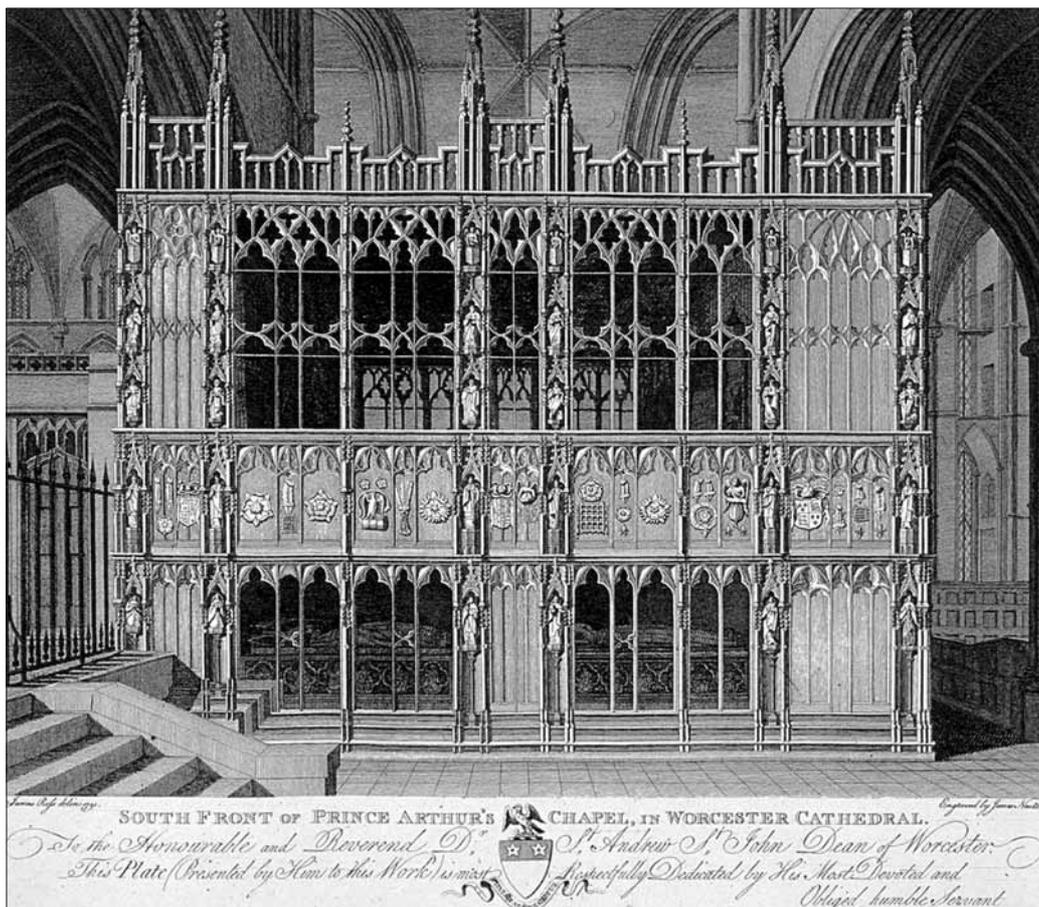


Worcestershire Recorder

Autumn 2009, Edition 80

ISSN 1474-2691

Newsletter of the
WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Charity No 517092



Free to Members
Membership Secretary Tel: 01684 565190

CONTENTS

	Page
Chairman's Letter	3
An Honour for our Chairman	4
Obituary: Gwen Grice	5
News from the County: The Butts Update	6
Archaeological projects on the Worcester Castle site, now Kings School, Worcester	7
Looking for the Bishop's Palace at Northwick, Worcester	10
Worcestershire Record Office Deposits, September 2008 - October 2009	12
News from the City	12
The Old Bells of St Peter the Great Sidbury in Worcester	14
Richard Hurd, Bishop of Worcester 1781-1808, and his Library at Hartlebury Castle	15
The Staffordshire Hoard	17
Book Reviews: <i>Arthur's Chantry</i>	18
<i>From Bromsgrove to Aston Fields: A Story of Victorian Expansion</i>	19
<i>Worcester Porcelain</i>	21
<i>The Pictish Symbol Stones of Scotland</i>	21
WAS Library	22
WAS Excursions	22
WAS Lecture Programme	23

A Warm Welcome to New Members:

Andrew Hoan & Helen Loney, Worcester
Jon G Lewis-Bowen, Malvern Wells
Mrs A Conry, Worcester
Mr D Pagett, Malvern

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:

Worcester Cathedral: Prince Arthur's chapel, south elevation. 1794 drawing by Ross (see p18)

Chairman's Letter

My first year as chairman is rapidly coming to an end, and what an exciting year it has been. The Society has had the usual full summer of wonderful excursions, ably master-minded by Ernie who has with his usual smooth administrative skills enabled the individual organisers to exercise their skills in taking us to places not always easy to see as a private individual and offering insightful tours. At the time of writing he is well into planning next year's programme.

Whilst we have had a successful search to find a candidate to take over the role of Treasurer, we have yet to find somebody to take on the role so ably exercised by Ernie. I am sure that his efficiency at undertaking the role is a deterrent to anybody who might want to take over from him, but there is the opportunity to shadow him, and we might break the job into more than one task to make it more manageable.

For me one of the most exciting archaeological discoveries in our life times has been the Staffordshire Hoard, which I was lucky enough to be able to see on an office outing without having to join the very long queues which this exciting discovery created at Birmingham City Museum (see p17). It is not just the stunning nature of the individual finds that is so exciting, nor the quantity of gold, but rather the very unusual nature of the militaristic hoard. For scholars in the field it will no doubt play a major role in Anglo-Saxon studies for many years to come, as the full meaning of the collection becomes apparent.

It acts as a model of how the metal detecting community has built relationships with the professional archaeological and museum worlds through the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The regular discoveries of metal detectorists are reported and recorded, and then subjected to the proper legal processes (such as the Coroner's Inquest when appropriate). Most importantly, the archaeological information is recovered from the find, preserving our common cultural inheritance.

Tim Bridges tells me that: 'The Scheme, with specialist officers to record detectorist and others finds which were otherwise not brought into the public domain, was set up by the British Museum in the late 1990s. It was piloted in the West Midlands, amongst other areas, before it was rolled out across the country in 2004. Worcester City and Worcestershire County Museums were involved in this from the start. It is gratifying to see this discovery as a result.'

The Society strongly supports the Portable Antiquities Scheme, which acts as a professional liaison between archaeology and detectorists.

Meanwhile, I have been following with close interest the research of our last Chairman, Stephen Price, as he has been exploring the many possessions of the Society, which extend beyond our library to a wide variety of artefacts and other collections, mostly on loan to various institutions. This will form the subject of a paper in the next *Transactions*, where we will be able to see the wide variety of stuff that the Society has acquired over the years. At the same time I have been shamed into writing something myself, at last, after many years when I simply have not got around to providing anything for the *Transactions*.

The winter lecture programme is well underway with the usual wide range of subjects so ably assembled by Joe, and I look forward to seeing you during the winter.

I am still keen to expand our membership, so please let me know of anybody you think should be a member so that I can write to invite them to join us. My earlier appeal has produced the names of a number of people to whom I have just written to invite them to join: the more the merrier.

Nick Molyneux

An Honour for our Chairman

The whole Society is delighted that its current Chairman, Nicholas Molyneux, has been elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. This is a very great, and well deserved, honour.

The roughly current 2,500 Fellows include many of the most eminent names in archaeology and history. The Society was founded in December 1707 at a meeting at the Bear Tavern in The Strand, and its Royal Charter of 1751 sets its aims as 'the encouragement, advancement and furtherance of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and history of this and other countries'. With its elegant Headquarters in Burlington House, and its excellent library (which includes the papers of the Worcestershire antiquary Peter Prattinton), it is a natural focus for research across a wide range of topics relating to history, archaeology and antiquities.

The fact that our Chairman now has the significant initials F.S.A. after his name made me think about previous Society members who have been Fellows. Over the years Fellows have played a large part in our Society. Although 13 of our 42 Presidents/Chairmen to date have been Fellows, our current Chairman is the first since Harry Sargeant in 1976-79 to have this honour. The proportion of Fellows amongst our membership has fluctuated. A random sample of years shows 15 Fellows in 1923, 20 in 1935, five in 1966 and six in 1982. By my reckoning this new honour for our Chairman boosts to six the current number of Fellows in our membership.

