not arise in isolation, but was closely bound up with major currents in mid-19th century society, in particular changes in the Church of England and the Tractarian movement. Stuart Piggott, in his article on 'The Origins of the English County Archaeological Societies' clearly lays out the facts. He quotes Haverfield in saying that 'in archaeological matters the new growth was perhaps most closely connected with the new religious movements. The antiquarian and the Tractarian have much in common.' He also identifies the Victorian social tendency to form groups as a way of taking forward new interests. In a Society which has now lost all its clerics (although this change had yet to take place when I joined), it is perhaps easy to forget just how vital the religious motivation was to its formation. By 1839 both the Oxford Society for Promoting the Study of Gothic Architecture (which will loom large in our own early history) and the Cambridge Camden Society had been formed. In 1844 the British Archaeological Association was founded (visiting Worcester in 1848) together with the earliest County Societies. The Societies with which we allied ourselves for publication purposes were all of this vintage - York in 1842, Lincoln and Northampton in 1844, Bedford in 1847, and these were by no means the only Societies. The High Church Tractarians were keen to stress the ancient roots of the Anglican tradition which could be expressed, amongst other ways, in the architecture of churches.

These early enthusiasts for religious and liturgical rectitude gradually transformed into the broader based local society, but it would be unwise to underestimate the fervour of this interest in appropriate church architecture – one has only to read early reports of our Society to glimpse this. As an example I could quote from the very first annual report of the Society: 'Architecture and its kindred pursuits, unless undertaken in a religious spirit, and to God's glory, are a dangerous snare, and there is some risk of losing ourselves in a semi-rationalistic materialism. A due consideration of the truth set forward by Christian architecture will preserve us through this peril.'

Piggot's conclusion is that the county societies came into being in an Anglican rural England to provide for growing shared interests in archaeology and antiquities. I think many of these more general thoughts can be seen reflected in our own local experience as we look at the actual events surrounding the formation of the Society. Although the Society started in 1854, it is worth looking back a little earlier to the meeting of the 5th Annual Congress of the British Archaeological Association held in Worcester in 1848. For one (very rainy) week in August, Worcester was the centre of much activity, including lectures, outings and social functions. Tickets cost one guinea, so the event was clearly aimed at the middle and upper classes, and Lord Lyttelton, later our Society's first President, was patron. Some quotations from reports at the time indicate its relevance:

'The proceedings of the Congresses have never failed to inculcate a taste for archaeological pursuits amongst numerous individuals who would probably otherwise never have turned their

attention to the subject.’ Its two objects were ‘the induction of a correct taste, and general appreciation of the monuments of olden times’. The variety of what was on offer might best be represented by the unrolling of a mummy in the County Courts. As a spur to progress, it might also be noted that gas lighting was laid on in the Guildhall for the first time especially for this Congress.

I should now like to move on to the early years of our own Society. From the beginning E.A.H. Lechmere was recognised as ‘the founder’. He had recently come down from Oxford, heavily influenced by the Oxford Society already mentioned. In November 1853 a group of seven gentlemen came together at the home of J. Severn Walker at 25, The Cross. Lechmere took on the crucial role of Secretary. They were churchmen, gentry and architects, reflecting those with a particular interest in ecclesiastical architecture, those who designed and renovated the churches, those who financed and supported them, and those who officiated in them. The higher gentry of the County were soon brought in, with the addition of Hon. F Lygon; rules were quickly drafted, based on those of the Oxford Society, giving as the purpose of the Society ‘the promotion of the study of ecclesiastical architecture, antiquities and design by the collection of books, casts, drawings etc, and the restoration of mutilated architectural remains within the diocese and to furnish suggestions so far as may be within its province for improving the character of ecclesiastical edifices hereafter to be erected or restored’. It was to be open to clergymen and lay members of the Church of England. The Bishop was invited to be patron, and Lord Lyttelton brought in as President. The inaugural meeting took place in the Natural History Room in Worcester on 27 January 1854. The extensive newspaper report on this event comments on the ‘numerous and influential attendance’. The early composition of the Society is of interest. There were initially 85 members, 17 of whom were Vice-Presidents. Of this membership 44 were clergy, 8 architects and one sculptor. Although the paper noted also a goodly attendance of ladies there were no lady members until 1857. It is interesting to compare this make-up with those of similar societies of the time. Philippa Levine gives percentages of clerical membership nationally and Worcestershire comes fifth in the particular league table, with 47%. Northamptonshire come top at 77% followed by Buckinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Oxfordshire. Surrey records only 10.5% so the ecclesiastical domination of such bodies was by no means a foregone conclusion.

Two excursions took place in that first year, one to Coventry (then within the diocese), joint with the Oxford Society, the other to Great Malvern - with a sub committee to consider the best way to get there! It is interesting to look at some of the subjects the members heard in those early meetings. At the Coventry meeting Archdeacon Sandford emphasised that the Society would be marked by ‘reverence, earnestness and devout affection’. Later, in September of that year, J.H. Markland commented that ‘within the last fifteen years archaeological studies have most rapidly advanced in public estimation by the establishment of provincial societies’. He asked what the Society could do – his answers still resonate with us now as we discuss what our prime activities should be – he suggested it could act as a depository for relics and MSS and books, and ascertain what MSS and documents still survived in private houses. It could preserve and have drawings made of remains of church colouring, study church plate, bells and registers; study the traditions of each parish, including traces of superstition; treatment of sickness, and finally add to Nash’s history by enlarging and correcting it. Many of these aims were subsequently met through other agencies, for instance the growth of record offices to preserve documents and museums to record artefacts and social practices. Also the Society was instrumental in setting up, in 1894, the Worcestershire Historical Society, with the specific aim of publishing original documents towards the ultimate end of a fresh county history. He concluded by saying that all these pursuits were connected with a deeper religious sentiment – ‘we cannot contemplate a majestic ruin without being sensible of the instability of all earthly greatness’.

In this same year the Society faced the test of how to react to the proposed demolition of the Guesten Hall at Worcester Cathedral – whilst in effect it lost this battle, with the authorities going ahead with the demolition regardless of not only local but also national opinion, it had made its mark straight away as a body with a strong purpose and an independent point of view. As the report for that year stated, ‘it is well for men to know that a society exists whose peculiar function is to wage war against church devastation and wanton spoliation of medieval remains’. These events of 1854 resonate with later events during the ‘rape of Worcester’ during the 1960s.

For the years that follow the Society’s archives record the yearly pattern of lectures, excursions and interest in church architecture. A flavour of the excursions of the Society at that time can be gained from the unpublished memoirs of the noted Worcester figure – journalist, antiquarian, alderman, mayor – John Noake. ‘(1884) We accompanied the Architectural Society on an excursion to the Lenches, nr Evesham, first stopping at Church Lench where I read a paper on the various parishes. We then inspected the Church and next drove to Rous Lench where the Revd Chafy-Chafy showed us the church and the interior of the grand old timber-framed manor house . . . he also entertained us to lunch. On the way to Pershore we took tea at a farmhouse and then came home by rail’.

