

Worcestershire Recorder

Spring 2005, Edition 71

ISSN 1474-2691

Newsletter of the
WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Charity No 517092



Free to Members
Membership Secretary Tel: 01684 565190

CONTENTS

Page

Welcome to New Members	2
Chairman's Letter	3
New Library Arrangements	3
Worcestershire Archaeological Society: Committee Members, 2004 – 2005	3
News from WHEAS: The Fleece and Church House	4
Record Office Deposits, October 2004 to February 2005	7
News from the City	7
The Commandery and Fort Royal project	8
A Librarian Looks Back	10
Barbara Ronchetti and the Worcestershire Archaeological Society Library	11
Busier Days at the Guildhall: ... Worcester's Late Victorian City Council	12
Tree-ring dating	15
Roman and Post-Roman Finds from Portway Farm, Sedgeberrow	17
Book Reviews: <i>St Wulfstan and his World</i>	18
<i>Court Rolls of Elmley Castle, Worcestershire, 1347-1564</i>	19
<i>Historic Landscape Analysis</i>	20
<i>The Making of the Medieval History of Evesham Abbey</i>	20
<i>The Stained Glass Windows of A J Davies</i>	21
<i>Roman Villas</i>	21
<i>Irish Megalithic Tombs</i>	21
<i>Sir Edwin Lutyens</i>	21
<i>Midland History. ' "To equall their virtues": Thomas Habington ...'</i>	22
WAS Library Exchanges	22
WAS Lecture Programme, 2004-5	23
Dates for your diary	23
Worcestershire Archaeological Society: Excursions Programme	23

A Warm Welcome to New Members:

Mr G Hopcroft of Worcester
Mr Michael Gardner of Colwall
Mr Douglas Wilks of Callow End
Mr Guy Watson of Worcester
Mr R Batchelor of Fladbury
Mr David Attwood of Himbleton
Mr B Brown of Pershore
Mr David Shaw of Pershore
Mrs Deidre White of Clent
Mr Roy Sheppard of Worcester
Ms Pam Wilkinson of Worcester

The Committee of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society is not responsible for any statements or opinions expressed in the *Worcestershire Recorder*, the authors of the contributions alone being responsible for the same.

Cover Illustration:

Misericord, Great Malvern priory, from John Noake *The Monastery and Cathedral of Worcester* (1866). See p23

Chairman's Letter

Our library has a new home! In January our books were carefully moved to the Pierson Library at University College Worcester. The volumes are housed in modern locked rolling-stacks and the rare books are in a steel secure cupboard. Access is much improved (see below). The University College has been very co-operative.

Following the library's move from the Commandery to University College our Librarian for 21 years, Miss Barbara Ronchetti, has retired. She has loyally and faithfully kept the collection together in difficult circumstances, and we owe her a great debt of gratitude. We expressed our thanks on 21 February when we 'said it with flowers'. The Committee's proposal that Barbara be made an Honorary Member was approved at the AGM.

Our evening meeting in January was well attended with over 40 members and non-members present. One-fifth of the audience was made up of those who cannot attend during the day, so I think it is worthwhile holding some meetings in the evenings, especially as we can park at the Bradbury Centre then. We have an interesting mix of excursions this year. I hope to see as many of you as possible on these outings. We are endeavouring to extend our publicity. Would you help by placing posters in local libraries and shops? They are available at our meetings.

Finally we are embarking on a membership drive to boost our numbers. If you know of anybody who might be interested in our varied lecture topics, please bring them along. We have a 'welcome package' for them.

Dr John Harcup OStJ

New Library Arrangements

Society members continue to have borrowing rights to the Society's collection, in the Peirson Building at University College Worcester. They may also have associate membership, if required, of the University College Library, with a limited borrowing entitlement. Apart from two months in the summer when it operates Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, generally the library is open daily until 9pm, weekdays from 8.30am, Saturdays from 10am and Sundays from 1pm. It is fully staffed weekdays until 5.30pm (5pm on Fridays). Journals are not available for loan. Members are asked to phone in advance 01905 855341 to advise what they wish to look at or borrow, and will need to show identification.

Worcestershire Archaeological Society: Committee Members, 2004 - 2005

Chairman:	Dr John Harcup, 01684 574477
Deputy Chairman:	Brian Ferris, 01905 354224
Deputy Chairman & Programme Secretary:	Joe Hillaby, 01531 650618
Secretary & Membership Secretary:	Dr Janet Dunleavey, 01684 565190
Treasurer:	John Holliday, 01905 620503
Editor (Transactions):	Robin Whittaker, 01905 766353 (work)
Librarian (to January 2005):	Miss Barbara Ronchetti
Archaeological Adviser:	Chris Guy, 01905 21004 (work)
Publicity Officer:	Hal Dalwood, 01905 855455 (work)
Tim Bridges, 01905 25371 (work)	Vince Hemingway, 01905 426428
Ernie Kay, 01684 567917	Mrs Barbara Plant, 01905 21554
Stephen Price, 01905 358880	Mrs Jean Whalley, 01684 564581

We are pleased to welcome three new members onto the Committee:

Hal Dalwood will be known to many members from his work with Worcestershire County Archaeological Services, now WHEAS, from 1988, including his joint editorship of *Excavations at Deansway, Worcester, 1988-89*, reviewed in the last edition.

Ernie Kay, Excursions Administrator, retired after 35 years' local government service in London. He was awarded an MBE 2001 for his work in the Welsh marches: 30 years for Offa's Dyke Association, joint author of 'official' guides on the Offa's Dyke Path, Offa's Dyke Visitor Centre at Knighton; Chair, Mid Border Arts, Presteigne; overseeing redevelopment of Market Hall in Presteigne as arts centre. Previous Council Member of Surrey Archaeological Society, he is also Assistant Secretary (Publicity) of Malvern Concert Club and Events Secretary of Elgar Society (West Midlands).

Stephen Price established the museum at Bewdley in 1972 and recently returned to live in Worcestershire from working in museums in Birmingham, Bristol, Plymouth and Dorset. His is now indulging his main interests, Worcestershire history and architecture, and in particular his life-long concern with the county's vernacular buildings.

News from WHEAS

Medieval Timber-Framed Buildings: The Fleece and Church House

Early timber buildings

The medieval construction technique of timber framing was not the first usage of timber as a building material. Prior to this a number of different techniques were used which are known only from excavation, description or partial survival.

In horizontal log construction, logs were used to produce walls of mass construction, the logs serving as if they were elongated bricks as you see in films about the northwest frontier. The more solid the wall the easier the building could be constructed. This technique required long timbers, more common from softwoods than British hardwood. Earthbound vertical log construction utilised curved, bent and short straight lengths of timber as produced by British hardwoods. In this technique, storey-height walls were obtained by using rows of logs placed upright in a trench. The trench gave stability to the timbers when it was backfilled and so helped to provide a satisfactory wall. The technique of vertical post construction grew from earthbound vertical log construction. Gradually the upright logs grew further and further apart. The narrow gaps were filled with clay or mud but as the gaps grew they became panels or walls between each of the upright posts. The logs were still given stability by being placed in a trench that was then backfilled.

Timber-framed buildings

Cruck construction is one of the simplest forms of building construction. It was once thought to be fairly primitive but more recent research is showing that cruck construction could be extremely sophisticated and survived well into the post-medieval period. In a cruck building the main structure is based on pairs of cruck blades, cut from the same piece of timber. Their use was not confined to timber-framed buildings, they are found in conjunction with stonewalls and other materials.

