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WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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Free to Members
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A Warm Welcome to New Members:

Mrs Sonia Armstrong, Worcester
 Mrs Chris Bower, Droitwich
 Miss R. Brown, Worcester
 Drs D. & S. Collier, Ombersley
 Mrs J.V. Cox, Shrewsbury
 Mrs Ann Fitzgerald, Bournville
 Mrs Sonia French, Bromsgrove
 Kerry Moreton, Broadway
 Mrs Fenella Smyth, Shelsley Beauchamp
 Mrs P. Walker, Broadwas on Teme

Neither the Committee of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society nor the Editor is responsible for any statements or opinions expressed in the *Worcestershire Recorder*, the authors of the contributions alone being responsible for the same.

Cover illustration:

Royal Worcester Porcelain: the old Bone Mill c1852, where the raw material for the production of porcelain was processed. It has six grinding pans (used to ground bone, clay, flint, feldspar, etc.) three on the first floor and three more on the second floor, all connected vertically with a series of drive shafts which were powered from the floor below in which there are beveled gears which used to be powered by a steam beam engine.

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Chairman's Letter

This is my first note for *The Recorder* since I had the honour to accept the position of Chairman of the Society at the AGM in November 2008. When I say honour, I find it difficult to see how I can follow in the shoes of the recent chairmen, such as Dr Harcup and Stephen Price, both of whom I have known and respected for over 25 years. The same is true of the many members of the Society who have been friends and colleagues over the years.

For those who don't know me, my second job was an enjoyable year recording buildings for Worcester City Museum in the late 1970s. I was then first curator of Malvern Museum and, after a brief interregnum in the south of England, returned to Worcester to work for Freddie Charles on the resurvey of listed buildings in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. I then worked at Birmingham City Museum, and joined English Heritage as an Inspector in 1990.

The Society has a firm foundation with a growing membership, which is one of the areas I hope to be able to develop during my term of office. The number of members is hovering at just under 200, but my ambition is to see that grow in the next three years. Any good ideas as to how to set about the task of attracting more members will be gratefully received.

We have an excellent programme of lectures and visits, ably run by our Programme Secretary and Excursions Administrator respectively. Due to illness I have already stepped in and delivered one of my standby lectures (Kenilworth Castle), and we will have the excitement of visiting to see the new garden there in the summer. Also dear to my heart will be the April visit to the Jewellery Quarter and Matthew Boulton's house at Soho. By the time you receive this edition of the *Recorder* the stamps featuring the great man (it is the bicentenary of his death this year) will have been published.

The *Recorder* has a long tradition of publishing useful and interesting notes on current research in the county and I hope to contribute to it again, as I last did back in 1986, when it was the *Worcester Archaeology and Local History Newsletter* (number 36, about the Old Palace in Worcester).

Although I now live in suburban Birmingham my research interests are very much focussed in Worcestershire, particularly with its timber-framed buildings. I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few years at the lectures and excursions.

Nick Molyneux

The Chairman's Badge

Members will know that our Chairman wears the Badge of Office on all occasions when presiding at Society events, and I thought some notes of the history of the present badge would be of interest. The minute books give us the main details of the story. On 13 November 1935: 'It was decided to strike a new President's badge and Miss Matley Moore was asked to prepare a design. It was agreed that the existing badge be presented to Mrs Berkeley the first lady President of the Society.'

Very quickly after this, on 20 December 1935, the design was approved and the Secretary instructed to get the badge in time for the AGM (on 15 January 1936). At the AGM it is recorded that Mrs Berkeley was presented with the original badge by Mr Barnard.

A figure of £2 13s 5d appears in the accounts for 1936 for 'President's badge', but there is no indication of a manufacturer and, whilst the back of the badge is stamped 'silver', there is no hallmark. There is no mention of why they decided to strike a new badge – was it just so they could present the old one to Mrs Berkeley, or was there another reason and they came up with a nice idea for what to do with the old one? No story concerning this was ever passed on to me by the Matley Moores.

The story has a small complication a decade or so later. At the Committee meeting on 28 March 1951 the following appears: 'The President brought forward the matter of the missing badge. Mr Matley Moore said he had approached Major Thompson in the matter and the Committee unanimously agreed that no blame attached or would attach to Mr Feek for the missing insignia of Office.'

There is no further mention in the minutes of the matter. In a photograph of the Centenary Dinner in 1954 the President clearly seems to be wearing what looks like the present badge. Had it been found? There is no mention of expenditure on a new one in the early 1950s.

And what about the original badge? In the accounts for the first 10 years of the Society there does not appear any expenditure on a badge, or obvious mention of a badge being presented to the Society. However, in October 1923 there is the following entry: 'The Presidential Medal This medal was displayed by the President [E.A.B.Barnard] who pointed out that it was inscribed with the name of Mr John Humphreys F.S.A. and date of Office.' Could this be the earlier badge, and did John Humphreys present it to the Society? Unfortunately, the record is silent.

Robin Whittaker
Hon Editor

Worcestershire Archaeological Society: Committee Members, 2007-8

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Unlocking the Past (South Worcestershire collections)

A recent project has reviewed the archaeological collections of south Worcestershire held by the Almonry Museum in Evesham (collected from about the 1920s onwards), Birmingham City museum (collected on Bredon Hill since 1912), and the County Museum in Hartlebury (collected by the South Worcestershire Archaeology Group c1983-2005). Overall, the bulk of the finds were from excavation, though the majority of the site collections were the result of fieldwalking. Assessment covered 52,031 artefacts (504.314kg+) from a total of 59 sites and, subsequently, detailed analysis stage was focussed on the prehistoric and Roman material from 34 of these sites.

The collections

A total of 23,174 sherds of Romano-British pottery and 47 sherds of prehistoric pottery ranged in date from the Neolithic to the late Roman period.

Prehistoric

A handful of sites produced prehistoric pottery and most of these produced only a few sherds, a Broadway site (Smith 1946; WSM 10944) producing a small, but significant, group of Neolithic grooved ware.

Roman

In contrast to the prehistoric period, there were many assemblages that provided evidence for Roman activity. Most activity on all sites dated predominantly to the 2nd to 3rd centuries, though this could partly reflect limitations in the dating evidence. A number of the assemblages provided firm evidence for activity continuing into the late 3rd or 4th centuries, and sometimes activity could certainly be substantiated well into the 4th century.



Roman Severn Valley ware face-pot from Bredon Hill (WSM 35838/38363)

Significantly the reassessment of the coins found on Bredon Hill (based on surviving archive lists) has led to the recognition of a rare Byzantine coin of Justin I (AD 518-27) which potentially forms part of the important body of evidence for Mediterranean contact with post-Roman western Britain, and in this case extending into the south-west Midlands.

Site status

The Defford assemblage (WSM 30370) was noteworthy for including a Samian ink-well (Ritterling 13), thereby suggesting a higher level of literacy than might ordinarily be expected on a rural site, though nothing else in the assemblage corroborated this special status. Elsewhere there were less clear indications of variability in site status, such as for one of the excavated assemblages from Bredon Hill (WSM 35838).

Contribution to regional research

The Roman pottery of the southern part of the county showed more affinities with the Cotswolds area to the south, and, broadly speaking, the south Worcestershire Roman assemblages also seemed different in composition from those encountered from further north, such as at Worcester. The project has, therefore, been useful for potentially characterising smaller sub-regions in the Roman west Midlands, which could be significant for developing insights into more localised economic, social and cultural identities.

Site assemblages like these, therefore, which have been largely collected by volunteer fieldworkers, can make a hugely significant contribution to the archaeological decision-making process, if the data from them is made available, and especially as opportunities to excavate Roman rural sites are relatively rare. However, some care should also be exercised, as many of these sites are on the free-draining gravels where sites are most easily found through the application of aerial photography, and attention needs also to be strenuously directed towards prospecting for and, similarly, to characterising sites on other types of geology across the region.