Many of the most significant names in our Society have been Fellows. Just a selection includes Willis-Bund, whose achievements don't need rehearsing again; E.A.B.Barnard, our Editor for 25 years and the man who started our own independent *Transactions*; Philip Barker, who was a major figure in the archaeology of Worcester and who also edited our *Transactions*; both Matley Moore and his sister Elsie, who were mainstays of the Society for many years; Alderman H.E.Palfrey, who was instrumental in the founding of the Worcestershire Record Office; and J.F.Parker, whose collections formed the original core of the County Museum.

When I first joined the Committee of the Society in 1976, the following Fellows were also members: Harry Sargeant, Canon Milburn, Canon Leatherbarrow, Matley Moore, W.A.Peplow, Miss Matley Moore and Graham Webster.

Robin Whittaker

Hon. Editor

Obituaries:

The Committee was saddened to learn of the recent death of three of its oldest members.

Gwen Grice. 1910-2009

The Society's longest-serving member, Gwen was in her 100th year. Robin Whittaker recalls her first 40 plus years with the Society:

Gwen Grice first joined the Society in June 1951. She and her husband Fred had come to Worcester when Fred was appointed Head of the English Department at the then Worcester College of Education. Gwen told me that joining us was suggested to her as a way of making new friends in the area. Gwen came from Durham, as did her husband, and used to joke with me that here in Worcester we didn't know what real cold was!

Fred himself joined the Society a couple of years later (and went on to become Editor and later President of the Society before his untimely death). Gwen and Fred were a lovely couple. I knew Fred better to start with as I was on the Committee with him, but when I took over from him as Editor, Gwen became a great friend and a tower of strength to me as I grappled with this new responsibility. When a new volume was ready to be proof read she would invite me to her home to help me check the text.

Shortly after Fred died she took on the job of Secretary, holding this Office from 1985 until 1992 and then carrying on for a while as Membership Secretary when this new post was created. I well remember our annual get together at Gwen's house when our Treasurer and our Excursions Secretary would meet with Gwen and me to check that our copies of the membership list tallied. Gwen would give us all a meal and then we would settle down to ensure we all agreed who was and who wasn't a paid up member.

Vince Hemingway takes up her story: As she gradually loosened the reins of office in the Society, Gwen became involved once again with The Greyfriars and friends with the new custodians. She had been a close friend of Elsie Matley Moore up to Elsie's death in 1985, but afterwards felt unable to return. In the mid 90s, however, she became interested in what was happening there, particularly with regard to the history of the house and of the MMs.

Gwen was a great help to the custodians in filling in details of the Moores' lives and introducing other 'old friends' to developments there. These included Homery Folkes and Audrey Pettigrew, stalwarts of the Society, and without all three, much of the detail would have been lost. Gwen knew many stories of those earlier times and the connection between The Greyfriars and the Archaeological Society, all interesting and revealing.

That was Gwen; she usually told it as she saw it, but she was unfailingly helpful to all sorts of people in the Society, giving freely of her advice and experience. She will always be remembered for her cheerful hospitality, down-to-earth good sense and a gift for friendship with all types and conditions of people.

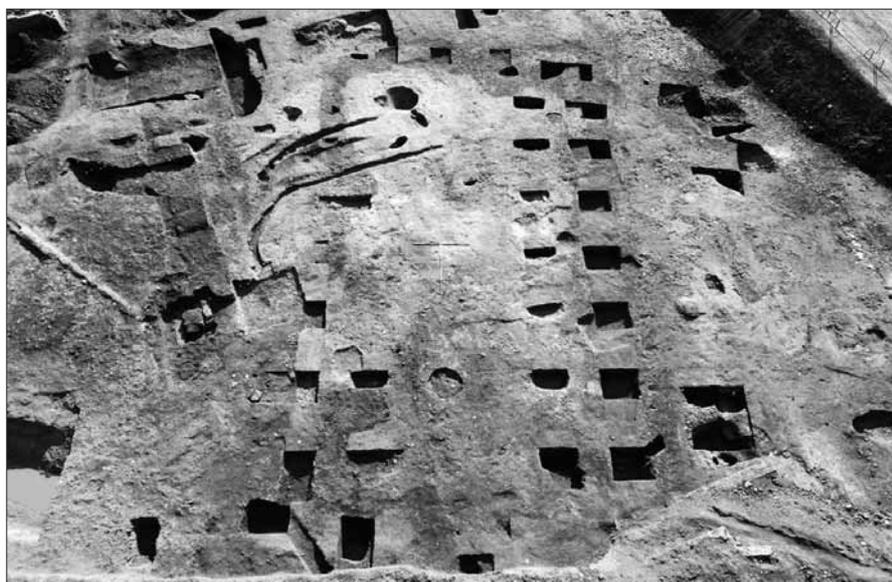
Miss Joan Faram, a former teacher at Alice Ottley School, also died recently. She joined the Society in April 1952, only months after Gwen, and was a committee member between 1979 and 1996.

Miss Muriel Maby, a member for over 45 years, died in July, aged 102. It is reported that she continued socialising widely with friends and family right up to the day before her death.

News from the County: The Butts Dig update

The excavations at The Butts, the site of the new Worcester Library and History Centre, have now finally come to an end. The excavations, started in August 2008 and finished in June 2009, have revealed amazing discoveries about this important site. The former home of Worcester's bin lorries has revealed its glorious past. Throughout the entire Roman period this area on the eastern edge of the River Severn was teeming with activity. People lived, worked and even died here. Goods from across the whole of the Roman Empire found their way through the site.

At the start of the excavation a dedicated team of volunteers, working alongside WHEAS archaeologists, started to uncover tantalising glimpses of the city's past. Initially an early Roman ditch and possible road surface was uncovered, running east-west towards the north of the site. Extending southwards from this were at least three structures, including one large aisled building. The aisled building appeared to have been unfinished, and might have dated to the very end of the Roman period (late 4th-early 5th century). Below the footprint of this large building were the earlier remains of further 'strip' buildings. These were narrow rectangular semi-industrial buildings, of which at least three extended southwards from the possible east-west aligned road to the north of the site. Close to these building a deep stone-lined well was located. This circular well, dated to the 3rd century, was carefully constructed from limestone blocks. Although not completely excavated, the well produced preserved environmental remains that will hopefully provide information regarding the surrounding landscape of the area in the Roman period. A second well was also excavated towards the centre of the site. This one appeared to be of a 4th century date and, unlike the first, had a timber lining, though this had all completely rotted away. Also in this area a number of very large late-Roman pits, numerous bread ovens, yard surfaces and the remains of small timber structures were present.



The late-Roman aisled building

On the western side of the main excavation area a small unusual stone structure was uncovered. The building consisted of two rectangular stone footings with a narrow central area. Material recovered from within and below this building suggested a very late Roman or even an early post-Roman date. The function of this structure was not clear, a large part of it having been removed by a later post-medieval pit, but it probably had an industrial function, such as a corn drier or a malting oven.



Unusual small late Roman oven structure

The excavations at The Butts were not solely confined to the area of the former council depot; works were also undertaken to the south of The Butts, in the area directly to the north of the existing City Wall. Here the city ditch was recorded. Some 9m wide and 4.5m deep, this showed evidence of its medieval origins, and of having been extensively widened and deepened during the Civil War in the 17th century. This ditch also produced well-preserved organic remains, which will provide detailed environmental evidence for the way in which it gradually in-filled over the following centuries.

Work was also undertaken in the Cattle Market car park, closer to the River Severn. Here, evidence for Roman activity on the river's floodplain was clearly visible, along with later activity associated with late-medieval bell-casting. Also very well-preserved Georgian timber water pipes ran across the area investigated.

Now the on-site excavations have ceased, work is continuing apace to clean, record and catalogue all the masses of finds that were recovered, along with the processing of the environmental samples. All the information will be collated and published in the near future.