In box-frame construction a series of corner and intermediate posts rise from sill (horizontal timber at the base of a timber-frame wall) to wall plate (timber laid longitudinally on the top

of a wall) to form a series of bays (vertical division of a building), which are given further definition by tie beams running between each pair of posts across the building. This structure would have the bays filled with tall panels or would be clad with a weather-protective covering.

Post and truss construction is a timber frame where the 'box' is developed from pairs of posts that hold roof trusses (rigid framework of timbers placed across the building to hold the roof timbers). The bays would be filled with square panels or would be clad in weatherboarding or other such weather protection.

The Fleece, Bretforton

The Fleece, a successful pub business, is a timber-framed building standing at the edge of the green. It is grade II listed, owned by the National Trust. The building was surveyed in the late 1980s when the Trust took over and restored the building. The survey concluded that the building dated to the 14th century and was a longhouse.

In February 2004 it was partially destroyed by a fire that broke out in the thatch and spread along the roof. Following the fire the Trust asked for a survey of the damaged building to be carried out to assist the restoration and rebuilding of the pub. An Electronic Distance Measure survey was produced and further survey was undertaken by WHEAS working in partnership with Bob Meeson, Historic Buildings Consultant. The survey consisted of producing measured drawings of the building, onsite analysis and digitising of the drawings in order to produce a structural phase report and phase drawings.

The results of the survey revealed that the building dated to the early 1400s and was probably the home of a customary tenant. The down braces (curved timbers set diagonally to strength a timber frame) and through (or *butt*) purlins (horizontal longitudinal timbers passing through the principal rafters of the truss) were typical of this date. The building was originally built as an open hall with a central hearth. Wind braces (short, curved, timbers connecting purlins and principal rafters), evidence of a high status building, visible on the first floor and smoke blackening on rafters protected from the recent fire were evidence for the existence of the open hall. There was also a floored service wing with living chamber above that was part of the original construction. The floor joists for this were visible on the exterior of the end elevation and wind braces for the solar were also still in existence.



The Fleece Inn, showing wind brace (curved timber on the ceiling slope)

The 16th century saw the insertion of a floor into the hall and the construction of a chimney stack against the south gable of the building to replace the open hearth. Later a single bay, single storey extension was added against the south gable of the former open hall, enclosing the chimney stack. The 17th century saw a two-bay cow byre with stone and timber-framed walls added to the south. After this the north end of the cow byre and the single storey extension were heightened. Possibly in the 18th century the stone east range was constructed.



The medieval floor in the service bay, revealed during restoration

Church House, Areley Kings

Church House is a building in the churchyard of St Bartholomew's Church. Originally listed as grade II, it was re-listed in 2000 as grade II*. It is a small three-bay timber-framed structure with square panels. It is a rural building and is jettied with a continuous jetty (projection of the upper storey beyond the storey below) on 3 sides. Pevsner described it as 'timber framed and small' but went into detail about the rectory adjacent to it. Its proximity to the church suggested a religious connection. It was believed to be a house, due to its name and close proximity to the church and is due to be restored for use as a church hall.

Prior to the restoration a survey was requested, and carried out by WHEAS. This consisted of producing measured drawings of the structure, on site analysis, photographic recording, and dendrochronology in order to produce a structural phase report and phase drawings. The survey results revealed that Church House was constructed in 1536, a date produced by the large number of tree-ring samples taken that all dated to the winter of 1535/36. It was constructed as a 'church house' by the people of the parish to brew and store ale on the ground floor, with space on the first floor to hold 'church ale' celebrations. These celebrations were originally held in the church on feast days (Whitsuntide, Midsummer, etc) but in the 16th century the church authorities banned them from the church and specific buildings were constructed for the purpose. Church House went out of use as a 'church house' in the late 17th century but was still used by people of the parish as a meeting place.

In the mid 1700s the building was repaired and converted into a school. This required the removal of the ground floor partition. In 1789 the rector, needing a stable, closed the school, put in a brick floor and used the first floor as a hayloft. About 1820 the building was used for the stabling of horses of people going to church and a brick-built grooms room was added to the south gable. About 1890 a brick extension was built against the south gable to house the bier. In the mid 20th century the building was renovated for use as a scout hall. The late 1970s saw its sympathetic restoration as a church hall.

Shona Robson-Glyde, WHEAS

Record Office Deposits, October 2004 to February 2005

The following are deposits recently received by the Worcestershire Record Office:

- 14,131 Late 20th-century photographs, programmes and other printed items relating to the Worcester Girls Grammar School
- 14,134 Records of Norton and Lenchwick School, including logs books 1874-1988
- 14,152 Deeds relating to the site of the former Gaumont Cinema in Worcester, 1713-1955

There has also been a significant deposit from the library of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society as part of the larger reorganisation. This is held as Accession 14,162 and comprises photographic collections, primarily the Holland-Martin and Burder collections, and a number of books which include copious manuscript annotations by authors, such as those of Edwin Lees, the well-known Worcestershire botanist. The photographs are mainly 19th-century and are not restricted to Worcestershire. Those in the Holland-Martin albums, for instance, include many architectural studies.

Once more work has been done on these deposits a further note will be published in the *Recorder*.

Robin Whittaker

News from the City

Overall, 2004 was a relatively quiet year for archaeological fieldwork in Worcester, though the early months of 2005 have continued the upward trend seen in the last few years.

In the city centre, archaeological recording in the High Street has continued to turn up interesting remains, including localised areas (between street surfaces) where organic materials such as leather are preserved. Nearby, at the Guildhall, a watching brief on excavation of a lift pit recorded a massive stone foundation, believed to be that of the medieval Guildhall, and extensive survival of worked timbers (reused in the 1720s building) which are likely to be from a partial rebuild of the Guildhall in around 1600. The City Council is about to appoint consultants to prepare a Conservation Statement for the Guildhall, which will guide future works and uses of the buildings and site.

A long-running watching brief took place between College Street and Severn Street during replacement of gas mains for Transco. Medieval street surfaces and other deposits were recorded along much of the line. Dumped rubble layers recorded in Edgar Street may support Nigel Baker and Dick Holt's suggestion that this street was formed as a causeway, probably across the Roman defensive ditch. Further south, a dump of red marl below Severn Street has been tentatively identified as part of a defensive bank, though currently undated.

Archaeological interventions in advance of or during developments at 32-34 Lowesmoor, Pierpoint Street, the Worcester College of Technology, Deansway, and at All Saints Road, have all recorded medieval remains.

The proposed redevelopment of the Royal Worcester Porcelain site presents perhaps the biggest challenge that the conservation and archaeological services in Worcester have faced for several years. The buildings on the site, most of which will need adaptation for new uses, form

one of the most important complexes of porcelain-making structures in Britain, in continuous use for over 200 years. The Pan Grinding Shop (listed II*) is one of only two to survive in Britain – much of the grinding machinery is still intact. The proposed changes here have focused attention on the historical development of the site, which has been poorly researched in the past. Following appraisal of the buildings and records it is now possible to identify the main phases of construction and the architects involved.

However, the site is also rich in below-ground archaeological remains. It lies on the west bank of the former Frog Brook, and water-management features including the medieval City Ditch are expected. A considerable length of the medieval City Wall lies within the site, including a corner tower, as does the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval St Peter's church, with its accompanying graveyard. An initial phase of archaeological field evaluation is underway, and has recorded Roman occupation, potential Anglo-Saxon activity and medieval structures, including part of the City Wall.