Relationship of surface artefacts to the underlying archaeology

Those assemblages linked to cropmark sites formed the focus of an assessment of the composition and character of selected surface assemblages against the backdrop of the buried archaeological structures identified through geophysical or aerial photographic prospection. The aim was to improve the understanding and interpretation of fieldwalking assemblages so that this could contribute to better resource management. However, where fieldwalked assemblages were sufficiently intact for this type of analysis, the density of finds was regarded as too low to justify it, with just one exception (Defford, WSM 30370). Even here, however, it became clear that the data resolution was not sufficient to consider individual (even very large) features being related to surface artefacts, as the routine method of finds collection had been in 20 x 20m quadrats.

Conclusions

A variety of conclusions could be drawn from this large-scale survey of artefacts and their associated archives. At a localised and more site-specific level, the fieldwalking of several sites in the parish of Eckington is instructive, as this fieldwork provided the opportunity to determine that Roman sites seem particularly frequent in this vicinity, though the amount of material culture was usually quite small, perhaps suggesting sites with a short occupation span. The results of the survey have also provided for the first time a regional characterisation of a large number of sites, which will inform future research in the region, and this has been useful for drawing attention to particular differences between north/central and south Worcestershire.

Wherever fieldwork has been undertaken it forms a valuable resource, even where a modest original contribution. However, it was quite often the case that the artefacts survived without the associated field record being fully intact. Such issues relate to the wider world of archaeological archives and their deposition and curation, which have had little prominence compared to other aspects of archaeology in an era when the completion of the site report is more often than not seen as the final culmination of the project. Despite the professionally well appreciated, though less publicly aired challenges in this area, the modern availability of digital data may offer better solutions for the future. Accordingly there is a need to put still more effort into ensuring that the raw data from fieldwork is preserved for future reference, and so it is **recommended** that priority be given to the full physical preservation of any field survey data for future use.

Overall there is a need for methodologies appropriate to the new era of GIS to be applied in any future fieldwalking projects, in terms of collection and recording of finds and the spatial location of survey areas. In particular the current traditional fieldwalking practices should now be reviewed, especially in the light of the requisite field data resolution and what is most appropriate where a GIS-based HER is available, as in Worcestershire. The question of the field resolution of data has turned out, therefore, to be a key one, which could potentially endow the fieldwalking data in the future with greater value. The present study has accordingly **recommended** that in future consideration should be given to the degree of data plotting resolution that might be needed to make maximum use of the data.

This survey has also revealed that the majority of fieldwork, especially the fieldwalking, was undertaken by volunteer fieldworkers. In the interests of continuing to work jointly there is also a need for professional archaeologists to develop better collaborative links with community/local archaeology so that the efforts in this vital area continue to achieve maximum results for archaeology at large.

A copy of the final project report is available online both through the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>, and the Worcestershire County Council online WHEAS library (http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/home/archo_dr_index).

Acknowledgements

The Worcestershire County Historic Environment and Archaeology Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in making available the collections for this project: Adele Ward and Michael Rowe (Almonry Heritage Centre, Evesham); Phil Watson and David Symons (Birmingham Museums Service); and David Kendrick (County Museum at Hartlebury); and past and present members of the South Worcestershire Archaeology Group, especially Peter Price. The project was funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) administered through English Heritage, and thanks are due to Kath Buxton and Helen Keeley (English Heritage).

D Hurst, C J Evans, J Timby & D Williams

News from the City

Work has continued at a number of the large development sites around the city centre – the university campus, new library, Royal Worcester, and Sainsbury's in St Johns.

At the library site, of particular interest has been a deep evaluation trench on the Cattlemarket car park (part of the library development), where for the first time it has been possible to examine part of the Severn floodplain. The sequence here was unexpectedly complex, with evidence of both Roman and medieval industry (including possible bell casting), and ditches and channels of Roman and later date. Among later features were a ditch with 17th-century fills, 19th-century wooden water pipes, and the brick foundations of the Cattlemarket counting house.

Work on the redevelopment of the Worcestershire County Cricket ground has commenced, with the (temporary) demolition of the historic pavilion, following full recording. Shorn of

later additions from various stages in the 20th century, the pavilion, which was built in 1896-98, is to be re-erected close to its original site.

Preparation for the redevelopment of the Lowesmoor Trading Estate (the former Hill, Evans vinegar works) is now underway, with a record being made of all the buildings before they are refurbished, altered or demolished. The site also includes the 19th-century Grainger porcelain works, and a previous phase of evaluation has demonstrated that below ground remains are well preserved here.

Among smaller projects, a watching brief on a water main realignment in Sidbury revealed stonework associated with the city wall. Evaluation of a site in St Johns, close to the Sainsbury's development but within the medieval suburb, revealed a limited range of features. Building recording has also been underway on a group of interesting 18th- and 19th-century houses, shops and other buildings in Lowesmoor.

Ground investigations have been underway on the site of the proposed cycle- and footbridge across the Severn, just downstream from the river navigation locks. On the east bank, one borehole recorded alluvium with organic material, at a depth of between 8.4 and 8.8m below the surface. This is close to the site where in 1844 Jabez Allies reported having found cattle, deer and horse bones, parts of trees, 'fragments of Roman urns and pans of red earth, and a piece of Samian ware' and 'the greater part of a fine Roman urn, of slate-coloured pottery, eight inches high, and twenty-six in circumference', at depths of between 20 and 30 feet (around 6 to 9 m).

James Dinn

For Jabez Allies (bap 1787, d 1856), antiquary, see *ODNB* entry revised by Robin Whittaker.

Other newly-included Worcestershire lives are Helen Ballard {1908-1995}, a noted horticulturist who specialised in hybridizing hellebores and married into the Ballard family of Colwall, represented by Stephen Ballard (1804-1890), the railway engineer, born in Malvern, who tunneled through the Malvern Hills; and Philip Ballard (1870-1952), father of the National Collection of Michaelmas daisies at Old Court Nurseries in Colwall.

Louis Lucien Bonaparte (1813-1891), nephew of Napoleon, was born by chance at Grimley but grew up in Italy. He settled in England after 1850-1, counting Gladstone amongst his friends, and became a noted philologist. Reginald Brian (died 1361) was bishop of Worcester from 1352. In his *Survey of the Cathedral Church of Worcester* (1737) William Thomas has an engraving of Brian's tomb in Worcester Cathedral. It is surmounted by his effigy and depicts his arms - or three piles in point azure - on three escutcheons, the middle one having on the central pile a bishop's mitre with a cross fitchy below.

Hartlebury Castle

The future of Hartlebury Castle, home of the Hurd Library, continues to be uncertain. It was hoped that Worcestershire County Council would purchase the entire building (part of which is occupied on a lease by the County Museum). At a Cabinet meeting on 9 February it was decided that the Council would not proceed to purchase, for political and financial reasons.

The Friends of Hartlebury Castle and the Hurd Library remain determined to do all they can to bring the castle into the public domain and to ensure that the Hurd Library remains at Hartlebury. The Friends therefore decided to set up a Building Preservation Trust with the aim of securing the Castle for future generations. It is hoped that the Trust will be able to acquire and manage the Castle, to preserve it for the future and to ensure the public can enjoy visiting and using this beautiful Worcestershire building.

At breakneck speed the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust has been formed, and it is now a registered charity (No.1127871). It was launched at a packed meeting in the Great Hall at the Castle on 6 March. The meeting was addressed by Nicholas Molyneux, who is very knowledgeable about the history of the Castle. Sue Beeson, Chair of the Trust, gave an impressive presentation about the Trust's plans and Paul Middlebrough, Leader of Wychavon District Council (which is the planning authority) gave warm support.