Simon Sworn

Archaeological projects on the Worcester Castle site, now Kings School, Worcester 2002-9

The King's School main site occupies a large proportion of the former Norman motte and bailey castle site, immediately to the south of Worcester Cathedral, and partially within the cathedral precinct. The castle was founded before September 1069, and has long been suspected of earlier origins. Although short-lived as a military installation, the castle saw frequent action. It was attacked in 1088 – the Anglo Saxon Chronicle reported that *'the chief men of Hereford and all that shire forthwith and the men of Shropshire with many people from Brytland (Wales) came and harried and burnt in Worcestershire on till they came to the city itself, and would then burn the city, plunder the monastery and win the kings castle into their hands'*. Presumably still largely in its original timber form, it was burnt during a widespread fire of 1113, and attacked again in 1139. In 1140 the Empress Maud took Worcester, but failed

to carry the motte or castle. Ten years later, in 1149, Stephen took and burnt Worcester, but was unable to take the castle which, *'being a piece then of marvellous strength, withstood him so as neither his longe seige nor his two castells raised there, and furnished with soldiers against it, could conquer it'*. The castle was besieged once again in 1152 and refortified in 1155 by Hugh Mortimer against Henry II.

A stone keep was constructed before the mid 12th century, and expenditure of £20 recorded in 1157-8. Unusually high recorded expenditure at Worcester occurred in 1172-3 when £35 14s 6d was spent. Further extensive work was undertaken during the reigns of Richard I and John. In 1192 work was done on the king's hall, chamber and cellar. In 1198-9 £20 3s 0d was spent. A fire in 1202 caused considerable damage. The palisade, king's house and treasury had to be repaired. Following the disuse of the castle for military purposes in the early 13th century, the site was retained as a prison, the earliest evidence for which is the documented escape of prisoners in 1221.

By the 17th century the only surviving buildings (occupied by the prison) were the subterranean dungeon, a gaoler's house and a stone-built tower. This latter building was clearly not the gaoler's house (which we know from later plans and descriptions to have been on the precinct wall, larger and mainly timber-framed with a stone basement), so was presumably the other principal structure on the site, marked on the Civil War period 'Siege Map' as 'Castle Gate'. The Siege Map shows this building as much larger than the gaoler's house, so it is possible that only one side of the gate served as a gaol. By the late 18th century the remnants of the gate served as a kitchen for the Bridewell.

Over the last few years the school has been adapting and expanding its buildings and, due to the archaeologically sensitive nature of the whole site, all works were covered by appropriate archaeological observation and recording. Perhaps the most significant finding of the programme of works was the identification of an enigmatic ashlar-built wall as the sole surviving above-ground element of the Norman Castle. This fragment, which survives to first floor window head level, complete with a number of window loops, a string moulding and pilaster buttress, appears to have been a chamber block, part of the domestic buildings of the king's house at Worcester, built around 1170 and transferred to monastic ownership on the death of King John in 1217. Study of 'Castle House' has revealed something of the process by which the Norman structure was incorporated as a party wall and, subsequent to demolition of 'Headmaster's House', became an external wall to the present building. A small excavation to the south of the surviving structure later located its south-eastern corner, against which the precinct wall had been built.

The 'Castle Court' area, where Worcestershire elections were held well into the 19th century, lies outside the precinct, but within the former castle bailey. Eleven very substantial pits were excavated to receive semi-mature trees as part of a landscaping scheme. The pits exposed deposits relating to the castle and subsequent use of the site as a medieval and post-medieval gaol and bridewell. The castle and subsequent buildings appear to have been thoroughly quarried for building materials, but traces of a burnt floor and waste disposal features relating to the castle were observed. A widespread dump layer of clay suggests that some levelling of the redundant earthworks occurred during the medieval period, possibly as early as the 14th century.

Landscaping works to create a new 4th-Form playground within the former footprint of the motte confirmed 19th-century documentary sources which suggested that the motte (once 80 feet

high), and the original ground surfaces beneath, had been quarried out for gravel and antiquarian artefacts in the early 19th century.

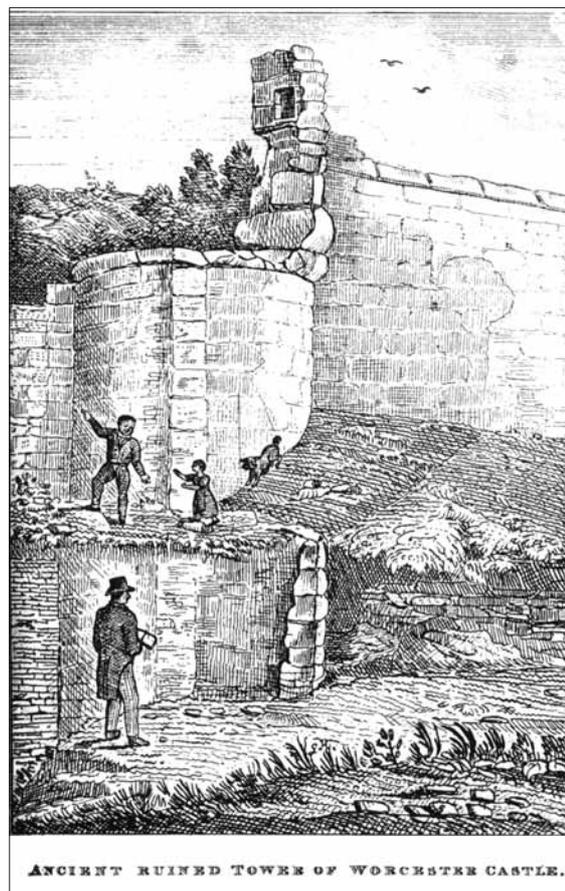
As part of the ‘Castle House’ and ‘Castle Court’ projects, the cathedral precinct wall was exposed by demolition, and these areas were then recorded in detail. Of particular note was the original width of the foundation of the wall, approximately 1.3m, and the identification of the location of a former semi-circular or round mural tower immediately behind Castle House, and once forming a corner of the demolished gaoler’s house. This tower appears to have been part of the precinct boundary, but may equally have served as part of the northern defences of the castle after the truncation of the outer bailey in the 13th century.

The most recent works within the castle site have been focused on the Severn Street side, along the line of the southern defences. Trial pits and boreholes have established the size and depth of the castle ditch in the vicinity of the former Salmon’s Leap PH, and a trench within the pub cellar identified evidence of some revetting on the outer lip of the ditch. This year’s project has been the archaeologically controlled removal of the outer half of the rampart along a substantial length of the defences. The rampart was found to survive standing to a height of 3m, and over 40 metres in length survived within the study area. From the observed deposits it is clear that the original rampart height was around 5m and the width of the base was at least 12m, probably 15m.

The excavated deposits contained little dating evidence, as is usual for earthen ramparts using material upcast from a ditch. Scientific dating is still awaited, but it would appear probable that the earliest phase of defences was Saxon. The earliest defensive bank exposed was fronted by a timber revetment. There followed a sequence of dumping episodes forming a much larger bank. This was then fronted with a palisade based probably on a sole plate, the slot for which could be traced the length of the site. Eventually the rampart was again raised in height and a further palisade or revetment constructed of timber posts on a line similar to the previous construction.

The earliest phases of rampart directly overlay an undisturbed subsoil horizon containing only prehistoric material – this has yet to be excavated. There are plans to build an underground car-park in the area of the castle ditch and rampart footprint, and further archaeological work is planned.

Mike Napthan Archaeology



*Illustration of the tower (demolished 1826)
from Ambrose Florence “Guide to
Worcester” (Edwin Lees 1828)*

Looking for the Bishop's Palace at Northwick, Worcester

Recent work as part of a local community archaeology project, has sought to shed light on the intriguingly elusive Manor of Northwick, Worcester's 'super-manor' of the early medieval period. Throughout antiquarian sources we catch the faint scent of its importance, Habington referring to Northwick as the 'first and principal' of all the bishop of Worcester's manors, Bishop Carpenter ordaining priests at his chapel at Northwick and finally choosing to spend his last days there, and Leyland (quoting earlier deeds) describing 'All that tofte within a moat where of late our capital mansion did stand'. Northwick is first referred to by name in Domesday Book, by which time it had accumulated vast estates, and it has been suggested that during the Anglo-Saxon period Worcester was part of Northwick rather than the other way around.