‘We accompanied the Architectural Society on an excursion to Compton Wynyates, one of the seats of the Marquis of Northampton. We were 30 in number, including the Dean of Worcester (brother of the marquis) who kindly explained to us the history and features of the buildings . . . the ride by rail from Worcester to Moreton and in waggonettes from the latter to CW was most cheery with genial company and magnificent weather. This was the only excursion in the history of the Society when we were compelled to carry our own provisions, as none could be got on the road for love or money! Even the Dean had a basket under his arm.’

To return to a chronicle of our early years – within less than 20 years the Society was faced with a crisis. With the death of J. Severn Walker it lost a major source of architectural knowledge. The minute book is blank between 1871 and 1875, in October of which year there was a serious discussion as to the desirability of continuing the Society. Again Sir E.A.H. Lechmere played a significant role, proposing that the Society should extend its objects to include the archaeological. The next significant change was to come in 1910 when the Society was thrown open to those who were not members of the Anglican church. Whilst this change was not uncontroversial, it marked another step towards a more inclusive approach. The split was not on church lines. Canon Wilson actually proposed the change, but other clergy, including Revd J.B. Wilson, objected. He argued that the Society should ‘be allowed to pursue the even tenor of its ways in its second 50 years’. The debate went to the heart of what the Society was about, and yet another change of name resulted, as the Diocesan element was removed. Debate soon moved on to how to widen the appeal and usefulness of the Society and one proposal was to encourage interest in archaeological subjects with a ‘popular’ lecture at least once a year, to which the public should be ‘largely invited’.

The membership continued to be predominantly from the higher social classes, with the necessity to have a proposer and seconder ensuring that entry was closely controlled. Eminent members of the early years of the 20th century are Sir Edward Elgar and Stanley Baldwin, later Earl Baldwin, in the 1920s. Their interest was more than nominal and Sir Edward donated books to the library. The local County loyalty, led by nationally known men of Worcestershire, is a significant feature of the 1920s (coinciding, interestingly with the formation of the Worcestershire Association). The increasing confidence of the Society is shown by the decision, in 1923, to sever its connections, which had lasted 70 years, with the Associated Societies, and to publish its own transactions.

E.A.B. Barnard, the local antiquarian, just installed as President of the Society, took on the Editorship and held it for a further 25 years. Much else was happening at this time – the

Committee noted that the care of Worcestershire's ancient documents was deemed an urgent necessity. The first County Record Office was being formed around this time in Bedfordshire, although Worcestershire had to wait until 1947 for the formation of its CRO at which point the new County Archivist, Harry Sargeant, became a leading light of the Society. Another initiative that seems not to have flourished was the idea of having local secretaries around the County.

1923 also saw Matley Moore take on the role of Excursion Secretary, a post he held for 46 years until 1969. Tales of his excursions are a legend, of the strict discipline he imposed on the parties, aided by his whistle – but he also maintained an enviable record of summer programmes, and in latter years on the committee, even after he had left that position, he was a mine of information on houses, which had been visited, which were worth visiting, what their owners were like etc.



E.A.B. Barnard in the mid 20s

In all this period the Society lacked a settled home of its own, but events in the 1940s and 1950s involved the Society in one of its most notable achievements, the successful attempt to save an ancient building in the City, the Greyfriars, from ruin. Our member Vince Hemingway has fully explored this incident in the Society's history in his article published in our *Transactions* in 2000. By the time of the Society's centenary it had an impressive base for its meetings – in the words of Buchanan-Dunlop, 'the homeless wanderer has now come home, and the Society has this fine old Tudor house for its headquarters ... Few Societies can boast of such a happy homing.' Whilst subsequent events mean the Society no longer meets there, I think we can all be proud of the Society's links every time we pass this handsome survival of Worcester's architectural history.

These are my own thoughts on the period up to 1954 and I happily refer you to Revd Buchanan-Dunlop's words for any further information. (See p4) What of the Society since 1954? I shall be publishing an account of this in the *Transactions* Vol 19 later in the year, but should like to mention some of the most significant issues here. Changing circumstances meant that by the 1960s there were discussions about how the future of the Greyfriars should best be managed – the £600 overdraft on the Appeal was not cleared until 1954 (with the help of a 'Caledonian Market' in the Guildhall). In the 1960s the proposal was made that the freehold be transferred to the National Trust, and this was done in 1966, but with the Society continuing to meet there until Elsie Matley Moore's death in 1985. Since then the Society has become something of a wanderer again, for many years using the Abbots Kitchen in the Old Palace (very appropriate given the Society's ecclesiastical origins) and currently the Bradbury Centre in Worcester.

The composition of the membership did not change greatly in the early part of this period, and indeed for the period 1961-76 four of its presidents were Anglican clergymen. Despite recurrent efforts to widen the membership by attracting working professionals, students and those wanting a more 'hands-on' approach to archaeology (recorded as early as 1856), the pattern of winter meetings on weekday afternoons and midweek excursions in the summer meant that the membership kept its traditional character. Membership of the Society has fluctuated over this period, sometimes as a result of financial decisions – from 1927 to 1969 the subscription was held

at £1 and some members found it difficult to accept that increased levels of subscription were necessary for the Society to fulfil its functions.

Luckily the reference to the *Transactions* as ‘one of the Society’s greatest achievements’ are not my words, but those of Buchanan-Dunlop. The 1950s saw little change in policy under the successors to E.A.B. Barnard, but by the 1960s there were problems with increasing printing costs and finding editors able to dedicate the necessary time for their production. The annual pattern established in 1923 faltered in the early 1960s but the Society was then very fortunate to have available the services of an influential and forward thinking archaeologist, Philip Barker. Attached to Birmingham University, he was intimately involved with national developments to counter the threat of development to archaeology, being a co-founder of ‘Rescue’. He took on the Editorship in 1967 and began by changing the format to a larger one, better suited to the publishing of archaeological reports and drawings. The second volume under his editorship, known as *Origins of Worcester*, grew out of research taking place, much inspired by the rapid and destructive development of Worcester at that time, and was innovative in devoting a volume to a single unifying theme with contributions from well-known scholars in a number of fields. Subsequently another major volume appeared, in 1980, under the guest editorship of Martin Carver, again of Birmingham University, this time with the title *Medieval Worcester*. This volume was substantially funded by a grant from the Dept of the Environment and the search for grant aid was to become a common concern of future volumes. From a position where the Society funded its *Transactions* almost entirely out of its own pocket, recent volumes have seen high levels of grant aid. These financial pressures meant that in 1971 the Society had to decide to issue *Transactions* once every two years in future, a situation which still obtains. The major continuing challenge is to ensure that the *Transactions* continue to be seen as the main place of publication where new research on the county will appear, keeping a balance between archaeology, local history and architecture. Strong links have been forged with the archaeological services of both the County and City Councils, after a period of many years when the Society had very little contact.

In 1953 Buchanan-Dunlop said that ‘it seems inconceivable that the Society should ever have seriously considered the sale of its library’, but this settled situation was not to continue. In the 1950s Mrs Mary Sargeant created the first systematic catalogue, but it was repeatedly reported that no real use was being made of the Library. After a period when it was housed in the basement of the City Library it finally found a home at the City Museum and a new and enthusiastic Librarian, Barbara Ronchetti, set about transferring the catalogue to cards, acquiring by purchase, donation and exchange with other societies various guides, periodicals and other books. The challenge still remains as to how best to exploit what is a unique local resource.