The County Council has suggested three bidders (the Trust and two commercial bidders) to the Church Commissioners who, as the owners of the building, have the final say. They hope to make a decision by the autumn.

Meanwhile the Bishop of Worcester has demonstrated his commitment to the Hurd Library by asking Christine Penney, former Head of Special Collections at the University of Birmingham and a member of the Friends' Committee from its formation, to be Honorary Hurd Librarian, a post which has been vacant for some time. She will liaise directly with the member of the Church Commissioners' staff who is responsible for the see houses. Cautious optimism has been encouraged by the visits of our first researchers and the enthusiasm of staff at the University of Worcester, who can see great potential for study and teaching in the jewel right on their doorstep.

For more information visit the Trust's website, www.hartleburycastletrust.org; or contact me, 01299 250883, v_wagstaff@yahoo.co.uk

Virginia Wagstaff
FHCHL and Trust Secretary

The following extract comes from an article in the current *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society* by the late Giles Worsley on the 18th-century builder and architect, Stiff Leadbetter, who in 1760 carried out repairs and alterations at Hartlebury Castle for James Johnson, bishop of Worcester:

‘according to his chaplain “The House, Offices, Fences and Park were in a very neglected and bad state; part of the House ruinous; which [the chaplain continues] made it necessary for the present Bishop to repair every part of the buildings, and in most places he has much ornamented and improved it”. A survey plan dated June 1760 is in Leadbetter's hand, and a bill of his for unspecified work totaling £319 5s 11½d survives. Leadbetter was therefore probably responsible for the complete repair of the palace described in detail by the chaplain, and for improvements including the erection of the hall staircase, decoration of the Rococo dining room and installation of pointed windows similar to those at Fulham Palace on the entrance front.’

WASP at One

May will see the end of the first year of the three-year Heritage Lottery Funded Worcester Archive Source Project to catalogue and make accessible the archives of Worcester City. The City's archives came to Worcestershire Record Office in the 1980s, and at 26m³, it is one of the largest collections held here. To give a slightly more tangible scale of reference, the Town Clerk Richard Woof spent a decade in the 19th century sorting and listing just the volumes - although in fairness he did have other duties to attend to!

The bulk of the records dates from 1500 to the early 20th century. There are some medieval deeds that are a century or two older – definitely some 14th- and 15th-century ones, and one that is claimed to be from 1298. Just over a third of the collection comprises records relating to the running of the city and the council, and this is where cataloguing was begun. All the council and committee minutes from 1540 have been catalogued, and work will shortly start on the financial records.



Gardner's Lane Committee Minutes frontispiece, 1842 ([496.5 BA 9360/B5/Box 2/2])

Those who have used the existing inventory that was compiled in the 1960s will know that it is rather rough and basic, and not very user-friendly. The new electronic catalogue will allow for easier searching and more detailed descriptions of the collection.

Support from volunteers has proved invaluable. There is a core team of five, four of whom are listing the unsorted boxes that do not appear on the original inventory, and one who is researching and writing local history articles for the website. Volunteers have also helped out at a range of public outreach events, including one at Cripplegate Park in December, when local children were invited to use some of the collection's records to find out about children of the City's past. In the coming months this work will be built upon when staff and volunteers will work with the St John's community to research their history, and to take records to some oral history sessions at Dancox House sheltered housing for the elderly. All the research and interviews from this work will culminate in a storytelling event in the Park in June when international storyteller, Katrice Horsley, will share 'The Mysterious Tale of Cripplegate' with the participants and the community.

Not all of WASP's outreach work will cast its net to such a wide audience. Respected local historian Dr Pat Hughes has used the City Archives for many years, and has teamed up with WASP to hold a number of research classes for the volunteers who worked on the Butts excavation last year. The participants are piecing together a chronology of the changes of land use at the Butts, especially relating to the Netherton Estate on which was built Joseph Wood's timber yard. The information will be presented at an exhibit at the next WHEAS Day School on 25 April, and will help to demonstrate the value of archival evidence in understanding the social history of an excavated area. It is hoped that the exhibit will reveal the human story behind the finds, with evidence of pay and conditions for labourers, carpenters and drovers, plus an insight into the daily realities of life surrounding the cattle market, public bath house and timber yard (with more than a passing mention of a public house built to serve the cattle market workers, plus evidence of a neighbourhood brothel).

Similar classes have been run by the WASP team for a group of adult learners with a range of mental health issues, learning and physical disabilities, who are service users from the Worcester based charity, 'Worcestershire Lifestyles'. The group has been researching the story of 19th-century St Andrews parish which is where Worcester Technical College is today and which their adult education course is affiliated to. Elizabeth Roper, the WASP Outreach Worker who is working with the group, says of their input, 'We have been on a trail of discovery together. One of the participants has a wonderful knowledge of Worcester, which she learnt from family. Each week there are plenty of questions from the participants who love to find out about specific characters. Two participants in particular seem to have found a new interest in local history and have been carrying out research in their spare time. It's been a really interesting project, and the group have been supported by very enthusiastic tutors.' The group's research will be translated into a pictorial map of St Andrew's, with the help of local artist, Victoria Westaway. It is hoped that the work will be displayed in a public space inside Worcester Tech.

WASP has continued to build on the relationship the Record Office has with local teachers by producing educational resources that tie in with the national curriculum. High quality digital images of documents will be provided free of charge to local schools on topics such as Private Dancox (World War I), Queen Elizabeth I's visit to Worcester (the Tudors) and Public Health in the 19th Century. Several city primary schools will be involved in specific research and celebrations of their locality, and seven other community centres across the city will become the venues for outreach activity such as has already happened at St John's.

It is intended that the close of the official project will be marked with the showcasing of all art works, productions, exhibits and research that it has generated. As WASP funding draws to a close, the project's participants and friends will be able to make use of the new Worcester Library and History Centre building when it opens in 2011. As a 'welcome gift', Kathryn Steenson the WASP archivist can hand over three years of hard work in the shape of City Archives that are significantly easier to access and enjoy.

Discoveries from the City Archives, outreach news and events, plus other information such as collection highlights and volunteers' accounts can be found on the project website at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/wasp If you wish to find out more about the project, or join its mailing list, please contact Beth Roper on 01905 765926.

Kat Steenson & Beth Roper

The Changing Face of Worcester

Worcester Heritage Amenity Trust, based at Tudor House in Friar Street (see Recorder 76), has taken on a project to digitize the entire photographic collection of brothers Clive and Malcolm Haynes. This comprises pictures of Worcester scenes in various formats, some dating back to the 1880s, thus providing a fascinating insight into how the city and way of life has changed over some 130 years.

Volunteers have been recruited to prepare, digitize with an automatic slide scanner, index and locate the photographs on a computer map. More help is needed, for which training and technical advice is available. The aim is to establish a team of people, interested in local history, to work on this fascinating project and preserve these images for generations to come. If you are interested please contact Tudor House: manager@tudorhouse.org.uk or the Chairman, Jim Panter, 01905 426402.

Book Reviews and Notices

English Episcopal Acta. 33: Worcester 1062-1185 (2007) and *34: Worcester 1186-1218 (2008)* both ed M.Cheney et al, 227 & 154 pp

In what has been described as ‘one of the most ambitious enterprises ever launched in the field of medieval English ecclesiastical history’, the British Academy is publishing the *acta*, the various documents issued by English episcopal chanceries, to a standard format. *Worcester 1218-1268* was published in 1997. These two volumes complete the series, for the first episcopal register of the diocese was that of Bishop Godfrey Gifford (1268-1302). This, together with later volumes, was published by the Worcestershire Historical Society. For the historian of the medieval parish, such episcopal registers, with their details of institutions to benefices, and probably patrons, ordinations of clergy to the three major orders of sub-deacon, deacon and priest, and of bishops’ visitations, are a major source.