Beyond the city centre, field evaluation of a cropmark site just east of the new Infirmary suggested that it may have been a Roman enclosure, while at Windermere Drive, Warndon (the former Elbury Mount School), evaluation produced evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of burnt areas, perhaps a cooking site, and a single flint.

Finally, English Heritage and Worcester City Council are funding the production of a Conservation Management Plan for the City Walls and other parts of the medieval defences. The draft plan is expected to go out to public consultation in late spring.

The Commandery and Fort Royal project

As reported in *The Recorder* 70, Worcester City Council has been granted just under £1M from HLF towards a £1.4M refit and redisplay of the Commandery. A further stage of works is planned to take in Fort Royal.

The Commandery displays currently concentrate on Worcester's part in the Civil War, especially the Battle of Worcester in 1651, and to a limited extent on occupants of the building. This will change dramatically, and the new display will focus on the history of the Commandery, and how the various uses of the buildings over the years have affected the buildings themselves. This complex story will be told through six layers reflecting significant changes at the site.

The **Monastic Hospital** (1480) focuses on the extensive rebuilding around this time. The **'Tudor Makeover'** (1550) shows the Commandery becoming a private house. The **Royalist Army headquarters** (1651) will continue the Civil War theme and allow better links with Fort Royal. In the **Georgian Period** the Commandery was one of several gentry estates with large gardens on the SE side of Worcester. The **College for the Blind** (1880) will show the site moving away from domestic use. **Littlebury's Printworks** (post 1945) also allows a focus on the conservation of the buildings.

Currently an oral history project is underway, involving many people who have lived or worked at the Commandery during the 20th century. The buildings will be closed for refurbishment from summer 2005 until reopening in 2006 (date to be announced). Works will include re-roofing the area of the Painted Chamber to ensure that the late medieval wall-paintings are not damaged by the elements, and the provision of access to the first floor with lifts in both main wings.



Painted Chamber: Martyrdom of St Erasmus

Some interpretation work will be carried out on Fort Royal, and landscaping works in the Commandery grounds.

There will also be an archaeological excavation in the grounds of the Commandery, focusing on parts of the medieval complex demolished in the 18th and 19th centuries. The public is invited to take part in the excavation, which will run six days a week (Tuesday – Sunday) from June 21 – July 31 this year, and a similar period next. There will also be a programme of schools activities and visits, and an outreach worker will be working with local community and youth groups.

Further details will be appearing in the press and on the Worcester City Museum website (www.worcestercitymuseums.org.uk) in due course. In the meantime, if you are interested in taking part in the excavation, please write to: Archaeological Excavations 2005, The Commandery, Sidbury, Worcester WR1 2HU or email archaeology@cityofworcester.gov.uk

James Dinn

St Erasmus or Elmo, d c300: Bishop of Formiae in Campania where Gregory the Great (c540-604) attests his relics were venerated. When Formiae was attacked by Saracens in 842 his body was translated to Gaeta whose patron he remains. Almost nothing is known about Erasmus, but his cult spread until in the 15th century he was invoked as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. According to his legend he was a Syrian bishop, persecuted by Diocletian: scourged with leaded thongs, he then had resin, sulphur, lead, pitch, wax and oil poured over him, all to no avail. Rescued by an angel, he eventually died at Formiae. He was adopted as the patron of sailors, hence St Elmo's fire, because he showed no fear of storms, preaching undeterred by a thunderbolt. The windlass was probably chosen for his emblem as the sailor's patron and later misunderstood as an instrument of torture. Hence his secondary patronage of all, especially children with colic or similar. His feast day is 2 June.

Here Erasmus is shown having his intestines wound out by a windlass. This is one of a series of probably early-16th-century wall paintings in the Chamber. Others include the martyrdom of St Thomas, the Crucifixion and the Weighing of Souls, with the Trinity on the ceiling.

A Librarian Looks Back

Having taken early retirement from Birmingham University library in October 1984, I became Society Librarian shortly after, filling a vacancy of some 10 years. In 1984 the library passed out of the care of the Society and into the custody of Worcester City Museum. A contract of responsibilities and custody was drawn up between the two institutions and the Society was thus reassured that the library could be safeguarded and made accessible to members without the worry of storage and custody.

It was in 1984 that Robin Whittaker, an archivist at the County Record Office, and Clive Beardsmore, Keeper of Archaeology for the City Museum, rescued the library from the basement of Worcester City library. This library had itself been split off in 1974 from the integrated City Museum and Library complex and put under the custody of the County Council. There had been a division on the committee, with some members viewing the library as a liability and wishing to sell it. Since the loss of the Thompson Trust rooms in 1975, the library had had no home and the city library now needed the shelf space. Fortunately the Society's library was not sold and the curator of the City Museum, Henry Middleton, authorised its relocation to the museum. Clive Beardsmore organised its removal to the Commandery into one of the rooms used by the archaeological section. Very good bookshelves were bought by the City Museum to house it. At the time Tim Bridges, the present Museum Collections Manager, was working in the museum's archaeological section; when Clive Beardsmore left he succeeded him as Keeper of Archaeology. After getting the collection all transferred and shelved, the outdated, duplicated typescript subject catalogue of 1966 had to be updated. A new card catalogue by author and subject, and the reclassification of some of the books was the next priority.

I agreed to Clive Beardsmore's request to take over the library work involved. The books were carefully reclassified and labelled using Dewey's 16th edition (a copy given to the Society by the city library). They were classified in a way that practising archaeologists would find most satisfactory. The collection started to grow. New exchanges were built up with other societies – a field that could be further explored. This was undertaken because it was decided that the major strength and use of this library was in its journal collection. Subscriptions were taken out to the major national archaeological journals. Donations to the library were encouraged and resulted in many small gifts of interest and use, numerous guidebooks and pamphlets, but also in major gifts from Canon and Mrs Leatherbarrow, Philip Barker, Audrey Pettigrew, Diana and Roy Scott, Margaret Trier, Ron Mummery and Grace Judge. These gifts were invaluable in filling gaps in the collection.

The result was that the library needed extra space. In 1991 it moved to Queen Elizabeth House. Unfortunately the low ceilings required some of the tall bookshelves to be shortened to fit. Tim Bridges encouraged Society members to act as volunteers to help bring the collection up to modern library standards, labelling the journal runs, shelving, classifying the huge quantity of guide books and copying catalogue cards to complete the author catalogue. Tim reunited the Hore collection of prints, papers and paintings. Donald Anderton and Toni Wale were key volunteers in cataloguing the contents. Other indices followed. Pauline Ratcliffe indexed some of the Holland Martin boxes of plates and the Homery Folkes collection of cuttings, and Margaret Gent indexed the *Transactions* of the Society by people and places.

In 1998 the library moved back to the Commandery where it was housed in the old workshop rooms by the canal. More bookshelves were bought. The future of the library again came under question in 2001 when the finances of the Society were once again in some difficulty.

This year, after Dr John Harcup, the Chairman of the Society, and Joe Hillaby had negotiated with University College Worcester's librarian over the transfer of the library into their custody, the move was finalised on 17 January, and the library now has a secure future. All the catalogues of the books and journals are now in their hands with the hope that they will be produced in e-catalogue form in the coming year. The responsibility of caring for, insuring and servicing the bulk of the collection is now in the hands of University College Worcester. The Holland Martin photographs and other original documents have been transferred to the County Record Office on loan, and the Aston and Hore collections remain on loan to the City Museum.

The greatest asset of the Society's library will now be in the research work that can be undertaken by scholars making maximum use of the library in a recognised centre of learning.