The Northwick Manor Community Heritage Project is an initiative co-ordinated by the Worcestershire Young Archaeologists' Club (WYAC) that obtained substantial funding of £49,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund in January 2008. This project has sought to engage the local community in a programme of events, workshops and fieldwork to uncover the history of Northwick and Bevere, and to create a 5km heritage trail interpreting the rich historic landscapes of this area of north Worcester. Members of WYAC had previously been highly commended on their own designs for a 'monument trail' which they had submitted to the national Young Archaeologist of the Year Awards. It was in seeking to make this trail a reality that the project was born.

As the project has progressed we have begun to piece together a history of various aspects of this now peaceful suburb – once the scene of a thriving brick industry on the banks of the Severn, a fierce battle at Bevere Island and reputedly part of the route taken by Prince Edward (later to become Edward I) on his way to the Battle of Evesham, making use of an important fordable river crossing. Most intriguing of all though, is the story of the bishop's principal manor. We know from an Anglo-Saxon charter that settlement was already established north of Barbourne Brook by 904AD, at this time known as the homestead of the *Ludadingc*, or *Ludadingc Wic*. The Domesday Survey as previously mentioned records a vast estate stretching from the river at its western boundary all the way across to Huddington, Bredicot and Tibberton on the east, Pirie (or Perry Wood) and Spetchley to the south, and holding 90 houses within the city itself as well as salt pans at Droitwich. The survey also records three mills as well as a fishery, a prominent feature of the landscape until well into the 20th century and still identifiable today.

While the manor of Northwick was one of the principal seats of the early bishops of Worcester, the acquisition of Hartlebury and the establishment of a palace there, together with the building of the parish church at Claines in the mid 13th century, meant that Claines rose in importance at Northwick's expense, and it seems that Northwick ceased to be used as a main residence. They did, however, retain the palace for ceremonial use and their tenants, often diocesan officials, used the palace for official entertaining. There are also records of ordinations undertaken at the bishop's chapel at Northwick, including that of William Canynge who later became lord mayor of Bristol.

A lease made out to one of the bishop's officials, Thomas Wem, in 1517, was for the site of the manor of Northwick, with its demesne and pastures, called Bixtons, together with one dovehouse newly built, all houses in the inner court within the moat, two rooms called the Porter's House, the great barn, two stables, one house called the Millhouse and the great garden

lying outside the moat, together with all ponds and fishponds and the pasture called the Coneygree.

Records from 1563 document a court case brought by John Bourne of Battenhall against the bishop, asserting that the bishops of Worcester were profiting from dismantling the ‘fair house at Northwick’ and selling off the materials to his friends. The house was described as having been built of timber and plaster in the early years of Henry VII’s reign (apparently replacing the earlier palace) but, according to the bishop (defending his actions), it was situated in ‘low, marish ground’ and in a state of ‘greate decay’.

Another lease, made out to the Wem family in 1585, made it clear that extensive alterations were taking place. Much of the moat had been drained and also some of the fish-pools. The Wems were granted leave to pull down the remaining buildings, and it seems that they rebuilt, using the courtyard of the old house as a building plot. This is likely to be the house that appears on Doharty’s map of 1751-3 and therefore places the original site in the vicinity of Linley Close.



*Extract from Doharty’s map courtesy of
Worcestershire Record Office*

It was hoped that a small-scale test pitting exercise within the gardens of three houses in this area might shed further light on the early history of the site. We were extremely grateful for the generosity of householders who granted admittance to their properties, and who kindly allowed the excavation of 1m x 1.5m trenches to take place. Sadly, not a single sherd of medieval pottery was discovered, though a nicely preserved Neolithic flint tool was uncovered in one of the gardens. Discussion with local residents seems to suggest that a large quantity of clay was deposited across the site to raise the ground level above the area of flooding from the stream that had originally fed the moat and fisheries. It is therefore possible that earlier deposits are still safely preserved beneath this level. Residents also recalled the existence of sandstone blocks (having skipped across them as children) around the area of marsh that marked the site of the earlier fisheries. Interestingly, one of the properties that was excavated as part of the project has, as a garden feature, a long single course of sandstone blocks, featuring clear herringbone tooling, suggestive of a medieval origin. It is possible that their original purpose was for a structure not too far from their present resting place.

Sheena Payne-Lunn

Worcester City Historic Environment Record Officer

Further reading: S.Payne *Northwick – The Bishop’s Seat, Manor and Hamlet from the year 680AD to the present day* (1995, unpublished) in Worcester City HER

Some deposits in the Worcestershire Record Office, September 2008 - October 2009

Accession No.

- 14,830 Microfilm copy of the diaries of John Amphlett of Clent, 1854-1918 (originals held by Worcester College, Oxford)
- 14,848 Photographs and papers from an excavation at the Lygon Arms, Broadway
- 14,868 Two items from the sale of the Willis Bund library – a) minute book of the Worcester Literary and Scientific Association, 1829-51; b) author's interleaved and corrected copy of 'The Civil War in Worcestershire'. (purchased by Friends of WRO)
- 14,869 Deeds relating to police houses and stations, 19th and 20th cents
- 14,877 Papers relating to the decease and estate of Revd J.Davison of Upton upon Severn (purchased by Friends of WRO)
- 14,901 Signed minutes of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society, 1994-2007
- 14,904 Print of Netherton House, Worcester c.1830 (purchased by Friends of WRO)
- 14,911 Rules and bye-laws of the Almshouses of the Six Masters of Worcester, 1877 (purchased by the Friends of WRO)
- 14,914 Typescript of a book on the Vernon family of Hanbury by Andrew Harris
- 14,920 Two albums of watercolours of scenes in Stoke Prior, 1870s.
- 14,925 Deeds re a property in Corse lawn, 1716-1953 (this property was home to Godfrey Baseley, creator of 'The Archers')
- 14,929 Buckle collection – c. 260 sketches and studies of Worcestershire buildings by Mrs Buckle, 1808-22 (see *TWAS* N.S. XV, p. 84 and N.S. XXII, p. 88)
- 14,932 *The Herefordshire Pomona* (printed)
- 14,962 Deeds relating to the Bradford Estate, Belbroughton, 1795-1944
- 14,971 Documents relating to a wholesale confectioner in Bank Street, Worcester
- 14,999 Original transparencies created by the Haynes Brothers for their 'Changing Face of Worcester' show.

Robin Whittaker

Archives Manager, Worcestershire Record Office

News from the city

As usual this has been a busy period in Worcester, with a wide variety of archaeological work undertaken, much of it associated with several large developments, as reported before. The very important work at the Worcester Library and History Centre site is reported elsewhere in this issue, as is excavation at the former Salmon's Leap, Severn Street, where for the first time substantial remains of the medieval Worcester Castle have been uncovered.

Archaeologists have been busy at the Lowesmoor Trading Estate site. Recording of the numerous buildings on the site is now largely complete. These comprise a large number of specialised industrial buildings making up the Hill, Evans vinegar works and the Grainger porcelain works, and buildings at 18-20 Silver Street, which have been variously houses, a workshop, a school, shops, and used for Worcester's first infirmary (but were mostly recently the Majestic Wine Warehouse). These have been shown to incorporate a substantial proportion

of buildings erected towards the end of the 17th century. Many have now been demolished, but a number of the best and most important buildings will remain, refurbished, to signal the site's history. The retained buildings are:

Hill, Evans vinegar works

The New Filling Shed (to become the Territorial Army's offices)

Counting House (will form the entrance to the Asda store)

Old Cellars (not used)

New Cellars (proposed for club or restaurant use)

Fermenting House (retail, and potential restaurant)

Bottom Cooperage (part only – café)

Grainger porcelain works

Showroom (residential)

Attached workshop to rear (residential)

The surviving part of a bottle kiln hovel, the only one to remain in Worcester (will form a feature in the new development)

18-20 Silver Street

Street frontage building (retail and probable residential)

Brick and part timber framed wing to rear (probable residential)

The below ground archaeological remains are also complex and varied. Full evaluation of the site was only possible once all the small businesses which occupied the site until recently had left. This has shown that the Roman occupation previously identified just to the south-west extends well on to the site; that as well as medieval occupation within the suburban plots along Silver Street, there were ditches and other features elsewhere on the site; and that the ditches of one of the earthwork bastions built to defend the city in the Civil War also extend on to the site. Additionally the remains of five kilns of the Grainger porcelain works have been uncovered and recorded in detail. Only about 35 porcelain works were ever established in Britain, of which four were in Worcester (Royal Worcester, Warmstry Slip; Royal Worcester, Severn Street; Grainger; and Locke, Newtown Road), the largest concentration after the Potteries (eight) and London (six). Very few kilns have been excavated and the site is of great importance.