For the two preceding centuries the three volumes of *acta* provide basic information on the administration of our diocese. They are drawn from a wide range of printed sources, of which R.R.Darlington’s *Cartulary of Worcester Cathedral Priory*, Pipe Roll Soc NS38 (1968) is foremost, from manuscript material, and even lost documents. The *acta* are prefaced by biographies of the 20 bishops, 1062-1268, complementing those to be found in the *ODNB*. They include Bishop Robert (1191-3), omitted from the *ODNB*. They thus provide a valuable overview of the diocese during the first two centuries of the post-Conquest era.

The *acta* do not provide detailed material relating to the clergy, but are a major source for the churches and chapels of the diocese, some 150 of which were named in Domesday Book. For example, in 1186x90 no. 32 ratifies the institution of Andrew, clerk, to the church of St Andrew, Pershore, with its chapels of Besford, Defford, Wick and Bricklehampton; and no. 26 records the admission of John, dean of Droitwich, to the vicarage of Martin (Hussingtree) at the presentation of Aldred the parson, with the consent of Simon of Martin, the patron.

The first volume is dominated, however, by *acta* relating to monasteries within and beyond the diocese. Many include details of the appropriation, principally by the cathedral priory but also

by Tewkesbury Abbey, of churches and chapels, that is permanent annexation of the tithes and other endowments intended for the use of the parish. Thus in no. 8, the famous charter of 1089, in which he records that 'he had found only about twelve brethren and has increased the number to fifty', Wulfstan II granted the monks, for their food, the 15-hide estate of Alveston, Warwickshire, 'long held unjustly by great men', which he had 'regained from king William the elder with great labour and the giving of money'. By 1175 eight of Worcester's twelve city churches - St Helen's, All Saints, St Andrew's, St Martin's, St Swithun's, St Alban's, St Clement's and St Marina's - were possessions of the cathedral priory. Similarly, one notes that Tewkesbury had appropriated many churches at Bristol.

The second volume covers one of the most significant periods in the history of Worcester Cathedral, including the events relating to the burial of King John in July 1216. These have been reconsidered by Nicholas Vincent in his edition of the *acta* of the papal legate, Guala Bicchieri. The day before his death John had placed his kingdom and his nine-year-old heir under the protection of the pope. As legate, Guala was thus invested with full power, even over William Marshal, earl of Pembroke, the regent. In spring 1216 Worcester had declared for the rebel barons and Louis the dauphin, but in July it was retaken by William Marshal and the earl of Chester. The cathedral was plundered and a £200 fine imposed on the monks. When John, on his deathbed, dictated his will, it included the provision that 'he should be buried in the cathedral of the holy Virgin and St Wulfstan at Worcester'. For Vincent, 'the decision to bury him at Worcester was forced upon his executors'. There was little choice, as the rebels were in full control of Hampshire and with it John's own monastic foundation, the Cistercian abbey of Beaulieu Regis. The 'supposed devotion of John to the cult of Wulfstan', he adds, 'needs to be treated with a certain degree of scepticism; it may well represent a late tradition, fostered by the Worcester monks to enhance what had been a distinctly unpromising connection between King John and their cathedral'.

The task of repairing this damage fell to Bishop Sylvester (July 1216-July 1218). As prior of Worcester, Sylvester had attended the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215. He was consecrated bishop by Pope Innocent III at Perugia. It was he who, in October 1216, officiated at John's funeral service in the cathedral. Given the recent plundering and the necessity of stripping Wulfstan's shrine to pay the fine imposed on the monks, it is difficult to believe that this was, as a chronicler records, 'a rich service fit for a king'. After the service, however, Sylvester secured that half of the land of the castle bailey (now College Green), seized by Urse d'Abitot c1069, was returned to his cathedral. According to a number of chroniclers, Sylvester was amongst the bishops who crowned Henry III at Gloucester Abbey on 28 October. As a member of the Royal Council, he was a signatory at Bristol Castle of the first re-issue of Magna Carta in November. In 1218 the forests of Horewell and Ombersley were disafforested by a royal charter granted to Sylvester.

It is probably Henry III's memories of his father's burial service that prompted him to take action to ensure that the east arm of Worcester's cathedral became a fit place for his father's mortal remains, and, as Engel says, for 'those responsible for the divine service and intercessions ... for his father's welfare in Heaven'. She explains that there was a battle between Beaulieu and Worcester over the body of the dead king, which was only resolved by Henry III's attendance at its translation to its Purbeck marble tomb in the choir in 1232, when a confraternity was established between the monks of Worcester and Westminster.

Joe Hillaby

Life and Death in a Roman City: Excavation of a Roman cemetery with a mass grave at 120-122 London Road, Gloucester A. Simmonds, N. Marquez-Grant & L. Loe, Oxford Archaeology Monograph 6 (2008), 182+xvi pp, c 90 figures & plates. Paperback, £19.99

Archaeological excavation in advance of construction has made immense contributions to our understanding of the past over the last 40 years. But, despite the excitement of archaeological discovery during fieldwork, often the published reports make for dry and dusty reading. Presentations of factual information are the building blocks for interpreting the past, but sometimes the human element is missing. This monograph report is an exception, presenting a penetrating investigation of part of the Roman cemetery in the suburbs of Gloucester.

The historical evidence for the conquest of Britain in the mid 1st century is much debated, and for many years archaeologists used the limited historical evidence as a framework on which to hang archaeological data. In this region it has generally been accepted that the territory of the Dobunni (broadly Gloucestershire and Worcestershire) came peacefully under Roman rule in AD 49. A legionary fortress was established first at Kingsholm and subsequently relocated to nearby Gloucester. A civilian settlement was founded at Gloucester sometime after AD 75, with the status of a *colonia*: a community of retired Roman soldiers.

This report concerns an excavation of part of the Wotton cemetery, alongside a Roman road that ran east from the *colonia* and connected with Ermin Street, the main route to the east. The excavated burials date from the occupation of the legionary fortresses, through the history of the *colonia*. The earliest, contemporary with the Kingsholm fortress, were cremations and included men and women, indicating the presence of civilians. The later ones show a range of burial rites, including crouched, prone and decapitated burials, as well as ones with hob-nail boots. The evidence indicates a varied population. Two burials were marked by tombstones: one to a slave, the other to a soldier of the XXth legion. Differences in treatment of the dead, meticulously recorded by the archaeological team, are thoughtfully considered in terms of wealth and status. Roman Gloucester appears to have contained many more men than women, perhaps because it continued to be occupied by retired soldiers.

A large pit contained a minimum of 91 mingled skeletons, comprising adult and adolescent men and women, buried in the late 2nd or early 3rd century. The mass burial was probably a single event and the result of a catastrophe, with no time for the formalities of burial. The likely cause is an epidemic which struck down a random cross-section of the population of Gloucester, which the authors tentatively link to the documented outbreak of the 'Antonine Plague' (perhaps smallpox) which raged through the Empire.

The levels of oxygen and strontium isotopes in the teeth enamel of the burials were analysed in order to determine the origins of the people buried at Gloucester. The technique indicates the geographical origin of burials, and is being increasingly applied in British archaeology. The analysis showed that most of the buried population originated from places throughout Britain (including the local area) but a distinct element of the population was probably from the Mediterranean. The latter group included men and women, interpreted as government officials or traders and their families, who migrated to Britain and died at Gloucester. Such scientific evidence is open to different interpretations (as carefully discussed in the report), but it points the way towards future insights into the ethnic and cultural make-up of past populations, and even towards the reconstruction of the biographies of individuals.

Hal Dalwood

A E Lemmon (1889-1963) Artist and Craftsman Roy Albutt (2008) £12.95, paperback, 109 pp, 28 plates. Available from the author, 11, Great Calcroft, Pershore, Worcs WR10 1QS.