Barbara Ronchetti

See also Canon Buchanan-Dunlop's 'A Hundred Years, 1854-1954', reprinted 2004 to commemorate the Society's Sesquicentennial, and Robin Whittaker's 'Worcestershire Archaeological Society 1955-2004', *Transactions* 2004.

Barbara Ronchetti and the Worcestershire Archaeological Society Library

Barbara first came to work in the Archaeological Society library in summer 1984. Recently retired from Birmingham University Library, she threw herself into completing the unpacking and shelving of the books and journals, which had recently been moved from the basement of Worcester City Library to the Commandery and the second floor office of the Museum's Keeper of Archaeology by Clive Beardsmore and Robin Whittaker. The enormous tasks of re-cataloguing the books and journals and providing a workable index began. Always mindful of how the books would be used, Barbara would regularly consult myself and others about where we might try to look for a particular volume. This, coupled with Barbara's own experience and knowledge of archaeology and history, has meant that she has been able to make well-informed decisions about the organisation of the library.



Barbara Ronchetti

The library has gone from strength to strength under Barbara's care. She has devoted at least one afternoon a week to looking after the library over the past twenty years and has become a familiar presence in the Museum. Fortified with coffee and chocolate biscuits, Barbara has spent many hours in the often cramped confines of the various rooms which have housed the library, with heaps of books and journals beside her, reading and taking in the essence of their content as she found homes for them on the all-too-short lengths of shelving. Barbara has also used a keen eye to comb publishers' booklists as well as numerous second-hand bookshops and book fairs to build up the Society's collection, always looking for something to fill a gap at a bargain price. Many of the gifts made by members to the library have also been successfully negotiated by Barbara, who has responded to offers of books with great enthusiasm for how they would improve the library, but always with enormous sensitivity for the donor's wishes. Barbara's enthusiasm for the library has encouraged the several volunteers who have worked on it over the years but particularly in the 1990s when it was housed at Queen Elizabeth House. Under her expert guidance guide books were indexed, journals renumbered, and new catalogue cards produced. Barbara has also dealt with a great number of enquiries by letter, telephone and in person from society members, as well as the public, about the library and its content, never failing to give much helpful advice. We are indeed fortunate to have had the services of such an excellent professional librarian for all these years.

In between her days working on this library and pursuing her great interests in art and historic toys, Barbara has also found time at various points to help with the libraries and collections of Worcester Cathedral, West Mercia Police Museum, St George's Roman Catholic Church and the Worcester Doll and Toy Club. We are delighted that she plans to continue to look after the books and journals here at the City Museum and Art Gallery, to which she has brought a sense of order whilst working on the Society's library. For all these valuable voluntary works in the community Barbara was awarded the MBE in 1998. Her service to the Society has also extended to other duties on the committee, hard work behind the scenes at events, and being a great supporter of lectures and excursions. It has long been a frustration to Barbara that, whilst housed at the Museum, the Library has been underused by the membership and little known to the public. Poor access to rooms at the Commandery has been a particular problem. So it will be a lasting tribute to Barbara's meticulous and devoted work that the Library will now be available to all for use and enjoyment at University College Worcester, where it will be cared for by professionals for a long time to come

Tim Bridges

Busier Days at the Guildhall: The Widening Influence of Worcester's Late Victorian City Council

When he died in 1877 Richard Wolff the town clerk was accorded a splendid 'sgraffito' memorial in the Cathedral though it was his successor, Samuel Southall, who came to wield the real influence. The records of Worcester Corporation for these later Victorian years reveal the Guildhall's much closer involvement in local life. Paying for it through extra rates and increasing public expenditure however was a different matter and the enthusiasm decidedly less obvious.

Most of the Corporation's traditional duties remained and so the pay roll still included a number of historic posts. The Mayor's Officer, in former days the policing supremo, was paid £15 a quarter with an additional £5 for being Inspector of Weights and Measures. The Bellman

was Worcester's version of town crier and performed the task of publicising through the streets 'all matters not of an objectionable nature', for which he was paid a shilling every time.

Financial accounts reveal an intensification of many council activities. They show increasing amounts of money spent on functions like street cleaning and the laying of pavements, where incidentally large numbers of heavy horses were deployed. In fact there is repeatedly a whiff of the stables about certain items of expenditure. We find a local dealer, J Barnett, receiving £128 in one quarter for horse fodder, also a substantial amount to the veterinary surgeon. To F.J.Hall there is payment for horse medicines, and to W.S.Carless for shoeing the Corporation's horses.

Much greater amounts were now required for funding both policing and health. Looking at the detail we note that there were charges on the revenue for the cost of maintaining and washing prisoners in jail and the upkeep of juvenile offenders at reformatory establishments. In 1902 for instance there were thirty-seven youngsters at so-called 'industrial schools', including the training ship 'Formidable' which was permanently anchored off Portishead. The Council also met the cost of conveying certain people to hospital, and certain patients were entitled to the provision of meat, bread and milk during their stay.

Public Health

Public health was now a serious responsibility. Numbered amongst the officers of the City Council was a public analyst, Horace Swete, who at monthly intervals pronounced on the quality of the local tap water. For April 1889 he found it perfectly acceptable and drinkable, though his analytical report contains alarming remarks about the colour: 'deep amber with sediment and turbid and milky with Kaolin'.

The water works at Barbourne, constructed years ago, had done little to allay public criticism. There were loud complaints about both the sufficiency of the water supply and its impurity. Although in council debates these were dismissed as 'sentimental', one of the Corporation's main advisors, G.H.Ogston, was forced to admit that Worcester water contained worrying amounts of animal pollution, as proved by the presence of Albumenoid Ammonia - which existed at twice the level contained in the Thames supply to London. Put frankly, the Council could no longer dodge the risk to health. They had little choice but to install a more effective filtering system for Worcester's water and at the same time search for additional sources of supply to satisfy increasing demand and the needs of an expanding population.

The Corporation's obligations as an 'Urban Sanitary Authority and Burial Board' went even further. In 1892 there was serious concern about the return of cholera, particularly from Russian leather skins destined for the local glove industry and imported through the heavily infected port of Hamburg. Government ministries had also started to adopt a more hectoring tone on health matters and there were stiff penalties if their regulations were not heeded.

It seemed as if miles of new sewers were being laid right across Worcester but even that was not enough. A top government official, Colonel Ducat, decreed that the City simply did not have sufficient installations for the disposal of its sewage. Councillors and officials would be required to find out even more about modern civil engineering and what it had to offer, including flushing tanks and special ventilation shafts for dispersing the dangerous build up of sewer gas.

A sewage works was finally constructed off Bromyard Road upon land bought from Earl Beauchamp, not on the more cost effective site originally identified at Diglis, apparently because local residents along Bath Road raised many objections about the possible stink. The

Council gave in on that occasion but generally the voice of Council authority was being heard more frequently. It appointed a Petroleum and Explosives Inspector for enforcing new government safety regulations and installed a further inspector in the Guildhall back yard for the obligatory testing of Worcester's many gas meters. Gas supply was proving an important issue and in 1889 the local gas company was warned their recent hike in gas prices was decidedly unwelcome. Gas consumption had increased at an alarming rate - 60 million cubic feet in the last thirteen years - and local people depended upon it heavily.