Whilst the Society has never sought to involve itself directly in excavations, it has been fortunate to have high-profile and innovative archaeological advisers, and their influence was never better shown than when redevelopment proposals in the heart of Worcester in the 1980s led to the formation of the Rescue Committee to act as a pressure group to bring about an appropriate archaeological investigation and to give what practical support it could to the subsequent excavations.

I would like to conclude with a few personal thoughts on my time with the Society, and then with some thoughts for the future. I attended my first Committee meeting at the Greyfriars on 22 October 1976 and was immediately appointed Assistant Editor. I had started work as an archivist with the CRO in 1975 and on promotion to a more senior post in 1976 was told by Harry Sargeant that this responsibility went with the job. So started an enjoyable and continuing association with the Society. On that first day the members present represented the local history ‘establishment’ of that time. Elsie and Matley Moore were, of course, both present, Matley sitting hunched on his

stool at the side of the hall, interjecting his strong opinions at intervals. The clerical interest was represented by Rev Nicholas Judge from Hanbury, Rev David Lockwood from Hanley and Canon Leatherbarrow of Martley, whose voice could easily fill a cathedral, let alone a meeting room. Canon Leatherbarrow's wife kept a close control of the finances as Treasurer. My then boss, Harry Sargeant, soon to retire as County Archivist, was there, as were two people I came to know well, Homery Folkes, an architect from Pedmore, and the charming and erudite Editor, Fred Grice, who was to give me great help and encouragement before his sadly early death. Others present were the jeweller and expert on church plate, Mr Peplow, the then Excursions Secretary, Col Pettigrew, and the long-serving Secretary, Richard Panton, a protégé of the Moores. Other people I came to know were Mrs Audrey Pettigrew, who took on the role of Excursions Secretary after the death of her husband, the archaeologist, Philip Barker, a figure of national importance, local solicitors Mr Hallmark and Basil Edwards, and Dean Milburn. As a young member I relished the fact that these people in some cases had been associated with the society for 50 years and could tell me first-hand stories about Worcestershire in that period. Matley and Elsie Moore were friendly, inviting me to a memorable luncheon at the Greyfriars of roll mop herring and perry, at which they told me local historical gossip stretching back to before WW2. In later years I was also privileged to share Homery Folkes's reminiscences which I was luckily able to persuade him to put into more permanent form before his death.

Thus were my early impressions of the Society formed. I have to record that the reaction of all I met within the Society was almost uniformly encouraging, despite its, at that time, rather starchy and old-fashioned atmosphere. It was a Society of great individualists, eccentrics almost in some eyes, but all keenly interested in its objects.

It is a truism that the Society has changed, as it always has. How different are the struggles to get active committee members in 2004 from earlier years? It does seem a fact that people generally are less keen to join Societies and have less time to give to them. The Society still battles to get the right mix of events to enable it to appeal to a wide membership – but these efforts are a continuing theme throughout its existence. The future will bring new perspectives on history and archaeology, and new ways to study them. Computers and the Internet already dominate. The society has no web site, and perhaps will need to address this if it is to continue to reach out widely. New forms of publishing might one day render our traditional *Transactions* obsolete, but I leave that challenge to a future Editor. The greater range of leisure activities and the accessibility of properties through the National Trust and English Heritage bring new challenges to the Society to do something distinctive and outside the range of what people can do on their own. The note on which I want to end this story of 150 years of activity is a celebratory one, recognising the achievements and the continuing fellowship of the Society.

Robin Whittaker

Some Publications from the Society's Library

The following will be on exhibition during the sesquicentennial celebrations on 17 April 2004:

Biography:

E.P. Shirley *Hanley and the House of Lechmere* (1883)

I.H. Jeayes *Descriptive Catalogue of the Charters and Muniments of the Lyttleton Family in the possession of the Rt Hon Viscount Cobham of Hagley Hall, Worcestershire* (1893)

Sotheby's, London *Catalogue of the Lyttleton papers sold by auction 12 December 1978*

Robert Holland-Martin. *A symposium* (1947)

Publications of Historic Interest:

British Archaeological Association Report and Proceedings of the 5th General Meeting 'holden in the faithful city of Worcester' ed A.J.Durkin (1851)

Reports and Papers of the meetings of the Associated Architectural Societies (1891)

Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society NS36 (1961)

Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society 3S 2 (1968) 'The Origins of Worcester'

Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society 3S 7 ((1980) 'Medieval Worcester'

Irene Hore and John H. Parker Collection:

W.T.Furnival *Leadless decorative tiles, faience and mosaic* (1904)

I.Hore, comp, Cuttings file – *Worcestershire Wallet*

J.H.Parker *Notes on stained glass quarries* (nd)

Books donated by members:

T.Wright *Viroconium* (1872) donated by Philip Barker

Grinling Gibbons and the woodwork of his age, 1648-1720 (1914) donated by Alfred Burder

J.Noake *Rambler in Worcestershire* (1851) donated by Edward Elgar

Photographic album of visit to Spain in 1880 donated by Robert Holland-Martin

The old order book of Hartlebury Grammar School, 1556-1752 (Worcestershire Historical Society, 1904) J.Homery Folkes

F.deHaenen *Russia* (1913) donated by Grace Judge on behalf of her husband

The history and antiquities of the Abbey Church of Pershore (1838) donated by George Oliver

Books written by members of the Society:

Jabez Allies *On the Ancient British, Roman and Saxon Antiquities of Worcestershire* (1840)

J.Severn Walker *Architectural sketches ecclesiastical, secular and domestic in Worcestershire and its borders* Vol I (1863)

John Noake *The monastery and cathedral of Worcester* (1866) and *Worcestershire Relics* (1877)

Edwin Lees *The botany of Worcestershire* (1867)

William Lea (archdeacon of Worcester) *Church plate in the archdeaconry of Worcester* (1884)

John Nott *Some of the antiquities of Moche Malvern* (1885) dedicated to Sir E.A.H.Lechmere

George Oliver *Illustrations of some Worcestershire churches published ... 1856-1886 principally in the Journal of the Architectural Societies with a few additional etchings* (1887)

Rev George Miller *The Parishes of the Diocese of Worcester* Vol 2 (1890)

Joseph Bowshed Wilson *The parish registers of Knightwick and Doddenham* (1891)

Canon James Maurice Wilson *Accounts of the priory of Worcester for the years 13-14 Henry VIII 1521-2* (Worcestershire Historical Society Publication, 1907) and *Early compotus rolls of the priory of Worcester* trans & ed J.M.Wilson & Cosmo Gordon (Worcs Hist Soc, 1908)

Earnest Harold Pearce (Bishop of Worcester) *Hartlebury Castle* (1926)

E.A.B.Barnard *New Links with Shakespeare* (1930)

Frederick Grice *A Severnside Story* (1964)

Rev J.S.L Leatherbarrow *Worcestershire* (1974)

Robert Higham & Philip Barker *Timber Castles* (1992)

Dr John Harcup (current Chairman) *The Malvern Water Cure* (1992)

Philip Barker *A short architectural history of Worcester Cathedral* (1994) (revised edition 2001)

Tim Bridges & Charles Mundy *Worcester – a pictorial history* (1996)

John Homery Folkes *The Matley Moores with myself and others* (1997)

Joe Hillaby *Ledbury, a medieval borough* (1997)

Tim Bridges *Churches of Worcestershire* (2000)

Who's Who in the Society – Some Notable Members

E.A.H. Lechmere, 'protagonist and founder' of the Worcester Diocesan Architectural Society, as the Society started life, was its first Secretary, and third President. As it was to promote Camdenian ecclesiology, only Anglicans could belong. Twice High Sheriff, he was also first Chairman of the Worcester City and County Cricket Club, founded in 1855. In 1859 he was promoting 'Resolutions ... in condemnation of the system of hiring servants at statute fairs and mops'. These he sought to replace with a district system of registration for those seeking work, with a central office at Worcester, thus anticipating by 50 years the Act of 1909 which, under Beveridge's sponsorship, set up labour exchanges.