An ongoing watching brief at the former Worcester Royal Infirmary, Castle Street, has revealed a number of pits containing human bones. Several of the bones were sawn or had cut marks, suggesting that these were from amputations, or perhaps from dissections.

The remains of the east wall of the chapel at the Commandery have now been reburied to protect them from the weather. A small amount of additional excavation was carried out to assess suitable locations for drainage. This has helped to establish the sequence of demolition and rebuilding in this area, in particular in the late 15th century, when the north aisle chapel was demolished and replaced by the east (hospital master's) wing and Long Chamber.

Finally, Worcester has its latest (and newest) listed building. This is a K8 phone box on the platform at Shrub Hill Station. The K8s were introduced in 1968 to a design by Bruce Martin, and were the last of the red phone boxes. Although thousands were made, and they are readily available to buy, only 12 survive in service; all have now been listed.

James Dinn

The Old Bells of St Peter the Great Sidbury in Worcester

This was one of the ancient parishes of the city of Worcester, the church being situated on the eastern side of the city and serving a large rural area in the extended parish beyond. The medieval church of St Peter the Great is believed to have been the successor of an earlier one dedicated to the saints Perpetua and Felicity, first mentioned in the year 969. St Peter's existed in its own right by the 13th century.

It had a fine tower in the Perpendicular style. Part of the north wall of the church was timber-framed, and the west front had a small porch below the west window. This building was demolished in 1836. A new one in red brick with stucco dressings was built in 1837-8 to the designs of John Mills and consecrated on 4 December 1838. It had a prominent tower over the main entrance at the north-west corner. The church clock was made by Thomas Steight from Pershore in 1755. Restored in 1889, the church was closed in 1972 and demolished in 1976.

St Peter's had three bells in 1552, recast in the 17th century. The smallest bell was cast by Godwin Baker in 1615, an itinerant founder, elsewhere called Gawen or Owen Baker, who worked in Berkshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. This is the only bell which bears his full name.



**RICHARD CHADBORI JOHN KNIGHT CHURCHWARDENS 1615
LORDE IN THEE IS OVR HOOP GODWINN BAKER ME FECIT**



The two other bells were cast by John Martin II of Worcester in 1661 and 1693. He was the son of John Martin, and they cast bells in Worcester in the later half of the 17th century. John Martin I also cast a small Sanctus bell in 1677. This was recast by John Warner in 1883.

The bells were not hung for full-circle ringing when the church was rebuilt. When St Peter's was closed, one of the smaller John Martin bells was broken up and the metal used to cast one of the new bells at All Saints Worcester in 1978. The 1883 Sanctus bell was stolen after the church was demolished.

For a short while the two remaining bells were on display at the Commandery; then they were stored in the City Museum's warehouse until 24 November 2008. Iain Rutherford and Phillipa Tinsley of Worcester's Museum, Arts and Heritage Service offered the bells to the Cathedral's bell-ringers as exhibits in their unique Teaching Centre.

Together with the school bell from St Peter's School (now part of the Porcelain Museum's buildings), the two old bells were lifted 25 metres through the vast space under the Cathedral tower. This was the first time bells had been lifted there since 1928. If you would like see these bells please contact the Cathedral on 0905 732900.

Mark Regan

Ringling Master, Worcester Cathedral

Richard Hurd, Bishop of Worcester 1781-1808, and his Library at Hartlebury Castle

The library of Bishop Hurd is a unique example of a working library, formed by an 18th-century scholar bishop of wide interests, still on its original shelves and in the room built for it. No other such library has survived in the Anglican communion. That of John Cosin, bishop of Durham from 1661-1672, comes close but, although his own collection formed its nucleus, Cosin founded his library in 1669 as an endowed public library for local clergy, gentry and people of scholarly interests. Bishop Hurd thought only of his successors in the see of Worcester, and his library is substantially that of an individual.

He was a Midlands man, born in Staffordshire, at Congreve near Penkridge, in 1720. His parents were not well off but allowed their second son as much education as he wished, sending him first to the grammar school at Brewood and then to Emmanuel College, Cambridge. It was intended that he should be a clergyman, a suitable profession for a young man of fairly modest means, and he was duly ordained in 1744 and held a curacy at Reymerston in Norfolk for a short period. But then his college offered him a fellowship and he returned to Cambridge. It must have been a pleasant life for a young and quite lively bachelor. He made some good friends – notably the poets William Mason and Thomas Gray – wrote a good deal of rather uninspired verse, read widely, played the fiddle, acted as college librarian for a while (Emmanuel's fine library may well have encouraged him in the formation of his own) and did some tutoring. His long vacations were spent with his elder brother John, who had a farm at Hatton Grange near Shifnal in Shropshire. Hurd often referred to the idyllic surroundings of this place in his letters. He used to travel on horseback. He was so fond of his horse, Thumper, that he got a friend with a spare field to look after him in his old age. Thumper was succeeded by an equally much loved mare, called Tortoise.

Hurd could well have stayed at Cambridge all his life, but in 1749 he did something which was to change it radically. He published an edition of Horace's *Ars poetica*. He modelled this edition on the work of another scholar, to whom he referred anonymously in his introduction as 'the illustrious friend and commentator of Mr Pope'. This was William Warburton, another scholar-cleric, who had done a similarly life-changing thing 11 years earlier. In 1738 he had published a defence of Pope's *Essay on man*. This poem had been considered heretical, and Warburton's critique was such a comfort to the author that a great friendship developed. Pope left Warburton half his library and introduced him to his friend Ralph Allen, who had made a fortune from postal services and a quarry near Bath. He lived at Prior Park and was friendly with many of the literati of the day. Henry Fielding portrayed him as the benevolent Squire Allworthy in *Tom Jones*. Warburton did well out of this friendship, marrying Allen's favourite niece, who eventually inherited her uncle's house and much of his fortune.

Despite his material good luck, Warburton was not a popular man; his scholarship was not widely admired and nor were his manners. He was therefore delighted to read Hurd's tribute and they became close friends. Warburton encouraged Hurd to pursue a career in the church. In 1750 he got him a Whitehall preachship – this was designed to give young provincial clergymen the opportunity to preach in London before influential people. In 1756 the college living of Thurcaston in Leicestershire fell vacant and Hurd was appointed rector. This brought him back to the Midlands for good. One of his predecessors at Worcester, Hugh Latimer, had been born there and Hurd noted that the rectory was good enough for a bishop – as he eventually became. He got his friend William Mason, a better gardener than poet, to design the grounds for him, and he wrote two important books there – *Moral and political dialogues* in 1759, which George III was later to say made him a bishop, and *Letters on chivalry and*

romance in 1762, which looked forward to the Romantic age in its affirmation of the power of the imagination. Warburton became bishop of Gloucester in 1760 and made Hurd his chaplain. He later became archdeacon of Gloucester. In 1765 he preached a series of sermons at Lincoln's Inn. In 1769 Warburton founded a series of lectures there and invited Hurd to be the first speaker. He attracted large audiences and came to the notice of the King.

Hurd was now evidently destined for higher office and in 1774 he became bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. The royal family loved him for his courtly manners and serene bearing – he was known as ‘the beauty of holiness’ – and Queen Charlotte kept his portrait in her bedroom. Horace Walpole described him as ‘a gentle, plausible man affecting a singular decorum that endeared him highly to devout old ladies’. He was the king’s personal choice for the see of Worcester when it became vacant in 1781, and only two years later he besought him to go to Canterbury; but Hurd preferred to stay where he was, in the idyllic surroundings of Hartlebury and in the company of his young nephew, Richard Hurd junior, who became his secretary and probably the first Hurd Librarian.