Policing

Another fact of life was the growing power of the police. The resignation of the Chief Constable in 1890 on health grounds whilst under serious investigation was cleverly staged-managed to cause the minimum fuss. But the underlying trend was completely one way. In a big change, summons and warrants of the Court were no longer issued by the Mayor's Officer in his role as High Constable. After the Police Act of 1890 they were now served by the Chief Constable. And even if the extent of crime had not increased, members of the Council's Watch Committee appeared determined to do more about low-level offences like the street betting which was rife amongst 'under 18' youths.

A serious fraud which never came before the courts was what we might describe as the case of the 'City Council Manure'. A sixteen-page report compiled in 1890 records how massive piles of dung from the Cattle Market and Council stables had been sold time after time without keeping any proper accounts. Mismanagement went back years with the sum of £8,200 having gone adrift, of which £7,380 was finally recovered. The successful ferreting investigation by the Council owed a great deal to the sharp accounting work of Hubert Leicester, the great friend of Elgar. In the end the Council brought a charge of gross negligence against four minor officials who were publicly shamed and censured.

Education

A more elevated Council preoccupation was schooling for the city's children. Hounds Lane was the largest of the new category of board school, built by government edict under the provisions of the 1870 Education Act. This was an establishment financed mainly from the rates and managed by an elected school board, operating from the Guildhall. Within its spacious and draughty gothic spaces some of the poorest children in the city were rigorously drilled in the three R's within the context of a limited curriculum. In 1903 the council published a 30-years' assessment of the work of the Worcester School Board which gave fascinating insights into the early story of Hounds Lane. School inspector F.T. Spackman from the Guildhall appears to have provided firm but sympathetic and kindly guidance. He certainly would not have shared the opinion of that local 'big wig', John Willis-Bund, that teachers were 'whining mendicants'. At Hounds Lane extra curricular activities and treats were organised for desperately poor pupils and the huge problem of 'mitching' or truancing was confronted full on. In 1885 a terrible winter accompanied by the ravages of economic slump brought even greater hardship to certain parts of Worcester. The school board dealt with the problem by arranging cooked meals for many children. A small property adjacent to Hounds Lane School was requisitioned as a special kitchen and for the next twelve years the local kids were regularly able to tuck into breakfasts or nourishing meals of Irish stew followed by jam roly-poly.

The Worcester council was also involved in pushing for a more effective system of secondary education. Local business had joined in the national concern about the alleged inadequacy of the secondary school curriculum and the possible link with a sagging economy, and in 1889 the Chamber of Commerce decided to back a resolution in the council chamber calling for the

amalgamation of Worcester's two endowed foundations: the Cathedral School and the Royal Grammar. It proved a sensitive topic. The modernisers argued that both schools were too small to be effective, but fierce partisan loyalties doomed the project to failure.

What would now become the educational focus for change? The council decided to revive the earlier scheme for an educational institute, first mooted in 1884. Driven on by an energetic Library and Museum Committee, the concept of a multi-purpose building for library, museum, artistic and technical education looked highly attractive. Matching finance was levered out of so-called Enfranchisement Funds as well as rents from council properties in Bridge Street; the rest raised by public subscription for a Victoria Institute to mark the Queen's Jubilee. Here was one of those rare times when Worcester was on the move!

Jeff Carpenter

Further reading:

The *City of Worcester Year Books* for the 1880's and 90's include reports of the committees.

Review of the Work of the Worcester School Board 1871- 1903 (1903)

Life and Letters of Mandell Creighton D.D. Vol.1 (1903)

Dr Janet Dunleavy, 'Suburban Residential Development in Worcestershire during the Bye - Law Period, 1866-1939', *TWAS* 3S 19 (2004) 175-99

Bill Gwilliam *Old Worcester: People and Places*

Tree-ring dating

Tree-ring dating relies on a few simple, but quite fundamental, principals. Firstly, as is commonly known, trees (particularly oak trees, the most frequently used building timber in England) grow by adding one, and only one, growth-ring to their circumference each, and every, year. Each new annual growth-ring is added to the outside of the previous year's growth just below the bark. The widths of the annual growth-rings are largely, though not exclusively, determined by the weather conditions during the growth period (roughly March -September). In general, good conditions produce wider rings and poor conditions produce narrower rings. Thus, over the lifetime of a tree, the annual growth-rings display a climatically influenced pattern. Furthermore, and importantly, all trees growing in the same area at the same time will be influenced by the same growing conditions and the annual growth-rings of all of them will respond in a similar, though not identical, way.

Secondly, because the weather over any number of consecutive years is unique, so too is the growth-ring pattern of the tree. The pattern of a short period of growth, 20, 30 or even 40 consecutive years, might conceivably be repeated two or even three times in the last one thousand years. A short pattern might also be repeated at different time periods in different parts of the country because of differences in regional micro-climates. It is less likely, however, that such problems would occur with the pattern of a longer period of growth, that is, anything in excess of 54 years or so. In essence, a short period of growth, anything less than 54 rings, is not reliable, and the longer the period of time under comparison the better.

The third principal of tree-ring dating is that, until the early- to mid-19th century, builders of timber-framed houses usually obtained all the wood needed for a given structure by felling the necessary trees in a single operation from one patch of woodland, or from closely adjacent woods. Furthermore, and contrary to popular belief, the timber was used "green" and without seasoning, and there was very little long-term storage as in timber-yards of today. This fact has been well established from a number of studies where tree-ring dating has been undertaken in

conjunction with documentary studies. Thus, establishing the felling date for a group of timbers gives a very precise indication of the date of their use in a building.

Tree-ring dating relies on obtaining the growth pattern of trees from sample timbers of unknown date by measuring the width of the annual growth-rings. This is done to a tolerance of 1/100 of a millimeter. The growth patterns of these samples of unknown date are then compared with a series of reference patterns or chronologies, the date of each ring of which *is* known. When the growth-ring sequence of a sample ‘cross-matches’ repeatedly at the same date span against a series of different relevant reference chronologies the sample can be said to be dated. The degree of cross-matching, that is the measure of similarity between sample and reference, is denoted by a “*t-value*”; the higher the value the greater the similarity. The greater the similarity the greater is the probability that the patterns of samples and references have been produced by growing under the same conditions *at the same time*. The statistically accepted fully reliable minimum *t-value* is 3.5.

However, rather than attempt to date each sample individually it is usual to first compare all the samples from a single building, or phases of a building, with one another, and attempt to cross-match each one with all the others from the same phase or building. When samples from the same phase do cross-match with each other they are combined at their matching positions to form what is known as a “site chronology”. As with any set of data, this has the effect of reducing the anomalies of any one individual (brought about in the case of tree-rings by some non-climatic influence) and enhances the overall climatic signal. As stated above, it is the climate that gives the growth pattern its distinctive pattern. The greater the number of samples in a site chronology the greater is the climatic signal of the group and the weaker is the non-climatic input of any one individual.

Furthermore, combining samples in this way to make a site chronology usually has the effect of increasing the time-span that is under comparison. As also mentioned above, the longer the period of growth under consideration, the greater the certainty of the cross-match. Any site chronology with less than about 55 rings is generally too short for satisfactory analysis. To obtain sufficient data, to allow for problem samples, and to overcome the possibility of inadvertently sampling reused timbers, it is necessary to core something in the order of 10 to 12 different timbers in each building, or phase of building to be dated.

At a slightly more technical level, it might be pointed out that the computerised cross-matching method does not simply rely on the actual, or ‘raw’ width of the rings alone. Instead, it turns the width of each ring in to a ratioed, or proportional, width of the previous ring’s width. You might imagine two trees growing close to each other at the same time under slightly different conditions. One tree might produce wider rings, relatively, than the second tree. Thus, although both have been growing for, say, 100 years, and both have 100 rings, one will have a larger circumference than the other. However, although of apparently different widths, the relative, or proportional, growth of the rings in both will be the same.