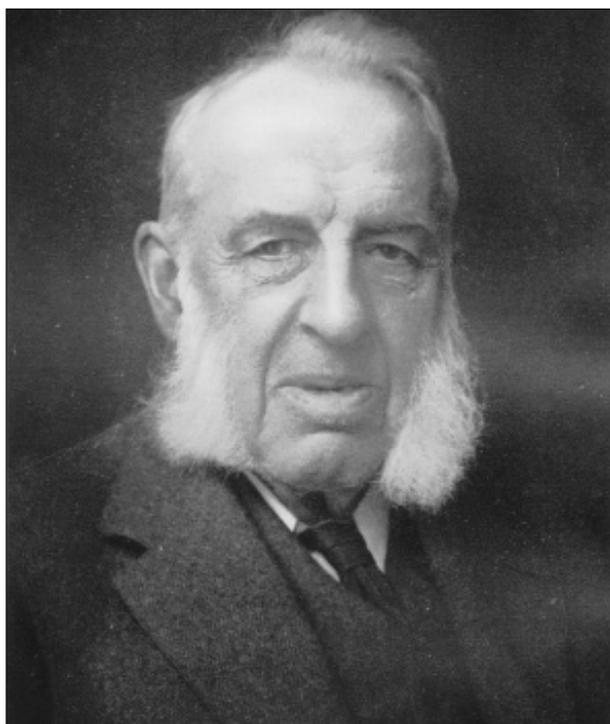
In the Society's first year Archdeacon Sandford reported to the Committee on 'chapels used as lumber rooms, chancel arches blocked up, large and hideous galleries, and family pews with fireplaces and glass shutters ... fonts used as pig-troughs'.

J. Severn Walker, one of the seven founders, was Hon Secretary for 17 years, 1858-75. He was author of *Architectural sketches ecclesiastical, secular and domestic in Worcestershire and its borders* in which he sought 'to correct the inaccurate information in guide books'.

John Noake, Secretary 1886-91, having 'visited most of the churches in the county just when the Society was being founded', his *Rambler* exposed the state of church architecture and liturgy in the County. He wrote for the *Berrows Journal* and *Worcestershire Chronicle*, ending his career as sub-editor of the *Worcester Herald*. In 1874 he gave up journalism to devote his energies to municipal life and the management of its principal institutions, being successively sheriff, mayor and alderman, and magistrate. His books include *The Monastery and Cathedral of Worcester*, *Guide to Worcestershire*, *Worcestershire Relics*, *Worcester Nuggets*.

George Gilbert Scott and his assistant, G.E. Street, were also early Committee members, and among the eight architects of the original membership.

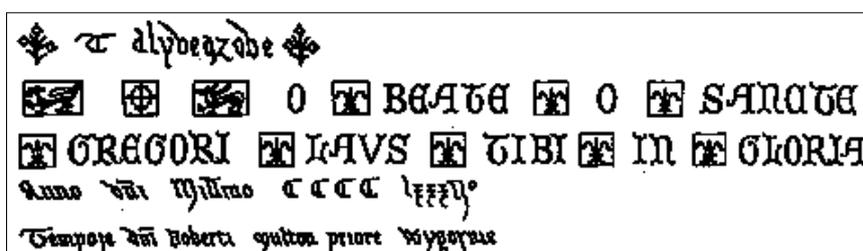
J.W. Willis Bund (1843-1928), a man of great energy, was Chairman of Quarter Sessions and the County Council and a leading figure of both this Society and the Worcestershire Historical Society. He was the initiator and joint editor of the four-volume *Victoria History of the County of Worcester* and under his leadership the project, unlike those of many other counties, was brought to a successful completion, in 1926. Volumes he edited for the WHS were *The Lay Subsidy Roll for the County c1280*, *Register of the Diocese during the Vacancies of the See 1301-1435*, *Calendar of the Quarter Sessions Papers 1591-1643*, *Registers of Bishop Godfrey Giffard* and *William Geynesborough* and *Diary of Henry Townshend 1640-63*. A full bibliography of his works, by E.A.H. Barnard, is in *Transactions NS IV* (1926-7) and an article by Robin Whittaker in *The Recorder* 56 (Autumn 1997).



*John William Willis Bund
Transactions NS IV (1926-27), 111*

It was EAB Barnard who, during his Presidency, persuaded the Society in 1923 to issue its own *Transactions*. Previously it had merely submitted material for inclusion in the *Reports and Papers read at The Meetings of the Architectural Societies* (of the Counties of York, Bedford and Leicester, the dioceses of Lincoln and Worcester, and the Archdeaconry of Northampton). A subject index to the Worcestershire entries in the *Reports and Papers* is in *Transactions* NS XXX (1953) 48-53. ‘An urbane and astonishingly productive antiquary, he had a talent for finding documents and a gift for presenting his discoveries enjoyably’. He edited the *Transactions* for the first 25 years. Amongst his works in the Society’s Library is *The Prattinton Collection of Worcestershire History* (1931). There is a ‘Bibliography’, with biographical introduction, by Derek Watson, in *WTAS* 3S 17 (2000).

H.B.Walters published in *Transactions* NS II-VIII a ‘complete and exhaustive’ survey, alphabetically by parish, of the bells of the county, completing the work commenced by Rev H.T.Tilley in 1877. The final instalment gives a general summary with a history of the foundries concerned.



Detail of Church Bell at Grimley from ‘The Church Bells of Worcestershire. III’ H.B. Walters Transactions NS IV (1926-27)

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

Mrs Berkeley, a member of the Society for some 50 years, President 1933-5 and Vice-President for many years, recorded her ‘quaint’ teenage introduction, when John Noake and probably J.Severn Walker were investigating a font, an occasion when she ‘behaved none too well’. In recognition of the many papers she contributed to the Society, after her death in 1944 it was decided to institute a Mrs Berkeley Memorial Prize for Local History. In the 50s it was agreed to leave the award of this prize to the Headmistresses of the Alice Ottley and Worcester Girls’ Grammar Schools. In 1987, these prizes having discontinued after difficulty in soliciting entries, the Berkeley Memorial Lecture was instituted to replace them.