When Hurd came to Hartlebury he had recently purchased the magnificent library of Warburton, who had died in 1779. To his horror he found there was no room for books at the castle. The only solution was to build one – ‘only one of the many embarrassments we draw upon ourselves by accepting bishoprics’, he remarked. An obscure architect called James Smith from Shifnal, whom perhaps Hurd knew of through his brother, produced a plan in November 1781, and by 1783 the library was finished: a wonderful Adam-style room over the long gallery, with a plaster ceiling and bow window overlooking the lake. The books were moved over for a cost of £50 and another £50 paid for the first catalogue. Verses in *The Gentleman's Magazine* in 1784 heaped praise on it.

The collection is extremely varied. The earliest is a French edition of the *Legenda Aurea*, printed in Lyons in 1476. There are over 40 books from Pope's library, many bearing notes in his hand and some with additional marks of provenance – one belonged previously to Dryden and another was given to Pope by Swift. George III gave over 100 of his own books, including a good deal of travel literature. Fine and early printing is well represented, including a magnificent copy of Castiglione's *Il Cortegiano*, printed in Venice at the Aldine Press in 1528 (pictured here). The subjects covered are almost limitless – history, architecture, medicine, literature, science, geography, Islamic studies, linguistics, topography, gardening, art, botany, as well as the expected theology, classics and philosophy – reflecting Hurd's wide interests, and the books are mostly in very fine state.



Hurd died peacefully at Hartlebury in May 1808, aged 88. He had never expected to live so long. He had occupied the see longer than any other bishop since the Reformation. He was buried in a table tomb, decorated with a mitre lying carelessly on top, in the village churchyard, and a memorial was placed at the west end of the Cathedral. In his will he made the following careful provision for his library: 'I give and bequeath to my successor in the See of Worcester and all succeeding Bishops of that See for the time being forever the use of all my books which I shall have in the Library of the Episcopal House or Castle at Hartlebury at my death and also the furniture of the same library'. So there it has been ever since – a rare and perfect survival of the library of a modest scholar, who had never expected high office but who had been in the right place and done the right thing, at exactly the right time.

Christine Penney

Hurd Librarian

For a photograph of the Hurd Library, see cover of *Recorder* 75, Spring 2007; for Hurd himself, cover of *Recorder* 78, Autumn 2008

The Staffordshire Hoard

The discovery of a large hoard of garnet-inlaid gold pommels, mounts, hilt plates and collars from Anglo-Saxon swords, and sundry other pieces of gold and silver jewellery was made known to the world at a press conference at the Birmingham Museum on 23 September 2009, and resulted in some spectacular press coverage.

The metal-detectorist who found and reported the hoard acted very properly throughout the discovery, having the appropriate permission from the landowner and promptly reporting the find to the Portable Antiquities Officer. Things then swung into action and a professional excavation of the site ensued (funded by English Heritage). The find spot is near to Burntwood in south Staffordshire, 4 miles west of Lichfield and 10 miles west of the Mercian capital of Tamworth. The excavation of the find spot found no evidence of associated structures or of graves.

As for the significance of the hoard, Leslie Webster (former keeper at the British Museum) summed it up best when she said that the hoard is 'the metalwork equivalent of finding a new Lindisfarne Gospels or Book of Kells; archaeologists and art-historians are going to have to rethink the chronology of metalwork, and think again about rising and falling kingdoms, the expression of regional identities in this period, the complicated transition from paganism to Christianity, the conduct of battle and the nature of fine metalwork production - to name only a few of the many huge issues it raises.'

The hoard represents a massive increase in pure numerical terms in the material available to study from this period: substantial books have been written on the development of Anglo-Saxon metalwork on the basis of examples that can be counted in the tens, rather than hundreds. This hoard has more than 1,500 items: 11lbs in weight of gold. In comparison, there were less than 50 gold items found at Sutton Hoo. Preliminary stylistic dating points to the late 6th and early 8th centuries AD, though this dating is based on the existing stylistic chronology for metalwork, and it is clear that these finds will challenge that chronology.

An explanation for the assemblage, which is quite unlike burial assemblages of the period, is that it represents a 'trophy hoard', consisting of material seized in victory from vanquished

enemies, perhaps by one of the kings of Mercia, such as Penda (633-55) or Wulfhere (658-75). If so, the material might well have come from many different parts of England, including Kent, Northumbria and East Anglia, and will provide insights into regional styles.

The hoard has been on display at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, where visitors queued in their thousands to view it. On 13 October the artefacts were transferred to the British Museum for valuation. The results are expected early in the New Year, ready for Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery and Stoke on Trent's museum service to start raising the funds to purchase the find, which will no doubt be at least a seven figure sum.

For further information and some stunning photography of the hoard with many pages of analysis and comment there is a dedicated website: www.staffordshirehoard.org.uk.

Nicholas Molyneux

Recent Publications

Arthur Tudor, Prince of Wales. Life, Death & Commemoration ed S.Gunn & L.Monckton (Boydell Press, 2009) 193 pp, hardback, £50

Arthur Tudor is not a biography. The prince died within six months of his marriage, at the age of 15, to Katherine of Aragon. The book consists of ten essays, of which the first four are contextual. Two are concerned with his funeral in 1502 and its re-enactment in 2000. Essays 6 to 9, which discuss his tomb and chantry chapel in the cathedral, its archaeology, architecture and figure sculpture, will be of particular interest to members. The subject is all the more interesting as the construction of the chantry chapel is virtually undocumented, and the secondary literature patchy.

Duffy draws attention to the unsystematic arrangement of the chantry panels, the pastiche grouping of almost half of them, and 'imperfect and inconsistent masonry' – not what one would anticipate for the design and execution of a royal commission. Turning to the tomb, he points out the paradox that, while the chantry is 'among the grandest of the English late medieval funerary monuments', the Purbeck panelled design of the tomb was long outmoded, in the antique form adopted for John's reburial in 1529, and that, more significant, the tomb lacks Arthur's image. Duffy suggests there may have been a brass, now lost.

A fundamental difficulty in establishing the history of the chantry chapel is its present relationship to the tombs of Bishop Godfrey Giffard and a woman, probably his sister, Matilda, which now form the lower stage of Arthur's chantry on its southern side (see cover illustration). The building of Worcester's new medieval choir was completed c1255-60 and Godfrey Giffard, consecrated bishop in 1268, seized the opportunity to secure a position for himself immediately south of the high altar and close to St Oswald's shrine. Here, 'amongst saints and royalty', he built 'a lofty and sumptuous erection of carved stone with certain pinnacles upon it constructed after the fashion of a tabernacle'. This necessitated the removal of the body of Bishop John Coutances, died 1198 and commonly held to be a saint. On his metropolitanical visitation in 1302, Archbishop Winchelsey ordered the removal of this structure, but there is no evidence that this took place. Linda Monckton explains that, 'if Giffard had remained on the high level site, this would have presented an opportunity to re-use it for Arthur's chantry, by placing the two Giffard tombs behind the lower screen on the south side of the new chantry'.

This issue is faced squarely by Chris Guy and Professor Hunter in their archaeological analysis of chapel and tomb. Henry Buglass and Graham Norrie assisted with the recording process, including the remarkable images of the north and south elevations of the chapel (Figs 20, 21, 28). In addition, a radar survey was undertaken by Stratascan. This proved the tomb chest to be a 'red herring'. However, they did identify 'a possible cavity north and east of the tomb' (Figs 24 & 25). Given that there is no documentary evidence as to the building of the chapel, this archaeological survey is particularly significant.

Linda Monckton considers the architecture of the chapel, asking whether 'the design of the chapel can provide any clues as to its date, the source of its design (or designer) or the level of involvement of patrons'. Given the description above, she suggests that Giffard's tomb may have been not dissimilar to that at Ely of Bishop de Luda, died 1298, and might well have emulated the canopy-like structures with pinnacles to be seen in his day above the shrines of SS Oswald and Wulfstan. The inclusion of the two Giffard tombs at the floor level of the south aisle provided the chantry chapel's designer with the opportunity for a highly impressive sculptured stone screen, as viewed from the south transept.

Monckton points to an evident lack of similarity between Arthur's chapel and other key royal monuments. She therefore reviews other major chantry designs in the West Midlands, especially those of Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, at St Mary's, Warwick, c1439, and Richard Beauchamp, earl of Worcester, in the choir of Tewkesbury Abbey, dedicated 1423. The origins of the detailed design of Arthur's chapel, she concludes, 'can be confidently ascribed to the Midlands and West Country. The mason clearly had a detailed knowledge of the Beauchamp family monuments which were highly influential in the late Middle Ages'.