This introduces a second point of concern to dendrochronologists. Many people think that large timbers have more rings than small ones. While this is often the case, it is not always so. Sometimes large timbers are big because the tree has produced very wide rings each year and has reached a useable size in 30-40 years. Such a tree will have too few rings for analysis. A tree that has produced narrow rings each year may take 60 years to reach a useable size and as such will have enough rings.

Robert Howard (Archaeology Department Nottingham University)

Roman and Post-Roman Finds from Portway Farm, Sedgeberrow

The late Edward A. (Ted) Price, lived in Sedgeberrow for many years and took a keen interest in the archaeology of the area, undertaking a number of fieldwork projects and publications with the author for the *Recorder*, *West Midlands Archaeology* and *WAS*. A number of his books on the history and archaeology of the West Midlands are to be donated to the WAS and Worcester University College Library. (This bequest when finalised will be detailed in the *Recorder*). Shortly before his death the author was asked to help sort out and archive his archaeological finds and discovered material from one unpublished site.

During 1987 the author and the late Edward A. Price fieldwalked an area of arable land at Portway Farm (SP 023 383), along the southern side of Main Street, Sedgeberrow. Previous fieldwork in this locality has revealed prehistoric, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds. Archaeological investigation of the area due west of this field during 1998-99 revealed several field ditches, probably of prehistoric date, various late Iron-Age and Romano-British ditches, and a post-Roman Holloway.

Fieldwalking revealed 109 sherds, plus fragments of post-medieval bricks, clay roof tiles, one angular fragment of red sandstone, various fragments of burnt limestone brash and two small, struck flint flakes of prehistoric date. Of the pottery 94 sherds, or 86%, consisted of orange fabric, Romano-British Severn Valley ware (1st- 4th century AD), the rim forms consisting of bowls, storage jars and tankards. The remaining 14% of the pottery consisted of:

1. Other Romano-British wares: locally made grey fabric coarse wares 4.5%, 1 (0.9%) sherd of locally made shell tempered ware of either late Iron Age or Romano-British date, and 1 rim (0.9%) sherd of a thick walled grey fabric storage jar with leached shell inclusions.
2. Medieval/Tudor wares: Malvern Chase ware of 14th- to 16th-century date (orange fabric greenish-brown lead glaze) 4.4%, plus 1 (0.9%) sherd in orange/grey fabric with green lead glaze which is probably a variation of Malvern Chase ware.
3. Post-medieval, 2.4% sherds of 18th century Staffordshire slip ware, orange fabric with an internal black lead glaze.

The presence of surface finds across the area east of the 1998-99 archaeological investigation confirms that the area of Romano-British settlement is larger than previously realised. The pattern of settlement probably consisted of a series of dispersed farmsteads surrounded by ditched field and stock pens. The vast majority of the Romano-British sherds are Severn Valley ware, typical of assemblages recovered from other local sites. The exact duration of the Romano-British settlement cannot be established from the material recovered as it included no closely datable vessel forms or fabrics. However, the absence of any late Roman pottery such as Oxford Ware red colour coat suggests that the settlement may have been mainly of early Roman date (1st-2nd century AD). The presence of the medieval and post-medieval finds is probably due to the practice of dumping domestic rubbish on the manure heap, before it was spread on the fields. The finds will be donated to the County Museum.

Bruce Watson

With thanks to Mr A. Stow for permission to fieldwalk his land.

References

Buteux, V, 2000 Archaeological Investigations at Main Street, Sedgeberrow, *Trans Worcs Archaeol Society* (3rd Series) 17, 111-24.

Those who attended the sesquicentennial dinner will be interested to read that *Monastic Landscapes* by **James Bond**, reviewed *Recorder* 69, has been voted Archaeological Book of the Year (2004). Our congratulations to James, one of our longest-standing members.

Book Reviews

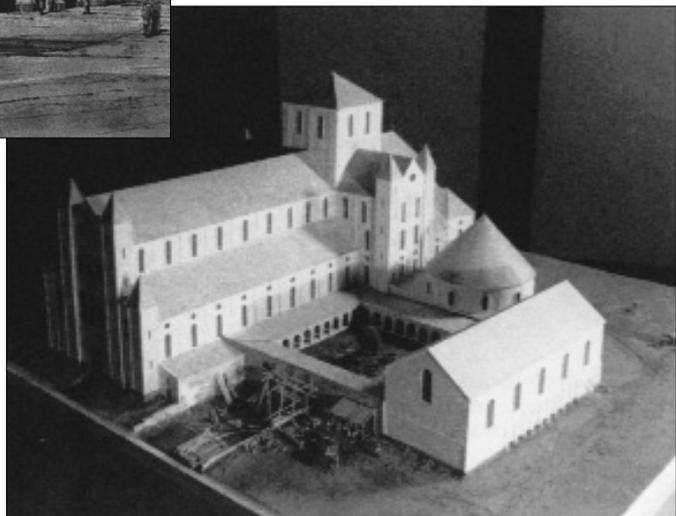
St Wulfstan and his World ed J.S.Barrow & N.P.Brooks, Studies in Early Medieval Britain 4 (Ashgate, 2005) 43 b&w illustrations & 7 music examples

Most of the eleven papers in this volume originated as contributions to three symposia which formed part of the activities held in 1995, the novocentenary of the death of St Wulfstan. Emma Mason published a biography of Wulfstan five years before. This book brings together contributions by scholars over a wide range of fields.

Philip Barker, who also helped to produce the splendid exhibition of Wulfstaniana in the Romanesque chapter house, reconstructs Wulfstan's cathedral. This deals not only with his crypt but also numerous remains elsewhere which 'enable us to say with certainty that his church was as wide as the present church, the nave was as long, the western transepts were the same area as those which replaced them'. His text is supplemented by some 20 photographs and eight diagrams, including Peter Scholefield's conjectural perspective drawing and conjectural model, illustrated here with his permission.



Left: Conjectural perspective drawing of Wulfstan's cathedral



Right: Conjectural model of Wulfstan's cathedral

Richard Gameson discusses some of the books of Wulfstan and his monks, showing that Old English, not Latin, was central to Worcester's literary culture c1050, and that even after 1066 the books which they copied were retrospective. Here again photographs illumine the text.

Appendices of manuscripts and texts associated with the cathedral c1040-c1130 and the scribal connections of Worcester's own manuscripts complete the essay.

Julia Barrow examines forgery production at Worcester between 1000 and the early 12th century in relation to three major cartularies. She shows that, of the 155 full-text charters, leases etc of the *Liber Wigorniensis*, a minimum of 25 are forged or interpolated. Two new directions for forgery are evident in Hemming's cartulary, and the 13th-century cartulary includes the *Altitonantis* charter, 'a triumph of research and historical fiction'. Christopher Dyer considers Wulfstan and his estates; Michael Hare Wulfstan and the mother church of Hawkesbury as a context for the story of Wulfstan and the goose; and John Crook the physical setting of St Wulfstan's cult. The volume closes with a discussion of music at Wulfstan's cathedral. *St Wulfstan and his World* thus has much to offer all who have an affection for his cathedral.