This is a moving account of the life and work of Albert Lemmon. Roy Albutt became aware of him as a designer and maker of stained glass windows while researching his book on A.J.Davies (see *Recorder* 71), though the name was familiar to him from conversations between his grandfather, father and uncle. He later realised that Lemmon had supplied leaded lights for his grandfather's undertakings, and that he and Roy's father had been colleagues at Bromsgrove College of Further Education. Roy subsequently corresponded with Lemmon's son, Peter, whose letters 'provided insights into the life, family and work of Albert'. These were supplemented, *inter alia*, by the Lemmon Archive at John Hardman Studios.

Having worked with Davies at the Bromsgrove Guild from c1911, Lemmon established his own studio in Bromsgrove in 1927. He also taught at Bromsgrove School of Art for over 20 years. Roy believes that Lemmon used his father's face to depict Joseph (pl 14), and his son Peter's in the Annunciation window at his own parish church, All Saints, Bromsgrove, (cover) and elsewhere.

The excellent illustrations include a Valentine card sent by Albert to his future wife, Hilda, in 1914 and a touching enamel portrait of Peter, dated 1926. At St Margaret's, Halesowen, St Kenelm is depicted holding the axe with which he was murdered, beside him the white bull that, according to one legend, led people to his body. 'Yuletide Greetings' came from the front (3 & 4), and in the War Memorial window at Lye (21) Christ administers Holy Communion to kneeling uniformed service personnel representing the Army, RAF, Navy and nursing services. At Taradale, New Zealand, (24) is the window dedicated in 1956 in memory of Albert's brother, known as Frank. Several windows bear the signatures of both father and son, the last of Peter Lemmon alone, but Roy believes that his was the assistant's role. From the gazetteers, readers can see Lemmon's work for themselves.

Hardman of Birmingham. Goldsmith and Glasspainter Michael Fisher (Landmark Publishing, 2008) 239 pp, hardback, £25

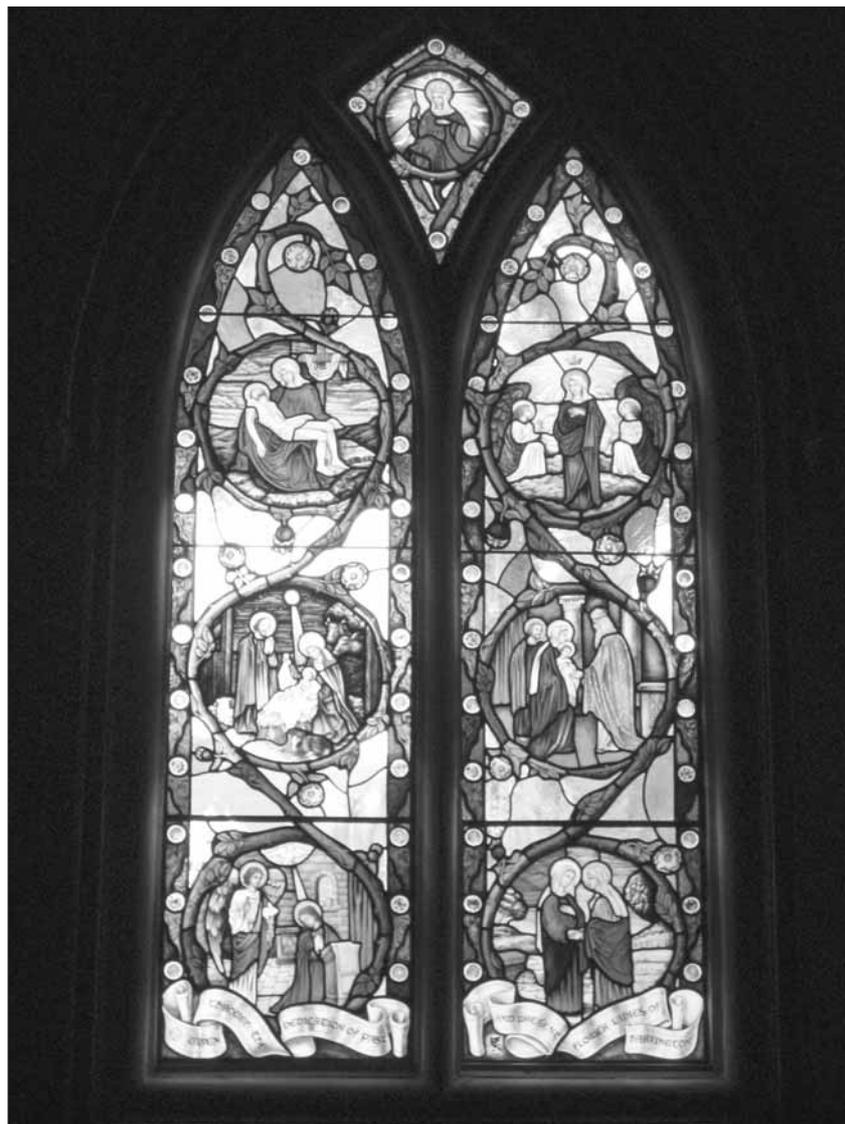
Dedicated 'to the staff of John Hardman & Company past and present whose skill and dedication has upheld the ideals of beauty and truth instilled by Pugin and Hardman', Michael Fisher's book is a study of the only one of the four major firms that worked for Pugin to have survived into the 20th century. Following their first meeting in 1836-7 Pugin persuaded John Hardman Jnr, who was to become his lifelong friend, to extend his brass button-making business into the manufacture of ecclesiastical metalwork. In 1845, soon after Pugin took on Hardman's nephew, John Hardman Powell, as an apprentice, the company began to make stained glass. In 1883 it was divided, with Hardman Powell & Co undertaking all the metalwork except memorial brasses, these being carried out by John Hardman & Co along with stained glass and decoration.

One of the most popular features of the Great Exhibition of 1851 was the Medieval Court, largely the creation of the Pugin-Hardman partnership, and seen by over six million visitors. Hardman was the only glasspainter to exhibit here, and the only Englishman to receive a prize medal for stained glass. The extent of his work is astonishing. By 1852 Hardman's metalwork and glass were well established in Australia and New Zealand, and Appendix B consists of a 14-page list of USA commissions from the early 1880s.

The personal relationships between Pugin, Hardman and Powell, their families and business associates pervade the book. John Hardman is portrayed in the Immaculate Conception window of St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, a painting by J.R.Herbert and in old age. There are also photographs of Powell.

Hardman's work in Worcester Cathedral is well known (see also Elizabeth Yarker's article, 'The Victorian Restoration of Worcester Cathedral and the Joint Restoration Committee', in *Recorder* 66) and merits a substantial paragraph along with photographs of the Lady Chapel roof and a detail of the west window. The studio is described in Pevsner (2007) as 'particularly prolific' in Worcestershire, with notable windows at Doverdale, Kemerton and Salwarpe as well as the cathedral, and many memorial brasses, including five at Our Lady, Hanley Swan. Its architect, Charles Hansom, is described in Rosemary Hill's biography of Pugin as the greatest of the 'broom-stealers' of whom he bitterly complained.

Neil Phillips explains in his Foreword that the company, now Pugin Hardman & Powell, has reversed Pugin's motto 'en avant' to 'en arrière'. 'Through ... the immersion of the workforce in 19th-century archive material', he writes, 'we have regained the levels of skill that made Hardman's world renowned'. Thus they use only mouth-blown glass, which they obtain from the Worcestershire company, English Antique Glass Ltd of Alvechurch.