Phillip Lindley, in a discussion of the chapel's figure sculpture, draws on the pioneering article by Mrs Edmund McClure, published in the WAS section of the *Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers* of 1911-12, and provides a guide to the location of the sculptured figures.

The Boydell Press is to be complimented on this handsome volume, with ten colour plates and 53 monochrome illustrations, many of superb quality, and a comprehensive index. What is lacking is a final essay, bringing together the different strands identified in the development of tomb and chapel.

Joe Hillaby

From Bromsgrove to Aston Fields: A Story of Victorian Expansion Jennie McGregor-Smith
Brewin Books (2008) 240 pp £14.95 in bookshops or £13 from the author at Coombe Cott,
Finstall, Bromsgrove B60 1EW (UK p&p £1.50)

An instigator in the foundation of the Bromsgrove Society in 1980, and caseworker with the Victorian Society, WAS member Jennie McGregor-Smith will need no introduction to readers with a Bromsgrove connection.

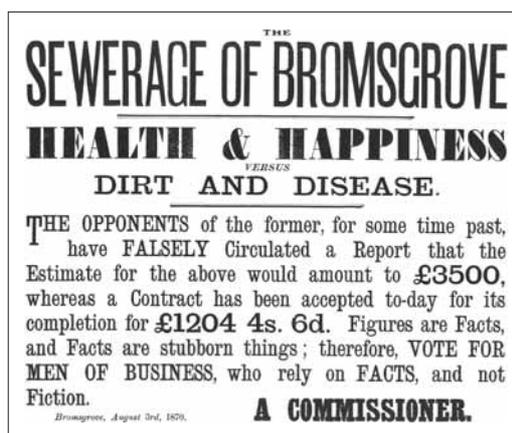
The simple answer to the 'why' that prompted Jennie to write this book is that, for reasons of economy, the station was placed a mile out of Bromsgrove. The Wagon Works, a maintenance arm of the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway which also built locomotives, therefore figures largely, rescued following a series of accidents on the Lickey Incline by James McConnell. He was also instrumental in the creation in 1846 of the Institution of Mechanical

Engineers, of which George Stephenson became the first President. The railway companies had to provide housing for their workers, with a distinct contrast between the lowly cottages and the stationmaster's house. The station also facilitated the cattle market and annual horse fair, where the Welsh pony was 'wild from his native hills'.

Across several chapters, the author looks at the development of the different areas, each given its own helpful map. The Bromsgrove, Stoke Prior and District Building Society bought land at Stoney Hill, Aston Fields and elsewhere and there are interesting plans of the allotments, complete with names, although supply outstripped demand and few of the allottees lived there. Post-war Garringtons' Housing Association helped accommodate the factory's workers until its demise in 2002. John Cotton, the subject of a previous book by the author, appears regularly in this volume, and 17 other architects are included in the index. Sadly many of the houses and public buildings they proudly built were later demolished, and from before the railway only three of the old farms and houses and a few cottages survive. The book records the protracted fight to save the Hop Pole in the town.

By 1868 the community had grown so much that Stoke Prior was split into two parishes. Aston Fields' coming of age was confirmed by the 1884 OS map. The various utilities and public facilities required by this development are discussed, the great gas and drainage rows consuming half a chapter.

Apart from Bromsgrove School, which bought properties as school and staff houses, at any one time there were about six small schools including Saywell's Academy and a Methodist ladies' school, whilst Walter Fawke advertised himself as 'Professor and Teacher of Athletic Exercise'. A chapter is devoted to the Literary & Scientific Institute and School of Science & Art; another to the Police Station and Bromsgrove Guild. The development of shops, hospital and churches is also followed. Surprisingly, it seems that less than the population attended church, and that the majority of worshippers were Nonconformist.



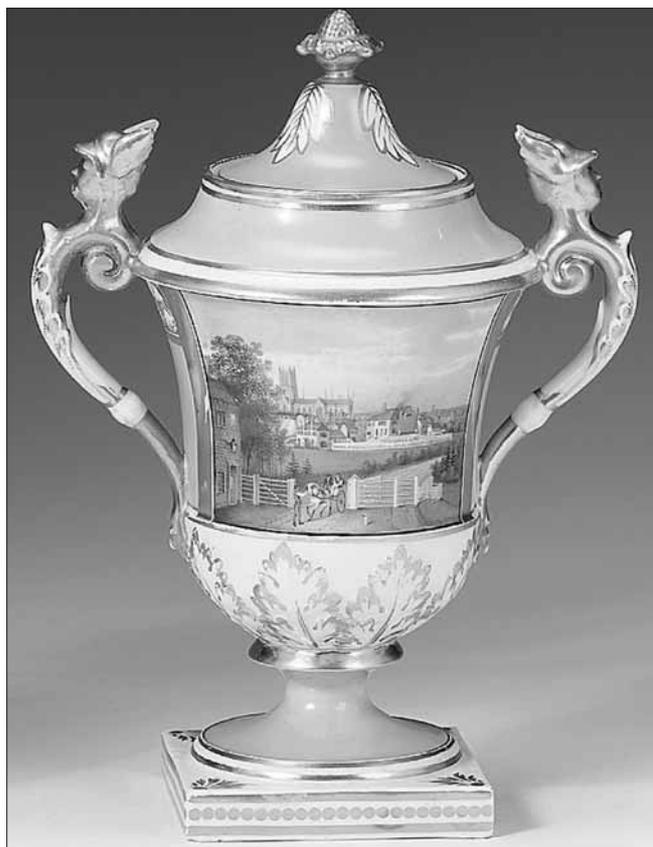
In 1878 an avenue of lime trees was planted in New Road to celebrate the coming of age of Lord Windsor of Hewell Grange. Eleven years later he received the Shah of Persia, for whose arrival at Bromsgrove station the town was handsomely decorated. This included an extraordinarily bold endeavour – greetings in Persian, thanks to an individual conversant with the language. Nasrin Askari of Toronto University describes the Persian script shown on p155 as 'very strange' but, with some guesswork, interprets the banners as reading: (left) *amir al-mu'minin*, a common epithet for Muslim rulers, 'the leader of the faithful'; (middle) 'the King of kings is just, so his peasants/subjects are happy'; and (right) *jahaan-panaah*, another epithet for the king, meaning 'the refuge of the world'.

This is a lively and vivid account of the people, buildings and institutions that make up this story of Victorian expanse. The illustrations are innumerable, but if there was to be a second edition I would recommend an overall map locating the detailed plans. As well as index, there is a bibliography and, as Appendices, a chronology, a report of 1876 on the sewage system, and entertaining excerpts from John Cotton's *Election Squibs* against the Tories. This is a book few Bromsgrovians will wish to be without.

Worcester Porcelain John Sandon (Shire, 2009) 64pp, £5.99

Not only a world authority on European porcelain and Director of Bonhams, John Sandon is also directly connected to his subject. He was just a boy in the mid 60s when his father, Henry Sandon, became curator of the Dyson Perrins Museum, a post he held for many years. The author's personal involvement is felt through the enthusiasm with which he takes us on this tour of Worcester Porcelain, and his love of the objects described. Most of the illustrations are of pieces that have passed through the author's hands at Bonhams. They are exquisite and leave one marveling.

The book opens in 1750-1, when the first Worcester porcelain factory was founded by Dr John Wall, who also established the Worcester Royal Infirmary, and William Davis, an apothecary. The first period, which takes us to 1782 and includes illustrations of a 'Wigornia Creamboat' and a dish whose mould was created from a real leaf, is followed by 'A City of Rivals', 1790-1850 and 'Victorian Splendour, 1851-1901'. Even John Sandon wonders 'how on earth' George Owen managed in 1917 to 'pierce this vase without breaking it'. 'The 20th Century' is followed by a chapter on the most outstanding artists and one on 'Figurines and Statuettes'. Finally, there is useful advice for collectors, including warnings of fakes, and a selection of factory marks and year codes.



Chamberlain 'Mercury Head' vase with view of Worcester from Bath Rd turnpike

The abundance and quality of photographs alone make this a book of extraordinary good value, but it is the text that brings the story of Worcester Porcelain to life. The book is by definition an introduction to the subject, but it will take many to the Museum, and some to deeper study.