Joe Hillaby

Court Rolls of Elmley Castle, Worcestershire, 1347-1564 ed Robert K. Field, Worcestershire Historical Society, NS20 (2004)

The county is well provided with medieval court rolls. Although the Halesowen rolls have been thoroughly mined, few have been published. WHS published the Hales and Romsley rolls in two volumes, both as Latin transcripts. The first, under John Amphlett's editorship in 1912, covered the years 1270-1307; the second, by R.A. Wilson, additional rolls for 1276-1301 in 1933. In 1963 D.C. Baber prepared for the Society the calendar of the Bromsgrove and Kings Norton rolls, 1494-1504. R.K. Field's edition of the Elmley Castle rolls covers a much wider period, more than two centuries, and offers access to all, for the full text is in translation. The detailed introduction provides the context for appreciation of their content.

This volume will be invaluable for any local historian working on aspects of Worcestershire's medieval economy. There is, however, one limitation. The Elmley Castle series begins only in 1347, the year prior to the arrival of the Black Death in England. There are three rolls for 1348; the last, 31 July, records the deaths of John James, *neif*, and Thomas Spellesburi, *neif*, both holding half a yardland. Monastic chroniclers report the plague's arrival on 24 or 29 June. How rapidly did it spread? The Hereford diocesan registers suggest it arrived in that diocese by March 1349. Certainly it was rampant in Worcestershire, for the next Elmley Castle roll, 16 April 1350, records on seven occasions: 'Still the tenement, or cottage, X held remains (in the lord's hands)'. As the editor explains, by 1380-1 the earls of Warwick responded to the crisis in the same way as the bishops of Worcester, and the abbots of Westminster, by leasing their demesne. In 1402-3 farmers were paying an annual rent of £10 for much of this land, an arrangement continuing in April 1489, in Henry VII's reign.

The index of persons is drawn up with great care. For example family groupings stand out well. Thus we find 18 members of the Dawbeney family, with twelve variants on the name. In the first roll, of 1347, is Agnes, widow, with one messuage and four acres of villein land, on whose death 'accrues to the lord in name of heriot one mare worth 1/2 mark (6s 8d). At the same court Walter, 'servant of the lady', pays 2 marks (£1 6s 8d) for Agnes' holding. The index reveals something of the earl of Warwick's relations with his neighbours, the priors of Worcester. On 6 October 1410 the Elmley Castle jurors presented that 'the way at "le longlane" is deteriorating because water is being turned from its course in default of the prior of Worcester ... (who) has not yet put

it right'. On 16 May 1432 'William Beole, servant of the prior of Worcester, lopped 1 willow at "Edmundesgate" growing upon the lord's soil there, to the great prejudice of the lord'; but on 1 August 1432 'William Hoylbury, cellarer of Worcester priory, and a servant of the same William, unjustly and against the peace of the lord king and the dispossession of Richard earl of Warwick, cut down 1 willow at "Edmundesgate" growing upon the lord's soil there and without licence carried branches of the said willow to Netherton, and afterwards they were arrested by the bailiff of the said earl'!

In addition to indices of persons and places, the editor has provided that most useful of tools, a highly detailed index of subjects. One has immediate access to special interests, whether they are brewing and the regulation of the ale trade, animals such as beasts of the chase (double entry) – boars, bullocks, calves, capons, cattle, colts, cows right through to sows and wethers – or such subjects as the cucking stool, curfew (under by-laws), garnering, gleaning, housebote, plumbers, stubble or whore. Here is a vast store of valuable data, readily available but with none of the tedium of a computer. This index is supplemented by a 4-page glossary for those not quite sure about agistment, cotland, fardel, neif, 'overthwart', wardyn tree or le wynding etc.

In a volume containing 138 court rolls spanning more than 200 years over 300 pages, a list of the rolls, with dates and page references, would have saved those anxious to make full use of the indices much time. It would also have provided, at a glance, the strengths and weakness of this series of rolls in its coverage of the period 1347-1564. This is but a small query about the production of a volume which otherwise stands out in an era when even major university presses sometimes publish volumes where design and binding leave much to be desired.

Joe Hillaby

Historic Landscape Analysis: Deciphering the countryside Stephen Rippon, *CBA Practical Handbooks in Archaeology 16* (2004) £9.50. 170p, 60 illustrations including 8 colour pages

This handbook introduces some of the techniques that archaeologists and others can use to unravel the complex history of the countryside. The subject is considered under four main headings: understanding regional variation in landscape character; approaches and methods; application and uses; and towards a model of good practice. Case studies demonstrate practical application for a wide range of uses, at national and regional levels. Aimed at a wide audience, this useful handbook is designed to show how the broad principles of historic landscape analysis can be used alongside landscape archaeology and history.

The Making of the Medieval History of Evesham Abbey Jane Sayers, *Worcestershire Historical Society Occasional Publications No 10* (2004)

Jane Sayers provides a useful summary of the works of three hagiographer historians of Evesham abbey: Byrhtferth, monk of Ramsey; Dominic, later prior of Evesham; but principally Thomas of Marlborough, whose *History and Lives and Deeds* of its abbots was prompted by bishop Mauger's attempt to make a formal episcopal visitation in 1202, despite its claims to exemption. Figures include a 12th-century lectern from the time of Abbot Adam, now in Norton church but once in Evesham abbey. More detailed information may be found in *Thomas of Marlborough's History of the Abbey of Evesham* ed & trans by Sayers & L. Walker (2003) in the Oxford Medieval Text Society series.

The Stained Glass Windows of A J Davies Roy Albutt (2005). £16.95, available from the author, 11, Great Calcroft, Pershore, Worcs WR10 1QS.

Archibald John Davies (1877-1953), educated in Birmingham, was trained at the Birmingham School of Art. In 1906 he established a stained glass studio in the premises of the Bromsgrove Guild where he worked until his death. This book, based on the author's research degree, discusses designs, studio personnel, commissions and patronage, and includes a gazetteer of 240 windows in Britain, bibliography and index. His 50 excellent coloured photographs it should fulfil Roy Albutt's aim of achieving greater recognition for A J Davies' work.

From Shire:

Roman Villas David E. Johnston (5th ed, 2004) £5.99

From earliest days the standard of design and construction was as high as anywhere in the Empire. The term covers a diverse range: the basic Roman 'villa', 'a unique compromise between the circular prehistoric hut and the Roman house with a pitched



- A J Davies memorial window, Bromsgrove United Reform Church

roof'; the country house of a prosperous Briton; a farm; imperial estates; and villa estates. Gadebridge Park in Herts has been tentatively called a 'health farm'; Gatcombe a settlement or even small town. Piddington gives evidence of walls being coloured externally as well as internally. It is now believed that more ambitious villas had at least two storeys. Aisled buildings such as barns, being very common here, are regarded as a British invention. 68 illustrations include one from the Bardo Museum in Tunis. The appended list of villas to visit includes Woodchester, with the largest European mosaic north of Alps.

Irish Megalithic Tombs Elizabeth Shee Twohig (2004) £5.99

Some 1600 'megalithic' tombs are recorded in Ireland, dating from c4000 BC, the four main types being court tombs (412 examples), portal tombs (180), passage tombs (236) and later wedge tombs (543). It is clear that these monuments were not built solely, or even primarily, for burial, but their full significance may never be really understood. This book provides a concise and accessible summary, with glossary, list of sites to visit and reading list.