It is exciting to find some of Hardman's most recent work in the county, at St Mary's, Harvington. Amongst the figures in the 2005 baptistery window is Nicholas Owen, the 17th-century carpenter who created the hides inside Harvington Hall. Subsequently a Jesse tree, and in September 2008 a third window was installed, the last 'Given through the dedication of past and present Flower Ladies of Harvington'. This depicts stories from the life of the Virgin. In the Nativity scene is the late Father David's dog, well known and loved by the community. The floral border and vines reflect the flower displays in St Mary's.

In addition to the expected high-quality colour photographs, the book is brought alive by original drawings and watercolours, some published for the first time, and numerous quotations. It is understood that few volumes are left and that there is no intention to reprint. Speed is therefore of the essence if you wish to avail yourself of this remarkable book. There are plans, however, to digitize all archive material and create a photographic census of all Harman decorative schemes extant.

Two more Books from Logaston Press:

Churches of the Black Country Tim Bridges (2008) 156 pp, £12.95

By 'the Black Country' Tim Bridges refers to the three metropolitan boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall, together with the city of Wolverhampton, as shown by a helpful map. For Society members this is a welcome sequel to Tim's *Churches of Worcestershire*, particularly useful for its coverage of Anglican churches formerly within Worcestershire and still within the diocese. As with his earlier volume, Tim commences with a history of the churches of the area, and in the gazetteer gives an introduction to each of the towns and villages before describing the individual churches, including those closed, demolished or whose future is uncertain. The Historic Churches Trusts of Worcestershire & Dudley, of which Tim is a trustee, and Staffordshire will benefit financially from the sale of each book.

Amongst places of Worcestershire interest is Dudley, once a detached part of our county. Joseph Blackler's 1821 'Ascension' in the east window of St Thomas's is considered 'amongst the most important late Georgian glass anywhere'. Halesowen is of course dear to the Society's heart (see *Recorder* 66, Autumn 2002). St Mary's at Oldswinford, the ancient parish church of Stourbridge where the ironmaster, Richard 'Fiddler' Foley, was buried, strikingly contrasts a Commissioners' style nave with an Arts and Crafts chancel. Pedmore boasts an impressive Norman tympanum with Christ in Majesty within a mandorla supported by the symbols of the evangelists. Holy Trinity church, Smethwick, rededicated in 1996 as the Church of the Resurrection, contains key contents from former churches of the parish and has an external pulpit, erected by the 'Brotherhood' founded before the First World War by the vicar, J.H.Newsham. Stourbridge, world famous for its glass in the 17th century, was one of Worcestershire's most prosperous towns in the 18th and 19th, and has a 'solid, competent Early Georgian church' in St Thomas's, to which comment Pevsner (1968) adds: 'a pity it is not more prominently placed!' We must be grateful to Tim for fleshing out the meagre details hitherto available for the Black Country's Anglican churches.

There are numerous, informative photographs, in monochrome apart from the splendid cover illustrations. On the front, from left to right, top to bottom, are: St Thomas, Stourbridge; All Saints, Bloxwich; St Michael, Rushall; Pelsall; Penn; Wollaston; and Halesowen.

20th-Century Defences in Britain, the West Midlands Area Colin Jones, Bernard Lowry & Mick Wilks (2008) 276 pp, £9.95

This comprehensive guide to 20th-century military and civil defence sites in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands conurbation arose out of the Defence of Britain project. Prefaced with a much needed glossary, the book highlights the various types of defence structures in the area. A Gazetteer lists, by chapter, sites extant in 2007, mostly in the more rural, less developed, areas. The authors open our eyes and minds to much that we fail to appreciate around us.

Worcestershire dominates the chapter on 'Radar and the Science of War', with the Telecommunications Research Establishment based at Malvern College, the hut in the middle of a field near Guarlford (illustrated), used as a wireless listening post to monitor the Luftwaffe radar operators' radio signals, and a group photograph of the staff of the Coastal Artillery and Anti-Aircraft Experimental Establishment at Earls Croome Court.

The chapter on Agriculture covers not only the Women's Land Army, Land Girls being trained at Pershore College, but also the less well known Women's Timber Corps, which eventually employed 6,000 'Lumber Jills'. For the 'Wireless War' Wood Norton Hall was purchased by the BBC in 1939, to relocate services away from the capital, and housed 30% of its staff by 1941; here a dedicated Monitoring Service was established, and refugees were recruited to monitor and note foreign language broadcasts round the clock. Photographs include the Cold War nuclear bunker at Wood Norton. The county also played its part in Evacuation with Madresfield Court prepared to receive the Royal Family, Spetchley Court earmarked for Winston Churchill, and Hindlip Hall and Bevere House for the cabinet and their staff. WHEAS occupies some of the 'temporary' office buildings constructed for evacuated government departments. The Bank of England moved to Overbury Court. Eastington Hall, near Longdon, received paintings from the Tate Gallery and books from the Science Museum.

Royal Navy storage and production facilities were located in the West Midlands, and an experimental flying unit at Defford airfield. HMS Duke, possibly the largest naval training establishment in the region, occupied temporary office buildings off St Andrew's Road in Malvern. Many older Malvernian residents still remember the weekly parade of sailors led by a royal Marine band. Amongst Allied Forces, Free French Cadets were based at Ribbesford House, the Belgian Army at Malvern's Abbey Hotel and Dutch troops at Wood Farm, Malvern. Hinton Manor was leased by the Czech government in exile, and a school for Czech children was established at Hinton Hall. Canadian aircrew were trained at Pershore airfield, and local cemeteries contain graves of those killed on active service.

Some 60 prisoner-of-war camps were established in the region, mostly in the rural areas where PoWs worked on local farms. Near Droitwich, officers were housed in Chateau Impney, lesser mortals in a hutted camp at Hampton Lovett. Norton Barracks was amongst those provided with small hospitals, and Powick amongst the asylums converted to surgical and medical purposes. Malvern Wells station was to have a special siding to accommodate American hospital trains, and emergency water supplies came from towers such as that still to be seen at Blackmore.

Such Worcestershire highlights, one hopes, will whet the reader's appetite to delve into this book for themselves.

The Handbook of British Archaeology Roy & Lesley Adkins and Victoria Leitch (Constable, 2008) 532pp, 400 b/w ills, paperback, £25

The first edition of this book, ‘a single-volume guide to all aspects and periods of British archaeology with the emphasis on orientation and guidance’, was published in 1982 and found success through ‘the marriage of academically researched text with a substantial number of carefully selected, clear illustrations’. This revision incorporates the latest research and the tremendous technical advances that have taken place since.

The first nine chapters progress chronologically from the Palaeolithic to the Post-Medieval period, each revised by individual specialists and prefaced by a map of key sites. Chapters on ‘Archaeological Techniques’, ‘Archaeological Materials and Remains’ and ‘Archaeological Specialisms, Organisations and Legislation’ follow. Detailed illustrations abound. A handbook rather than an academic work, references are not included within the text, but each section has its own reading list and there is a full bibliography at the end of the book. Up-to-date and comprehensive, this should be of interest to archaeologists, students and amateurs alike.

WAS Lecture Programme 2008-9

Unfortunately two consecutive lectures had to be postponed. On 5 January, the scheduled speaker, Jan Wills, Gloucestershire County Archaeologist, was unwell and in her place the Chairman ‘delivered one of my standby lectures’, on Kenilworth Castle. This proved timely in view of the forthcoming excursion. (see p24)

Snow caused the meeting on 2 February to be cancelled, and the Society is grateful to Stephen Price and Robin Whittaker for turning out to meet those hardy spirits who arrived at St George’s and take them for coffee. We look forward to hearing Jan Wills’ and Prof Stuart Davies’ lectures in the next season.

The cover illustration, as those who attended on 16 February will recognize, is from Gamba Mora-Ottonano’s lecture on recent archaeological investigation and recording at the Royal Worcester Porcelain Works.