Note: The next issue will include an article by Rod Sproat on excavations at Astley Mill which Worcester Porcelain, under Dr John Wall, leased in 1760-1770s to grind 'wasters and seconds' in to slurry. This was then sedimented out and shipped to Worcester to be made into saggars and more porcelain. Shrawley & District Local History Society has found the site of the grinding pans, with parts of the stone in place.

The Pictish Symbol Stones of Scotland ed Iain Fraser (RCAHMS, 2008) 152pp, hardback

A long way from home, perhaps, but this is a book of general interest to all and special interest to the good proportion of WAS members who visit Scotland. It provides a working list and bibliography of sculpture, rock surfaces and portable artefacts bearing Pictish symbols, with

pointers to the broader subject of Pictish sculpture without symbols. It identifies 215 sites, many with more than one entry, each containing its unique number on RCAHMS's Canmore database, National Grid Reference and references, as well as a brief description. All extant are well illustrated and there is an invaluable distribution map.

The Introduction considers Symbols and Messages: 'the ways of looking at "meaning" are clearly many, and no "understanding" has general acceptance'; but the different interpretations are fascinating, including elements of personal names. The Recording of Pictish Sculpture over centuries is also considered, with key works identified from as early as 1726, and Charles Cordiner described as the first Pictomaniac. The advent of photography clearly had a massive impact, and Romilly Allen's survey, *The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland* published in 1903, remains the major study. The reader however is also apprised of recent research and compilations, as well as the RCAHMS's work. The book identifies several museums with significant Pictish displays. The index helpfully identifies stones by their symbols, among the most numerous being beasts, crescent and V-rod, double-disc and Z-rod, fish, and mirror and comb. If you've been thinking about a trip to Scotland, this book should convince you.

WAS Library

One of the journals on its way to the Society's library is volume 50 of *West Midlands Archaeology* (2007). The 60+ reports on Worcestershire sites run to nearly 30 pages. To give an idea of the range of subject, illustrations include a middle Bronze Age chisel found at Hampton Lovett, a Roman horse plate brooch from Inkberrow, a horse burial at Middle Littleton and a late-16th/early 17th-century cloth seal proforma from Stoulton.

WAS Excursions Programme: Northumberland Tour, 12-17 October 2009

A band of over 30 members travelled north for a very interesting trip to see 'Hadrian's Wall and the Northern Saints'. Ernie Kay had put together a very well organised tour with the help of Michael and Jenny Goode who had done much of the research and recce work in advance. Our driver from Astons had the travel arrangements well in hand and an uncanny knack of keeping us within minutes of our schedule throughout the week.

Our journey to the north took in Ripon Cathedral and Escomb Saxon church before delivering us to the George at Chollerford, our base for the week, within sight of the line of Hadrian's Wall; Tuesday was spent with the Romans at the Roman Soldier Museum and Vindolanda; Wednesday a tour of Hexham Abbey and a wander round the town before a visit to Housesteads Roman Fort. On Thursday we were taken further north, to Holy Island and Lindisfarne, with its ruined priory and Lutyens remodelled castle, and Friday took us into Newcastle, to see the Great North Museum, and on to Bede's World and Jarrow church. On the return journey on Saturday we called in at Durham Cathedral.

It was a tight but not overcrowded programme, mixing in the Roman with the Saxon ecclesiastical history of which the area is so proud (Michael Goode preparing us with readings about the lives of the early saints as we travelled in the coach). It was interesting to see how the 'heritage' has been incorporated into the tourist trade to help maintain the economy of the area in a post-industrial era. This was particularly emphasised in our two evening talks: the first by David McGlade (a National Trail Officer), who, having had experience on Offa's Dyke, now tries to square the circle of protecting the Wall, encouraging walkers and keeping farmers and landowners on board; the second by Mark Richards, explaining the problems of making

an attraction 'too attractive', to the point of wearing it out, and how, as a writer of walking guides, he is trying to widen the area of interest, by walking away from the Wall and looking at the bigger picture. The sub-title to one of his latest books, *The Roman Ring*, sums up this aim as 'Hadrian's Wall Conservation Corridor'.



*Roman masonry at
Chesters Bridge*

There was much to see everywhere we visited. Many had been to the area before, but there is a constant progression in the knowledge being discovered and this kept everyone interested throughout the week. Although many of the sites are now 'sealed' like Housesteads, they are well served by the continued excavations at Vindolanda and an estimated 150 years of further digging!! Each season produces exciting new discoveries which are so well presented to the visiting public. There is a definite link through time, in the stones of the area. We were constantly being shown building-stone which had a previous existence – Roman stone being used in churches, and dissolved monastery stone being re-used in castles and other buildings. This held the whole week together and demonstrated that the landscape we had visited had and has a continuity of occupation and use, with all its ups and downs, much like most of the rest of the country, though more obvious in its period markers than we see elsewhere.

I am sure there is much more to see in Northumberland had we had more time, but it is still there to visit again. Our deepest gratitude to Ernie Kay with Jenny and Michael Goode for organising a splendid tour.

Peter Walker

Next year's away trip, 4-9 October 2010, based at the Marine Hotel in Aberystwyth, will explore the roots of Welsh identity. Proposed visits include Castell Henllys Iron- Age fort, Celtic sites at Llandewi Brefi and Llanbadarn Fawr, St David's, Strata Florida, Machynlleth and Pennal, Lead and Silver Mines, Aberaeron, and the narrow gauge railway from Aberystwyth to Devil's Bridge. Due to accommodation difficulties the Isle of Man trip has been postponed to 2011; details to follow.

WAS Lecture Programme, 2009-10

The season commenced with a subject dear to the heart of the Committee and many members. On 28 September Christine Penney, Hurd Librarian, gave an entertaining and lavishly illustrated account of '**Bishop Hurd and his Library at Hartlebury Castle**' (see p15). The next month, our Vice Chairman Dr John Harcup expanded his original title, '**Discovering Malvern**', and showed 160 slides to illustrate 'One man's lifetime journey discovering his

environment - the Malvern Hills'. Being a well-known doctor and local historian has given John access to places others cannot reach, but which he shared with us through his excellent photographs – such as the tiled floor of Dr Wilson's water-cure establishment, lost in the development of Park View flats. As Stephen Price, who gave the vote of thanks, pointed out, this talk covered several topics that could each be subject of a separate lecture.

On 9 November Gloucestershire County Archaeologist Jan Wills gave a most impressive account of '**An Iron Age Settlement: Excavations at Beckford, 1972-9**'. These were 'rescue' excavations, ahead of gravel extraction, so finance for assessment and publication was not available until the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund was introduced. As an awe-inspiring aerial photograph indicated, Beckford is of national importance for its extent (4 hectares, of which 3 was Iron-Age settlement) and the diversity of features: large settlement areas with roundhouses, smaller domestic and other enclosures, paved areas or yards, many pits, and ovens. Animal and human burials were found. Numerous sherds of pottery were recovered, of two distinct types, the locally made having gone out of use very early. Much has been revealed, and new dating techniques are more precise, but there remain many puzzles. We look forward to reading the CBA volume in due course.

The programme continues with:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Monday 30 November | 'Uncovering a Hidden Landscape:
LiDAR Survey in the Wyre Forest'
Adam Mindykowski, WHEAS |
| Thursday 10 December 2.15pm | AGM followed by Tim Bridges
'Churches of North-East Worcestershire and Dudley' |
| Monday 4 January, 2010 | 'Croome Court: Peeling back the layers'
Sarah Kay |
| Thursday 28 January, 2.15pm | 'The Last Labourers' Revolt in Worcestershire, 1830-1'
John Maynard |
| Monday 15 February | 'Excavations at the Butts, Worcester, 2008-9'
Hal Dalwood, WHEAS |
| Monday 15 March | 'Bewdley Merchants and the Prattinton Family'
Stuart Davies |
| Wednesday 21 April (Berkeley) | 'Spellings, Synonyms, and Swishings:
going to school in medieval Worcestershire'
Professor Nicholas Orme |

The Committee wishes to record its thanks to Peter Walker for providing and operating laptop and projector for Powerpoint presentations.

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 **15 March 2010**.