Sir Edwin Lutyens. An illustrated life ... (1869-1944) Michael Barker (2004) £4.99

Written by a representative of the Lutyens Trust, this brief biography follows the career over more than half a century of England's 'greatest and most prolific architect' since Wren. As well as numerous excellent photographs of his work, there are a couple of touching drawings of Lutyens

The current *Midland History* includes Jan Broadway's article, ' "To equall their virtues": Thomas Habington, recusancy and the gentry of early Stuart Worcestershire'

Thomas Habington, born 1560, was one of Elizabeth I's many godsons and Worcestershire's first topographer. His father bought the manor of Hindlip in 1563. Thomas' elder brother, Edward, was executed for treason and Thomas himself spent six years in the Tower, followed by detention in Worcester gaol. Habington, stung by the comment that the county 'contained few gentlemen of antiquity', sought to prove otherwise in his *Survey of the County of Worcestershire*. For him the leaders of local gentry society were those whose families had held land in Worcestershire for many generations, followed by those with long pedigrees who had recently acquired land in the county. The final group were the new men, risen from the ranks of the yeomanry, or wealthy merchants, lawyers or civil servants. Habington wished to encourage the local gentry to live up to the standards that justified their privilege position. 'I wyshe (Gentellmen) to yoursealfes, that as your ancestors have with credit finished theyre courses you wyll indeavour to equall theyre virtues and your children who succede yee maye exceede yee'. His *Survey* was illustrated and transcribed by Peter Prattinton. In his turn E.A.B. Barnard, editor of our Society's *Transactions* for 25 years from 1924, published *The Prattinton Collection of Worcestershire History* (1931), a copy of which is in the Society's library.

WAS Library Exchanges

Listed below are the societies with whom we exchange journals:

Birmingham & Warwickshire Archaeological Society
Bristol & Gloucester Archaeological Society
Cambridge Antiquarian Society
Chester Archaeological Society
Cornwall Archaeological Society
Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society
Dean Archaeology Group
Derbyshire Archaeological & Natural History Society
Durham & Northumberland Architectural & Archaeological Society
Essex Society for Archaeology & History
Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society
Kent Archaeological Society
Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society
Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, Society for
London & Middlesex Archaeological Society
London University, Institute of Archaeology
North Staffordshire Field Club
Powysland Club (Montgomeryshire Collection)
Radnorshire Society
Shropshire Archaeological & Historical Society
Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society
South Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society
Staffordshire Record Society
Staffordshire Studies
Surrey Archaeological Society
Sussex Archaeological Society
Ulster Archaeological Society
Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society

Woolhope Naturalist Field Club (Herefordshire)
Yorkshire Archaeological Society

Overseas

Amersfoort, Bodermorderzoek Bibliotheek
Saale, Landesamt für Archäologie
Stockholm, Kungl Vitterhetsakademiens Bibliotek
Vienna, Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut
Wurzburg, Universitätsbibliothek

WAS Lecture Programme, 2004-5

On 21 February our Chairman, Dr John Harcup, gave an intriguing lecture, with remarkable photographs, on the misericords of Malvern, Ripple and Worcester. On the front cover is a Malvern misericord circa 1350-1380 showing a home visit by a doctor in human form, which is unique. He holds a flask and is comparing yesterday's specimen with today's. This is the medieval art of urinoscopy. A doctor is usually depicted as a monkey holding two flasks.

Robert Howard's article on tree-ring dating (p15) relates to his lecture; and the excursion on 20 August follows on from David Whitehead's lecture on Hewell Grange.

The **Berkeley Lecture** is at 7.30pm on Monday 11 April. Dr Terry Slater of the University of Birmingham will discuss *The Topography of Worcestershire's Medieval Market Towns*

Dates for your diary:

University of Bristol Adult Summer School, 2-9 July 2005

Offers a choice of one-week residential courses with tuition, social programme and visits:

- Roman Archaeology
- Local History
- Art and Architecture

Contact Public Programmes Office, 8-10 Berkeley Sq, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1HH; tel 0117 928 7172 or ppo-summerhools@bristol.ac.uk

National Archaeology Week 2005, 16-24 July

Following the success of last year's National Archaeology days, this year the happening has been extended from two to nine days. Details are not available at the time of going to press but events will take place at a number of sites in the region during this period.

Worcestershire Archaeological Society. Excursions Programme 2005

The task of arranging, and mainly leading, the Society's summer visits programme has for some years been handled most capably by Brian Ferris. He is now laying down part of this burden. For 2005 there is an Excursions Sub-Committee, each member of which has organised and will lead at least one excursion. Ernie Kay acts as Administrator, keeping the records of who has booked, and who has paid!

Thurs 21 April Elgar & Herefordshire. John Harcup & Ernie Kay.

(Joint Excursion with Elgar Society, West Midlands Branch)

We will follow Elgar's footsteps, and cycle tyre tracks, visiting at least Mordiford, Hereford (seeing the exterior of Plas Gwyn), Eaton Bishop (where the church has fine 14th-century glass), and the black-and-white villages of Weobley and Eardisland.

Monday 23 May Stourport. Robin Whittaker/Stourport Civic Society (evening)

A small town with a very distinct character, Stourport developed in the 18th century out of the growth of the canals and its focal position at the junction of the Severn with major parts of the network. We shall see the historic canal basin and related industrial heritage from its days as a major inland port. It is also important for its river trips and funfairs.

Thurs 30 June Monastic Barns of the Lower Severn Valley. Joe Hillaby

These are no mere tithe barns, but major estate barns. All belonged to great abbeys: St Mary's, Pershore; St Augustine's, Bristol; St Peter's, now the Cathedral, Gloucester; and St Mary's, Worcester. They range widely in size, construction and date, from c1284 to c1515. If time permits we may add Middle Littleton and Evesham abbey estate barn.

Thurs 28 July Kinlet Church & Morville Hall. Brian Ferris.

We first visit Kinlet church, with a half-timbered clerestory and some interesting monuments and glass. Also an external view of Kinlet Hall (by Francis Smith of Warwick) then on to Bridgnorth for a lunch stop. In the afternoon we will visit Morville Hall, a NT property with 18th-century furnishings. Also Morville church, which is mainly 11th-12th century.

Wed 3 August (eve) St. Nicholas, Dormston & St. Peter, Abbots Morton. Tim Bridges.

Two delightful medieval churches in pretty village settings on the edge of the Forest of Feckenham. The key feature of St. Nicholas is the 15th-century timber-framed tower, but it also has interesting furnishings, and the rare survival of a cross head from the churchyard. St. Peter is largely 14th-century, with 19th-century furnishings and some late 16th-century glass.

Sat 20 August Leasowes & Hewell Grange. David Whitehead.

We shall explore The Leasowes at Halesowen, the famous *ferme ornée* landscape created by the poet William Shenstone, 1743-63, and hear about recent excavations of garden structures and the ambitious plans to restore the Park. We then visit the park and gardens of Hewell Grange, to the designs of Capability Brown and Repton, and see the ruins of the early 18th-century hall in one of the county's most spectacular but least known estates.

Tues 20 September Bristol. Stephen Price

We tour the Red House, a remarkable Elizabethan banqueting lodge, and the Georgian House, built at the end of the 18th century by the West Indian sugar plantation and slave owner John Pinney. After lunch we go to the late-17th-century King Street, hopefully inside the Theatre Royal, the oldest continually working theatre in Britain; we view the restored Queen Square, one of the earliest UK planned squares, and finish up at St Mary Redcliffe, "*the fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in England*".

There has been a good response to all excursions but there is still time to book if you are quick! Contact Ernie Kay on 01684 567917.

Items for the next issue should be sent to the Editor, Caroline Hillaby, at The Roughs, Hollybush, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1EU, tel/fax 01531 650618, by 23 September 2005.