J.F.Parker was Treasurer 1925-51. His achievements with the Historical Society, which he revived in the post-war period, included the publication of the *Red Book of Worcester* by Marjory Hollings. Mrs Parker was also a committee member for many years. They created a folk museum at Tickenhill manor, originally based on their study of old industries in Bewdley and neighbourhood, which received Mrs Berkeley’s collection of old children’s books. The ‘Tickenhill Collection’ was left to the County and, in accordance with their wish that it be used as the basis for a County Museum, was the *fons et origo* of the museum which opened to the public at Hartlebury in 1966. To this day a display case in the lobby has the original ‘Mystery Object’ items that Mr Parker took around when giving talks. The museum’s first accession, a brass match case from the Tickenhill collection, is pictured on the website’s ‘Curiosities from the Collections’ page and can be seen at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/culture.

Rev. W.R. Buchanan-Dunlop, author of the article 'A Hundred Years, 1854-1954' which is being reprinted as part of the sesquicentennial celebrations, was Editor 1951-8 and undertook a lot of antiquarian research into the ancient parishes of Worcester City, much now in the Record Office.

It was Major W.J.Thompson, a great benefactor, President 1947-50 and member of the Society from 1925 to his death in 1959, who purchased the Greyfriars, then semi-ruinous and in grave danger of demolition by the City Council. He presented it to the Society, together with the adjoining small 17th-century house, conditional upon its restoration, which, as 'Thompson's Trust', served as the Society's Library until 1975. He also paid for immediate repairs to prevent the main building from falling further into ruin.

Canon R.A. Wilson, a member for over 50 years, was President 1930-3, remaining Vice-President till his death in 1959. He was Honorary General Editor for some 30 years of Worcestershire Historical Society, for which he edited *The Court Rolls of the Manor of Hales* part III and, with T.Cave, *The Parliamentary Survey of the Lands . . . of Dean and Chapter of Worcester, c1649*. He was also editor of the county's Parish Register Society from its inception in 1913.

Miss C.N.S.Smith was author of a 'Catalogue of Prehistoric Objects in Worcestershire' published after her death with a CBA grant of £100 in *Transactions* NS34 (1957). It followed previous articles in Vols 23 and 30 on a *Prehistoric and Roman Site at Broadway* and notes on sites near Evesham.

Alderman H.E.Palfrey, Chairman of the Records Committee, was crucial in the County Council's decision to set up its own Record Office in 1947. He bequeathed the County Council his extensive book and manuscript collection, now at the CRO as the Palfrey Library and the Palfrey Collection.

Matley Moore, FSA, characterful Excursion Secretary for 46 years, whose main achievement in some eyes was the extensive restoration in 1948 of Greyfriars, with his sister, Elsie. They took a lease on the property for their own occupation, granting the use of the hall to the Society for its meetings. See John Homery Folkes *The Matley Moores with myself and others* (1997).



Elsie Matley Moore, FSA, a member of the Society for some 50 years, continued to live at Greyfriars until her death in 1985, and was an accomplished gardener and artist, illustrating Mary Green's survey of stained glass. She purchased and restored part of the 15th-century house opposite Greyfriars, then let as a café named 'The Catherine Wheel'. The Moores are quoted as having 'zeal for conserving local treasures matched by antiquarian knowledge and skill of the highest order'.

Kempsey: St Katherine from a drawing by Elsie Matley Moore in Mary Green's 'Old Painted Glass in Worcestershire' Transactions NS VII

E.H.Sargeant, FSA, 'Sarge' to his friends, the first County Archivist joined the Committee in 1947 when he came to Worcester. He served for nearly 25 years on the Editorial Sub-Committee and was President 1976-9. Also he created the Worcestershire Photographic Survey at the Record Office. His wife Mary Sargeant created the first systematic catalogue of the library.

Audrey Pettigrew, a garden lover and Society member from 1945 to her death 50 years later, succeeded her late husband in 1977 as Excursion Secretary, which role she fulfilled with 'outstanding success' for 17 years, inaugurating the Society's travels to Europe. From 1985-8 she combined this with being Chairman.

Philip Barker, through his pioneering work with Recue helped change the way archaeology was viewed in the context of planning and development. His textbooks on archaeological techniques remain standard works. As Editor he introduced the third series of the *Transactions* with the important volume on 'The Origins of Worcester' for 1968-9. Such was the esteem in which he was held that the CBA's West Midlands Summer Day School in 2002 was entitled 'The Archaeology of Britain Revisited. A Tribute to Phil Barker'.

Fred and Gwen Grice. 'The charming and erudite' Fred, who encouraged Robin Whittaker in his early days, was his predecessor as Editor, occasional leader of summer excursions and Deputy President of the Kilvert Society, as well as a renowned author of children's books. After his death Gwen was Secretary from 1985-92. Having joined the Society in June 1951, there is little doubt that she is its longest serving member.

England and the World in 1854 News items from the *Berrows Journal* and other sources:

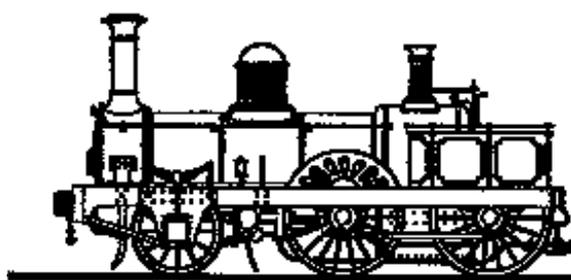
Turkey having declared war on Russia in October 1853, the first detachment of British troops sailed for Malta in February 1854. Britain and France joined Turkey in the war in March. The *Journal* carried regular reports from the Crimea. There in October the famous charges of Scarlett's Heavy Brigade was 'a brilliant success, though left incomplete for lack of support', but Cardigan's Light Brigade, 'the consequence of bad temper and misinterpreted orders', was in every sense a disaster, 'except the all-saving sense of immortal courage'. On 5 November near Inkermann, in a 'murderous, straggling fight in a morning fog the British regimental officers and ranks made up for loose contact between British and French and some tactical mistakes, and beat off the Russian sortie with immense loss'. On 4 November the *Journal* included a 'new map of Crimea' and on 11th another, showing the 'military position of allied forces before Sebastopol'.

Despite these war clouds, the *Journal* devoted a page to the public dinner, attended by some 500 persons, held on 22 April in honour of the Rt Hon Earl Beauchamp on his retirement from the House of Commons, consequent upon his elevation to the peerage. The bill of fare included 4 peacocks, 16 dishes of griskins, 20 of lobsters, 15 turkeys, 70 couple of fowls, 8 of guinea fowls, and the wines (supplied from the old-established and well-reputed cellars of Messrs Barnes & Chamberlain) were of first-rate quality and elicited general approbation. The Militia Band was stationed outside the hall. Two life-size portraits were commissioned from Francis Grant RA, one to be presented to Beauchamp at the dinner, the other to be placed in a public building.

Of greater public concern was the development of the railway network. The official 'First Train', a 21-carriage special, of the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton railway, later nicknamed 'The Old Worse and Worse', had run on Saturday 1 May 1852, when a public holiday was declared in all the towns and villages along the line. Goods traffic and cattle could be transported

direct between London and stations on the line from 3 April 1854 but not until 1 July was the entire project completed. In May the third reading of the Shrewsbury and Hereford Railway (Stations) Bill was passed and New Street station, Birmingham, was opened on 1 June. In August 1854 a railway trip was arranged by a Mr Booth for between 4,000 and 5,000 people, including schoolchildren and their teachers, from Woverhampton, Dudley, Stourbridge and Kidderminster. He also engaged a band for the occasion. There were five trains, each with about 16 carriages, but the railway company was unprepared for such a vast undertaking. Large numbers did not arrive until 2-3pm instead of 11am, and 400-500 were left behind, receiving a refund, and on the return journey some trains did not leave until after 11pm, arriving 1-2am. Visits were made to the Cathedral etc and the children had entertainment on Pitchcroft.