WAS Excursions Past and Present

Our Secretary, **Janet Dunleavy**, writes:

I believe our Society excursions are enjoyed by all who take part. I was intrigued by the account of an archaeological visit published in *Punch* in 1897. I wonder how an account of one of our excellently organized excursions would sound if written up with such wit?

OUR ARCHÆOLOGICAL OUTING. *London, July 28 1897*

DEAR MR. PUNCH, - For real, downright giddiness you can’t do better than take a day with the archæologists, and I therefore venture to give your readers the benefit of some experiences. We started - a party of two, in company with other members of the Society - about ten o’clock yesterday morning, from the terminus of one of the Southern lines, and duly arrived, not more

than a quarter of an hour late, at Six Elms, a pretty country town some twenty miles from London. Here we were met by some local fellow-workers and other enthusiasts who had flocked from all parts of the country, to the number of about three hundred. The first item of the programme was a paper by the rector on the Parish Church, whither we proceeded, in order to hear it read. The reverend gentleman, however, was unavoidably absent, and his dissertation was delivered from the pulpit, to the accompaniment of a thunderstorm, by a clerical substitute. The congregation - I mean audience - were much impressed by the novel way with which the preacher presented the architectural details of the address. He generally said "North" when he meant "South", and told us that the church was 175 feet long by 56 inches wide, and that the pulpit (meaning the gallery) ran all round the edifice, and altogether he kept us in a state of pleased and expectant attention. After learning that the pulpit had been captured from a neighbouring parish, "the dear rector having, with his own loving hands, scraped off the paint", we made for the "Sceptre Hotel".

Here we had a hasty stand-up lunch on sponge-cakes and similar etceteras, and then took our places in the eighteen breaks, which were drawn up in the High Street outside, waiting to take us to Six Elms Park, a distance of about a mile. We sat for an hour before the order to start was given, time apparently being no object with archaeologists. When the parson in charge had found the last lost sheep, and counted us over for the fifteenth time, the signal was given by dog-whistle, and, like GALILEO's world, we moved after all. The rustics stood, one-deep, wondering what sort of beanfeasters we were anyway, especially as we had no concertinas, and were forbidden to blow a horn. For fear of being too modern we pulled up at the slightest descent to apply the skids, which mostly refused to catch. However, we eventually reached the Tudor mansion without mishap, and a further wait occurred before we were admitted.

After we had been sufficiently reminded of our presumption in intruding, we were somewhat reluctantly let in through a wicket-gate by a prehistoric menial. Like a pit-door crowd, we streamed into the second court, where we stood in the sun, while a learned professor discoursed on the history of the place. Of this I remember nothing, except that some antiquarian was called the "Perambulator" of the county - a delightful designation which may be recommended to political organisations when they are tired of present titles. Our jaws collectively fell when the announcement was



made that we could only view the inside in parties of twenty-five, as the floors were unsafe. This was in spite of the county ball, which had been given there shortly before. The majority of us therefore waited another two hours in the backyard and the garden while the first two or three parties were being taken through the three hundred odd rooms. Some, I regret to say, never saw the bedchamber at all where JAMES THE FIRST was to have slept but didn't, or the owner's peer's robes, or any of the other attractions. We had to content ourselves with a sight of the governess at tea. Then our personal conductor hurried us off to the country seat of the Society's noble President.

Arriving famished, an hour late, we hastily partook of his hospitality, and then skidded back to the "Sceptre". Here we had dinner, followed by loyal and local toasts, and much patting on the back. We wound up the evening in the Public Hall, where a lecture by an unconscious humourist was in progress, on "Palæolithic Kitchen Middens". Slide after slide of split bones,

and what the lecturer termed oval-headed flint implements, were exhibited on the screen, and were loudly cheered. Too much of this excitement after dinner might have been bad for the digestion, so we departed apologetically for the station, missing the final paper on “Old Six Elms”. It was truly a day to be remembered. Not the least interesting of the antiques were the occupants of some of the carriages in the procession. Our van-load included three dreadfully proper young ladies, a married woman, who cooed forth platitudes to her husband in a drawling baby-voice, as if each word were worth a bank-note, four fat men, and a centenarian.

Yours dissipatedly, Z.Y.X.

Coughton Court

There is no direct connection between this society and Coughton Court as there was with Harvington Hall on last year’s visit. However, there are two reasons which should make a visit an interesting comparison.

Firstly, you will remember that the Throckmortons of Coughton owned Harvington between 1696 and 1923. Coughton, like Harvington, was one of the major Roman Catholic houses in the Midlands during all the religious contention after The Reformation. Secondly, the Throckmorton family had its origins in Worcestershire. They came from the village of Throckmorton in the parish of Fladbury. The earliest members of the family, ie to approximately the middle of the 14th century, were usually named *de* Throckmorton or *Throgmorton*, signifying their place of origin.

It was John Throckmorton who expanded the family lands into Warwickshire as he married Eleanor Spiney of Coughton in 1409. The couple inherited half of the manor on the death of Guy Spiney, Eleanor’s father, around 1427-8. The other half went to her sister, Alice, who had married William Tracy of Toddington in Gloucestershire.

Whether John ever saw Coughton as his home is debatable, for he was buried in Fladbury church in 1445 (Fig).* It was his son, Thomas, who obtained the remaining moiety of Coughton in 1449 by an arrangement with the Traceys that exchanged land in Worcestershire for Coughton, but Thomas was also buried at Fladbury, in 1471.

The perpendicular church next to the house was built by Sir Robert nearer the end of the 15th century and, although there is apparently evidence of a 14th-century house, the present building also was built by Sir Robert and then his son, Sir George. The outstanding gatehouse is the most notable contribution from around 1536. Sir George was also a member of the Reformation Parliament which finally denied the Pope. He argued with Henry VIII about ‘the putting away’ of Queen Katherine of Aragon. He was put in the Tower twice but still lived longer than the king.

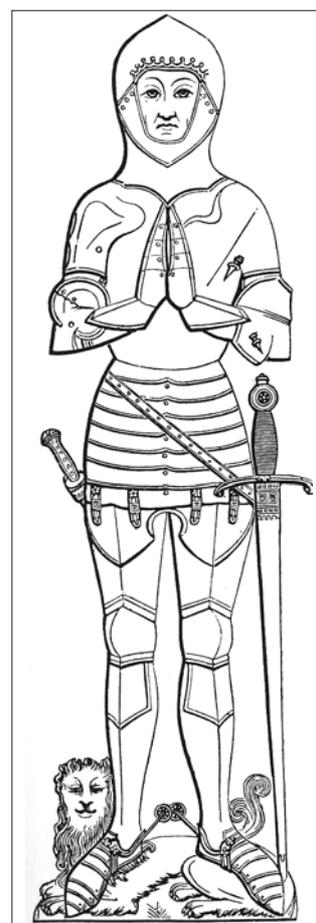


Illustration from Haines *Manual of Monumental Brasses* (1861)

Sir George engendered a notable family (19 children and 112 grand children), the fourth son becoming as strongly Anglican as his father was Roman. But Sir Nicholas became a confidante of Elizabeth I, her ambassador in Paris and a negotiator between Elizabeth and Mary of Scotland. He was also the father of Bess who, having secretly married Sir Walter Raleigh, was banned from the court for life. Throgmorton Street in the City of London is named after him as this is where his house was situated and he is buried in St Katherine Cree Church there. Another of George's sons, Clement, began a strictly Puritan life and his son, Job, was the probable author of the seven Martin Marprelate Tracts, which obtained notoriety as scathing and brilliant satires of the Church of England. George's daughter, Mary, married into the Catholic Arderne family, the same one Shakespeare's mother came from, and her husband was executed for plotting against Elizabeth.