'Engine A', the best of the six original engines of the OWW, a passenger engine built in 1849 by the Railway Foundry and purchased second-hand for £1,250 in 1852, in time for the 'First Train' run on 1 May. In 1855 she was taken into stock as OWW No. 31 and, converted to a classic 'Jenny', did some of the fastest running on the Cotswold Line before being scrapped in 1876.



The opening of Crystal Palace on 10 June was described in the *Journal* as 'a triumph' - though a 'remonstrance' was addressed to the directors about the nude male statues. Some 40,000 spectators and dignitaries attended. 'Except, perhaps, the Britannia tubular bridge,' it was reported, 'there is nothing in this country which conveys so sublime an idea of what we can accomplish, as this wonderful building'. Ruskin was amongst those who disagreed: 'we suppose ourselves to have invented a new style of architecture, when we have magnified a conservatory!' An exhibition on Crystal Palace, coinciding with its 150th anniversary, is being held at Dulwich Picture Gallery from 4 February to 18 April 2004.

The *Journal* also carried many entries about emigrants. On 28 January it reported the 'total loss of the magnificent new iron emigrant ship *Tayleur* 2,200 tons register, on her passage to Melbourne ... 652 persons, inclusive of crew, on board ... struck a rock known as Nose of Lambay Island near Dublin Bay'. The wreck of the *Staffordshire*, a fine Liverpool and Boston packet, with loss of life was reported on 4 March, as was a Parliamentary Select Committee to enquire into 'recent cases of extensive loss of life aboard emigrant ships, whether by sickness, wreck or other causes ... and the sufficiency or otherwise of existing regulations'. In April the greatest number of emigrants ever known in one month, 31,500, left Liverpool in April for Canada, Australia and United States. The numbers for the following month were expected to exceed this figure. The recent discovery of gold in Victoria and New South Wales drew many people to these two colonies, leading to a sevenfold increase in one year in the number of migrants to Victoria and the near tripling of the population of Australia between 1850 and 1860. By 1852 only two policemen were left in Melbourne.

Cholera was also to figure prominently in newspaper reports. In July there an outbreak of cholera on board an emigrant ship bound for Adelaide whose passengers were mostly 'Scotch', with some English and Irish. By the time it returned to Liverpool there had been 41 deaths. The final total was 51 deaths. In September and October cholera was reported in Gloucester where the first case was in the County Gaol. It spread to Worcester in October, and to Pershore, where there were 48 cases, 25 fatal, in November. An epidemic in London's Soho, with over 300 cases in three days, led to some 200 deaths. It was at this time that John Snow used statistics to track the source of the outbreak to a well that had been contaminated with infected sewage. The only victims who

lived away from the well were a lady in Hampstead, who had the Soho water carted to her house because she liked the taste of it, and her niece who drank the water on a visit. She also died, at her home in Islington. Snow's discovery heralded the end of cholera in Britain.

Arrangements for obtaining a supply of water from the Severn for the City of Gloucester had been completed by October. The pump was to raise an estimated 300,000 gallons a day to the reservoir at Robin Hood's Hill. In November there were reports of plans for drainage in Worcester.

September saw the first meeting of the City of Worcester Association for Building Dwellings for the Labouring Classes, with Lord Ward in the Chair and Lechmere a key figure. Next month the Association purchased several 'wretched looking' cottages immediately opposite St Andrew's church in Copenhagen Street, on the site of which model dwellings were erected. While other houses in the vicinity were demolished in 1940 these survived until 1955.

Entries in the *Berrows Journal* were not all gloom and doom. On 20 May 'the country for miles around' Wrington, Bristol was 'quite wild with excitement' about a gypsy wedding between the heads of the two 'tent holders' with 'pedigrees as long as your proud English baron'; 'some trace unbroken lines from times of early Plantagenets'. The bride was described as 'excessively animated'. Cake and wine were in abundance and the feasting was 'to some extent revived on the following day'. It also quoted an incident from the *North Wales Chronicle*. An elephant 'accompanying the menagerie of Mr Batty was lately missed from its temporary quarters in the stable of the hotel'. It was 'discovered fast asleep in the wine cellar of the hotel, having broken a large number of bottles and drank himself into the state of torpor in which his keeper found him'.

Also in 1854:

The Earl of Aberdeen was Prime Minister and first lord of the treasury, with Gladstone as Chancellor of the Exchequer and Viscount Palmerston as Home Secretary.

The British Medical Association was founded.

The London Working Men's College was established by F.D.Maurice and others.

Tennyson was Poet Laureate, having succeeded Wordsworth in 1850.

Dickens published *Hard Times*.

There was a 'desperate riot at Cambridge between the police and the undergraduates, who interrupted a lecture against the use of tobacco, given by a gentleman at the Town Hall'.

The Viceroy of Egypt authorised Ferdinand de Lesseps to form a company for constructing a navigable canal across the isthmus of Suez.



'Initial letters illuminated by Worcester Monks' from John Noake *The Monastery and Cathedral of Worcester* (1866)

Book Reviews

Monastic Landscapes by James Bond (Tempus, 2004) ISBN 0 7524 1440 2. £25

As a post-graduate student in the Geography Dept of Birmingham University James Bond shared a study with Mick Aston. James's first post was as Archaeology Officer at the County Museum in the early 1970s. One of his first publications, in 1973, 'The Estates of Evesham Abbey: A Preliminary Survey of their Medieval Topography' in the then flourishing *Vale of Evesham Historical Society Research Papers*, was inspired by the references to the construction of houses, barns, mills, dovecotes and fishponds etc in the abbey's *Chronicle* of which David Cox, who lectured the Society some time ago, had published a translation, with financial support from the Borough Council, in 1964. James's interest in the county is also reflected by his 'Church and Parish in Norman Worcestershire' in *Minsters and Parish Churches* (1988).

Whilst Mick Aston was working on the earthworks and water control system at Bordesley Abbey near Redditch, they came together again to survey the complex moat and pond system at the Premonstratensian house at Halesowen. Their conclusion was that they were 'quite outstanding examples of medieval water management' – a verdict which has not preserved them from illegal tipping. Their overall results were published as 'Moated Sites in Worcestershire' in *CBA Research Report 17* (1974). This subject has remained one of James's principal interests within the wider field of monastic landscapes. Thus in 1989 he published a study of monastic fisheries in *Water Management in the Rural Monastery* which was followed up in 1993 by a similar study in relation to urban monasteries and finally an overview, taking into full account research undertaken on the continent, in 2001. In the same volume on *Monastic Archaeology* James turned his attention to the 'Production and Consumption of Food and Drinks in the Medieval Monastery'.

The present volume, which James has wanted to write for 30 years, brings together these interests with many of his others in monastic landscapes. In a foreword, Mick Aston, himself the author of the very popular *Monasteries in the Landscape*, also published by Tempus, pays generous tribute to James's achievement in this 'monumental book', which is destined to become 'the seminal work on the topic'. The aspects surveyed include arable and livestock farming, woodlands (with a plan, Fig 18, of Tiddesley Wood, Pershore), assarts, reclamation, granges and farm buildings; gardens, orchards and vineyards; deer parks, rabbit warrens and fishponds; transport, mills and manufacturing. The section on reclamation is especially wide-ranging and rewarding. A conspectus is also provided on the broad subject of monastic boroughs and markets. This is necessarily constrained, but is well illustrated with maps and plans, many relating to local sites. Four of the six plans in Fig 95 relate to Gloucestershire and the fifth to Shipston.

The general reader could not turn to a better and more congenial guide to the subject.

Urban Growth and the Medieval Church. Gloucester and Worcester by N.Baker & R.Holt. Ashgate (2004). Price £75, but £45 (a 40% discount) has been negotiated for *Recorder* readers. Telephone the distributors, Bookpoint, 01235 827730 quoting reference 30SC951.

As the title indicates, this volume provides a comparative study of the medieval cities of Gloucester and Worcester. Of prime concern to Society members will be the chapters discussing the latter: 5. 'Worcester and the Church before 1100'; 6. 'The landscape of medieval Worcester'; and 7. 'Worcester: churches, chapels and parishes'. These are followed by comparative chapters on parish rights and bounds, lesser churches and chapels, major religious institutions and ecclesiastical precincts. The conclusion, on town planning and public works, returns to what lies at the heart of the subject, the Anglo-Saxon *burhs* of Worcester and Gloucester.

The interest of chapters 5 and 6 for most of our readers lies in the description of the evolution of the medieval town from the Roman defended enclosure, as defined by Philip Barker, to whose memory this volume is dedicated, to the medieval walled city. The first stage was the foundation of the *burh* by ealdorman Aethelred and his wife, Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians. This was at the request of Bishop Waerferth, in all probability a response to the fate of Gloucester in 877, at the hands of the Vikings, and of Cirencester in 879. This is a remarkable example of collaboration between church and state, which was reflected in an earlier agreement between Waerferth and King Alfred concerning the reconstruction of London. The second stage in Worcester's growth was its extension from *burh* to walled city, the bounds of which have never been problematic like those of the *burh*.

The authors' analysis of this growth takes full account of all excavations up to and including that of the City Arcades site in 1999. It was this which showed that the eastern defences of the *burh* lay between and parallel to the lines of High Street and the Shambles, but that at its southern end they formed, at least in part, 'an overall perimeter reinforcing the old Roman enclosure'. Plans 6.11 and 6.17 are particularly helpful in illustrating current views on the lines of the *burh* wall and rampart in relation to both the Roman defences and the city wall and ditch of c1150-1200 and are thus the key to the basic stages in the growth of the medieval city.

More, detailed, analysis follows. Based on Conzen's work, it is concerned with the three distinct complexes of plan elements: 'streets and their arrangement in a street-system; plots and their aggregation in street-blocks; and buildings or, more precisely their block-plans', such 'streets, plots and buildings integrating ... to form individual combinations of a dynamic rather than a static nature.' Thus we have 'the city dismantled': the cathedral close with castle, the intramural city, the east bank and west bank suburbs as the four basic units. The intramural city is then considered as eleven sub-units (Plans 6.7 & 6.8), most of which are further subdivided into smaller units. What is somewhat puzzling is that the first of the sub-units to be considered under the heading 'Intramural city' are 1. The Cross and 2. Broad Street, beyond the lines of the *burh* wall, rampart and ditch, rather than High Street South (9) and Copenhagen Street (8) together with High Street North (5), for these form the spine of the *burh*.

Documentary evidence relating to St Peter's as an economic focus is worthy of fuller treatment. Unlike the cathedrals at London and Rochester and the convent of Thanet, the bishop had freedom from tolls at London in 734x5, not on one but two ships. Imports will have included specialist liturgical and other requirements for the bishop and his family of some dozen priests, and valuable gifts for a king and ealdormen such as that given to Humberht, 'a drinking vessel of noble origin'. London-bound trade no doubt reflected the wide-ranging commercial interests of the bishop. Egwin, in 716x17, had salt houses and six furnaces on the Salwarpe. In 836 there were salt pits and lead furnaces at Hanbury minster and in 883 'lead diggings' at Stoke Bishop, which were to revert to St Peter's. In Offa's reign revenue was already derived from wool such as the cloths exported to Europe. Distribution of 8th-century sceattas throughout Hwiccia are evidence of trade with London.

The detailed examination of Bridport, the *haga* or fenced seven-side enclosure of some 3 acres leased by Bishop Waerferth to Aethelred and Aethelflaed by charter in 904, is of especial interest (Plan 6.13). Here moorings eventually developed into the port, as shown on Speed's *Plan* of 1610 and Bucks' *View*, 1723. Riverside extensions have also been postulated for Gloucester and Chester.

Enough has been said to show that this handsomely produced book, with its 70 maps and plans, 19 plates and seven tables, is one to which all who have any interest in our medieval city must turn.

Joe Hillaby

Cider in the Three Counties by Fiona Mac. Logaston Press (2003)

Fiona Mac is as passionate about ciderlore as she is about drinking cider! We can personally relate to both sentiments and ‘wassail’ her wholeheartedly. The production of cider is a creative, life affirming process, which was and still is part of the three counties seasonal cycle. Each part of the process marks the year’s calendar - something to ground us all. Fiona’s well researched and illustrated book is a record of the past and a working tool for the future. Our one minor criticism would be that in dealing with folk customs such as wassailing, there is no clear distinction made between uninterrupted traditions, and those that are largely a product of the ‘folk revival’. Nevertheless, we would recommend this book to all who have an interest in cider, ciderlore and the shared traditions of the three counties.

Carrie and Richard Sermon

Tewkesbury Abbey: History, Art & Architecture edited by Richard K. Morris & Ron Shoesmith. Logaston (2003). £17.50

This book celebrates the 900th anniversary of the coming of Benedictine monks to the abbey. There are 22 chapters by 18 specialists. Pride of place must go to Richard K. Morris, archaeological consultant to the abbey and general editor, who wrote not only two chapters on ‘Vaulting and Carpentry’ and ‘Monastic Buildings’ but made major contributions to three others, ‘The Church from 1200 to 1540’, ‘Post-Reformation Monuments’ and ‘Recent Archaeological and Architectural Works’. Other notable contributors are Philip Lindley on the remarkable ‘Medieval Tombs and Chantries’, Sarah Brown on the outstanding ‘Medieval Stained Glass’, and Alan Vince on the ‘Medieval Floor Tiles’. Wide-ranging, copiously illustrated, with more than 300 large format pages, fully referenced and with a good index, this is outstanding value.