This shows the difficulties of such extended families in those times of religious upheaval, as does the complex and dangerous history of all the plots against Elizabeth. One of these was the Throckmorton Plot when Francis, nephew to Sir Nicholas, prepared a plot with the Spanish to place Mary, Queen of Scots, on the throne. All this treason culminated in the Gunpowder Plot, two of the leading plotters of which, Catesby and Tresham, were sons of two of Sir George's granddaughters.

Just as Harvington, Coughton was involved in housing Jesuit priests. One most definite hiding place can be seen in the corner of the Tower Room where there is the entrance to a double hide. The Tower Room itself was probably used for secret Catholic services in the 16th and 17th centuries. The other possible hiding place can be found on the short stairs between the dining room and the tapestry rooms. An alcove on the left suits the necessary characteristics of secrecy at the time when that wall was an outer wall of the house.

The dedicated adherence to the Catholic Church continued throughout the 16th century and caused much distress for the family; they were Royalists also and had been given the Baronetcy, (now died out), in 1642. Firstly, Coughton Court suffered occupation by the Roundheads, was bombarded by cannon and then set on fire when they left. This gave the next generation a severe problem, as repairing the damage and neglect was expensive. An illegal Catholic chapel was later built in the fourth wing of the house. This was destroyed in 1688, for during the Bloodless Revolution, which exiled James II and brought the Protestant William III to the throne, anti-Catholic rioters attacked Coughton Court and burned down that wing. It has never been replaced. It was Sir Robert, 3rd Baronet, who married Mary Yate, the sole survivor of the Yate and Packington families, and brought Harvington Hall and the Buckland estate in Berkshire to the Throckmortons in 1696.

The next Sir Robert, who lived to be 89, supported Catholic chapels in all the Throckmorton households and built the Georgian Chapel at Harvington in 1743, but it was his grandson, Sir John, who next became involved at national level in Catholic concerns. He was a member of the Cisalpine Club which recognised papal authority in doctrine and dogma but believed, for example, that bishops should be elected in England subject to government approval. As a result of Sir John's efforts and those of two other leading Catholics, Petre and Englefield, some of the recusancy laws were repealed, beginning the gradual freeing of the Catholics up to the Emancipation Act of 1829.

Sir Robert George Throckmorton was the first Roman Catholic to take his seat in the House of Commons, Daniel O'Connell having refused the Oath of Allegiance. It was also around this time that Roman Catholics were allowed their own parishes and clerical hierarchy, and the new

Catholic Church at the southern end of the drive was built. Coughton Court was let to various tenants during the latter half of the 19th century but, due to the contraction of the family fortunes, they later sold Buckland and came back to their Warwickshire home. At the same time, Harvington Hall was partially stripped and left to its fate.

The reduction of the estates continued in the 20th century until all the land around Coughton Court was put on the market in 1934. The house and grounds were saved by Lillian, Lady Throckmorton, and changes brought about by the Second World War. It was reserved for the Speaker of the House of Commons if government had to leave London but was finally used to house a girl's school from Kent. Immediately after the war, the house was passed to the National Trust. The last Baronet died in 1989 and the property was inherited by his niece.

Our evening at Coughton is on 1 July and anyone wishing to enjoy a private tour of the house and gardens with the fascinating histories together with supper, should contact Ernie Kay on 01684 567917.

Vince Hemingway

* Pevsner (2007) describes: 'Under the tower an exceptionally large tomb-chest of Purbeck marble, five by two bays with cusped quatrefoils in panels. On it, two excellent brasses 4 ft long, representing John Throckmorton (Under-Treasurer of England) in fine armour and wife Eleanor, dressed as a widow.'

WAS Excursions Programme 2009

The Excursions Programme got off to an early start, on 19 February, with a morning visit led by Brian Ferris to St Andrew's and All Saints churches in **Droitwich**. 16 April saw the first full day trip, to **Birmingham**, led by Michael and Jenny Goode, with a visit to Matthew Boulton's Soho House, introduced and guided by Nick Molyneux, followed by a trip to the Jewellery quarter and its Museum. The Programme continues with:

21 May. An Evening walk around **Droitwich**, organised by Robin Whittaker and led by the local Civic Society. The buildings and topography of this ancient town have been shaped by factors such as the ancient salt industry and later spa development based on the brine springs.

27 May. A day trip by coach to the **Forest of Dean**, led by John Harcup, to include Symond's Yat, the Speech House, Collop Ponds and the Dean Heritage Centre. The afternoon will be spent at Lydney Park for the gardens, museum and tour of the Roman Camp and Temple – 'one of the most important archeological sites in Britain'.

9 & 16 June. Chris Guy, Cathedral Archaeologist, will lead two afternoon tours, each limited to 15 people, to parts of **Worcester Cathedral** not normally open to the public, including some of the roof spaces, to see more closely the construction of the Cathedral and its development. Spiral stairs, uneven floors, awkward steps etc require reasonable fitness.

24 June. Nick Molyneux will take us to **Kenilworth** and **Warwick**. By the time of our visit English Heritage will have completed the re-creation at Kenilworth of 'one of the greatest

gardens of the Elizabethan age'. At Warwick, a guided tour of the Lord Leycester Hospital and a visit to the Beauchamp Chapel in St. Mary's Church.

1 July. Following the success of last year's evening supper excursions at Harvington Hall, a similar visit has been organised by Vince Hemingway to **Coughton Court**. (see p21)

7 July. Michael and Jenny Goode will lead a second day trip, with the morning in **Wroxeter**, where extensive excavations reveal the story of one of the largest cities of Roman Britain. At **Tong** in the afternoon Bob Jeffrey will introduce the exceptional 15th-century church with its monuments, chantry and misericords. The visit will conclude with tea in the village hall.

4 August. Another full day coach tour, to the major Anglo-Saxon monasteries at **Breedon-on-the-Hill**, Leics and **Repton**, Derbys, led by Joe Hillaby. Breedon retains unique examples of 80-ft long carved 8th-century friezes, and Byzantine-inspired figure sculptures. Repton is a 7th-century foundation, its crypt the burial place of the Mercian kings Aethelbald d757, Wiglaf d839 and his grandson St Wystan, murdered 849.

20 August. An Evening visit by car. Tim Bridges will take us to visit two of the Vale of Evesham's fascinating medieval churches. Details will be forwarded.

16 September. Brian Ferris will lead the last day trip. **Woodchester** Mansion is a stone-built Victorian house which, though with an incomplete interior, original tools and scaffolding still in position as the workmen left them, 'must rank as one of the great achievements of C19 domestic architecture in England' (Pevsner). It is hoped later to visit 18th-century **Frampton Court** where Pevsner admires the 'splendid joinery' of the interior, and where we take tea.

Saturday 25 April. WHEAS: The Butts Dig Dayschool
10.00-5.30 at the University of Worcestershire

Find out what was discovered during this exciting Worcester city excavation. In the morning the background to the project will be explained, and the archaeologists will describe the new information that has been revealed so far, the detailed study of the historic buildings, and new historical research. The fieldwork is still ongoing, so this will not by any means be the final word! However we hope to enable everyone to understand the importance of this site.

In the afternoon there will be short 'workshops' for small groups. These will be opportunities to look at a range of the evidence from the site and discuss current interpretations with the project team. We plan to run workshops on pottery identification, documentary research, pottery drawing, and how to date a historic building. It will be possible to sign up for two different workshop sessions.

Tickets £15, to include tea/coffee and biscuits, but make your own lunch arrangements. Contact Mo Bogaard: mbogaard@worcestershire.gov.uk or 01905 855455.

Items for the next issue should be sent to the Editor, Caroline Hillaby, at The Roughs, Hollybush, Ledbury, HR8 1EU, tel/fax 01531 650618, carolinehillaby@googlemail.com by **18 October 2009**.