Almshouses by Anna Hallett (Shire, 2004) £5.99

Even by Shire standards, this is lavishly illustrated with almost 120 colour plates in its 62 pages. After an introduction is a chapter on donors – including royalty, aristocracy, church dignitaries, high-ranking professionals and wealthy merchants – and an intriguing range of beneficiaries, including ‘five poor decayed woolcombers’ and ‘ten poor decayed farmers come to poverty by loss of cattle’. No lady ‘common beggar, harlot, scold, drunkard, haunter of taverns’ was to be admitted to Trinity Hospital, Castle Rising. Next come the buildings, of a great variety of sizes and styles; and life in the almshouses, where regular prayer is still in some cases a requirement along with uniforms and other regulations; and a brief look at their continuing role. There is Further Reading and a list of Places to Visit which mentions in Worcester the Berkeley Hospital, Laslett’s Almshouse, St Oswald’s Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Almshouses and the Hospital of St Wulstan, incorporated in the Commandery, of which there is a photograph and a copy of the seal.

Roman Artillery by Alan Wilkins (Shire, 2003) £5.99

The survival of several technical manuals and numerous passages describing artillery in action means that artillery is the one field of Greek and Roman applied technology for which there is extensive, detailed evidence. After examining the Greek origins of artillery, this book concentrates on the catapults used by Roman armies from the time of Caesar onwards. The torsion-powered catapults adopted and developed by the Roman army were the most powerful missile projectors of their time and had a considerable influence on events in the western world from Africa to Britain from their invention c350 BC. They are still recorded as being in use by Byzantine armies in the 11th century. No other weapon shooting heavy missiles has dominated the art of warfare for so long. The illustrations, many of which have not been published before, cover the major archaeological finds of catapult parts and types of missile. This is an excellent introduction by an enthusiastic expert which will be of benefit to anyone interested in the subject.

Abberley and Malvern Hills European Geopark

Over 70 important geology and landscape sites place this area at the centre of international research and national conservation programmes, and parts of Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire and Worcestershire are represented in the 17th European Geopark which is being launched in Ledbury on 12 and 13 April 2004. In addition to a 2-day exhibition events will include talks on 'The Geology of the Malvern Hills' and 'Mining History in the Geopark', guided geology trails and a 'rock and fossil roadshow'. The International Geopark celebrations will see further events in various locations within the Geopark from 26 May to 10 June 2004, including a field course weekend, geology of wine vineyard trail and a guided trail of the Wyre Forest Coalfield (see *Recorder* 63, Spring 2001). Information is available on www.worc.ac.uk/eht and www.worc.ac.uk or contact Dr Peter Oliver, Geopark Manager, Geological Records Centre, University College Worcester, WR2 6AJ, tel 01905 855184; email eht@worc.ac.uk

Post-Medieval Archaeology 37(ii) (2003) includes items on **Brickwalls Farm**, Hanley Swan, and **Diglis Basin**, Worcester, both excavated by Archaeological Investigations Ltd. The former, a grade II listed farmhouse, was thought from nearby archaeological evidence to date back to the 14th century but has been found by dendrochronology to be an interesting collection of 17th- and early 18th-century buildings with later accretions, a phased enlargement of original cottage into a small farmhouse with grander pretensions. No above-ground evidence for any 14th-century construction was found. At the latter, building recording and analysis of Dank's Warehouse 1 & 2, the Stableman's House and adjoining stables and remains of Webb's Chemical Manure Manufacturing Co complex have led to a greater understanding of the buildings, their function and construction.

The **35th Industrial Archaeology Conference** of South Wales and West of England takes place on Saturday 24 April at the Charles Hastings Education Centre, Worcestershire Royal Hospital, hosted by Worcestershire Industrial Archaeology and Local History Society. The fee to attend the lectures is £10. Details can be obtained from Christine Silvester WIA&LHS, 01905 354679.

The Shotton Project

The Shotton Project is an exploration of the Ice Age landscapes of the English Midlands and the early humans who occupied them from more than half a million years ago. The project focuses on the rich archaeological and palaeontological evidence for this remote period that can be found in sand and gravel quarries. This includes the stone tools of our remote ancestors and the remains of the extinct animals, such as elephant, mammoth, woolly rhino, giant deer and wild horse, that inhabited the landscape with them. In addition the remains of plants, snails and insects – some found today only in the high alps, arctic or Spain – are often preserved, which enable reconstruction of the changing environment.

The Shotton Project is working with quarry companies, archaeologists, palaeontologists, geologists, local societies, museums and schools to create a network dedicated to investigating and promoting interest in the Palaeolithic, the remotest period of human occupation in Britain. It is named after F.W.Shotton, Professor of Geology at the University of Birmingham from 1949 to 1974.

For further information contact the Shotton Project on 0121 414 5513 or a.lang@bham.ac.uk. The website is at www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/shottonproject/

Worcestershire Archaeological Society Excursions Programme

The Society's 150th anniversary is celebrated in this year's Excursions Programme by returning to the destinations of the two excursions made in 1854 and by visiting Avoncroft Museum where the Guesten Hall roof can be seen. The first annual meeting, in September 1854, took place in Coventry where in the morning members visited two churches and 'after luncheon listened to two papers'; a sub committee was formed to consider the best way to get to Great Malvern.

In early days 'hospitality was unstinted and excursions often began early and ended late. In 1859 one 'began with breakfast at Salwarpe . . . luncheon at Westwood . . . and the day ended with dinner at Droitwich'. Luncheon was provided without cost to members and it was not until 1888 that the Society decided no longer to pay for the wine. In 1890, when only twelve members turned up for a trip to Birmingham, the angry committee stated members ought to realise it was their duty to attend. In 1917 the term 'excursions' was dropped, as suggesting 'picnic', and replaced with 'summer meetings'.

Programme for Summer 2004

Thurs 20 May: Coach trip to **Salisbury**, visiting **Old Sarum** with the rest of the day at the cathedral, including a guided tour and an opportunity to visit the tower and roof spaces.

Tues 8 June: A day in **Great Malvern**, to look at various buildings and learn something of Malvern's history, and to visit the priory church with its misericords and stained glass, 'more complete than anywhere in 15th-century England'. Led by the Chairman, John Harcup, and Joe Hillaby respectively.

Wed 21 July (date tbc): Coach trip to Oxfordshire to visit the chapel of St Michael at **Rycote**, memorable for its sumptuous fittings, and St Katherine's at **Chislehampton**, the best preserved Georgian parish church in the county; then on to Thame for a guided tour of the historic town.

Mon 2 August: Evening visit to two Worcestershire churches, probably **Crowle** and **Churchill**, led by Tim Bridges.

Tues 17 August: Coach trip to **Presteigne**, with visits including the church, some Georgian houses and the Old Manor House, which served as the judge's lodgings, complete with court room, judge's quarters and prisoners' cells; then to **Old Radnor** to see the church with splendid medieval carved rood screen and unique pre-Reformation organ case, the earliest in the British Isles.

Sat 4 September: Visit to **Avoncroft Museum of Buildings** for a conducted tour and to view the Guesten Hall roof.

Wed 15 September: Coach trip to **Coventry**, very different now from the original excursion in 1854. Visits will include the cathedral and old cathedral ruins, Holy Trinity church with restored Doom painting, Whitefriars, Christ Church, Bablake School (old buildings), St Mary's Hall with medieval tapestry, and the medieval houses in Spon Street, and Ford's Hospital.

September (date to be arranged): Visit to **Leigh** to see the magnificent great barn, largest of its type in Britain, with cruck trusses standing practically as first built, and adjacent church, described by Pevsner as 'one of the most interesting in its district'.



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