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Newsletter of the
WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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Free to Members
Membership Secretary Tel: 01684 565190

Chairman's Letter

This is my last Chairman's letter; it seems only yesterday when I took on the office, and what a lot has happened in those three years. Most importantly, we have seen a modest, but steady, rise in the membership of the society, mostly stimulated by the excellent winter and summer programmes.

I must pay tribute to the sung and unsung stalwarts of the Society throughout those three years (in no particular order): Janet for all her hard work as secretary, Les as our Treasurer, Joe for the lecture programme, Ernie for the excursions, now ably assisted by Muriel, Brian for the website, Peter for the IT and sound system for the lectures, Robin for the journal editorship, Caroline for the newsletter, to name but a few of the hard workers who make the continued functioning of the Society possible.

The development of our library has proceeded with more sorting and cataloguing by the band of volunteers. Meanwhile, Stephen Price has led the hard work which has resulted in a considerable acquisition of books relating to Worcestershire and a little beyond. This is the result of the slimming down of the County Library's basement stock prior to their move. By the time you read this the Record Office will have closed pending its packing up and move to the new premises next year, when it will come together with the Library and the archaeological service.

We now have a much better understanding of the collections of the Society, and have begun to look at ways in which we can enhance their condition and improve access to them through modern media. Not only do we now have an active website, with a complete listing of the articles published in our journal, and an ever growing archive of photographs from our excursions, but also we now have a Facebook page and a Twitter feed (whatever that might be).

The next volume of the transactions is being planned, my term of office having seen one volume published (and I finally got around to writing something for it after many years of promises on my part).

Thanks to the hard work and support of the membership and the committee I will be handing the Society on in good heart to a new chairman to take things forward.

Nicholas Molyneux

News from WHEAS

Excavation at Lowesmoor Trading Estate, Worcester

Archaeologists from WHEAS have been working at the former Lowesmoor Trading Estate in Worcester, now being redeveloped by Carillion Richardson; the new retail development will be called 'St Martin's Quarter'. This year, an area was excavated close to Silver Street. The excavation revealed part of the Civil War defences of Worcester, a massive ditch that was part of a bastion that defended the East Gate (otherwise St Martin's Gate). When the ditch was dug out in the mid 17th century, it cut through a complex multiple kiln structure, which included a rectangular kiln that produced roof tiles. Elsewhere on the development site, two further kilns have been recorded, dating from the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

The archaeological project has underlined the industrial character of the suburban Silver Street/Lowesmoor area, with workshops producing floor tiles and roof tiles over a long period, before the development of major factories in the 19th century. Post-excavation work has started on the results of the excavation.

Fieldwork on another part of the development site located a number of massive fragments of medieval stonework, reused in the foundations of a brick workshop in the late 18th century. The fragments are medieval mouldings from the surround of a very large door, and are identified as remnants of a nearby fortified gatehouse – the East Gate – that was demolished in the late 18th century. Analysis of the stonework continues.

Fieldwork at Lowesmoor has also confirmed the long-suspected alignment of a Roman road. The main Roman road through Worcestershire followed the east bank of the Severn from Gloucester, and from Worcester followed a north-easterly direction towards the Roman settlement at Droitwich. Parts of this Roman road have been confirmed, but the alignment through the centre of Worcester was not known. From Droitwich, the road was assumed to follow the line of Rainbow Hill and then continue towards the centre of the historic city. This route has now been confirmed at Lowesmoor, and excavation through the road surfaces shows it to have been largely constructed from iron slag, waste from the Roman ironworking industry. Fieldwork on the site is continuing.

There will be a lecture on the Lowesmoor excavation to the Society on Monday 9 January. The site will also be discussed at the Worcestershire Archaeology Dayschool on Saturday 12th November (see page 22).

For further information contact Hal Dalwood: hdalwood@worcestershire.gov.uk or 01905 855456



*Lowesmoor, Worcester.
WHEAS team excavating
the Civil War ditch*

Excavation at The Hive, Worcester

Building work is nearing completion for the new Worcester Library and History Centre (now named 'The Hive') in the middle of Worcester. WHEAS will move into the new building next year, having excavated the site in advance of the start of construction. 'The Butts Dig' in 2008 recorded important evidence for the Roman settlement at Worcester, including a row of buildings that were probably combined houses and craft workshops. During the construction programme, WHEAS has maintained a watching brief which this year revealed important additional evidence. A Roman road was recorded immediately north of the excavated area, following an east-west alignment towards the river. The road is interpreted as leading to either

a quayside or a river crossing. On the riverside itself (close to the railway viaduct), a massive dump of Roman iron slag was recorded during works associated with The Hive construction. The dump was 2m thick, and overlay the Roman river bank, into which a massive oak pile had been driven. Although a lot of iron slag from Roman ironworking has been excavated in Worcester, nothing on the scale of this riverbank dump has been recorded before.

For further information contact Hal Dalwood: hdalwood@worcestershire.gov.uk or 01905 855456



The Hive: the riverside work. WHEAS team recording a massive Roman slag dump

Excavations at Kempsey

A team from WHEAS has been excavating close to St Mary's Church at Kempsey, on behalf of the Environment Agency and in advance of construction of a flood alleviation scheme. A lot of burials (over 60 individuals) were recorded, including men, women and children. Radiocarbon dating showed that many of the burials were Late Anglo-Saxon in date, although burials continued in this area of the cemetery up to the 13th century. The site was an important early medieval church (an Anglo-Saxon minster) but declined in importance during the medieval period. The burials at Kempsey are broadly contemporary with the many excavated underneath, and pre-dating, Worcester Cathedral chapter house. Analysis of the site and the burials is continuing. The Kempsey site will be discussed at the Worcestershire Archaeology Dayschool on Saturday 12th November (see page 22).

For further information contact Tom Vaughan: tvaughan@worcestershire.gov.uk or 01905 855471

*Kempsey cemetery.
WHEAS team excavating
a late Anglo-Saxon burial
of Kempsey site*



Record Office Move

On 14th November 2011 the County Hall Branch of the Worcestershire Record Office will close, to re-open in July 2012 at its new home, The Hive. This is a purpose-built library and history centre in the heart of Worcester and will house:

- Both public branches of the Worcestershire Record Office
- Worcester City Library and the University of Worcester Library
- Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (WHEAS)
- The Worcestershire Hub

For the Record Office, the movement of the archive collections from their four current locations is a major logistical task, and work will take place after the office closes to ensure that the move is conducted safely and methodically. This includes:

- Planning the location of collections in the seven new strongrooms
- Packaging of collections that are awaiting cataloguing
- Labelling boxes for placing in the new strongrooms
- Making more catalogues and indexes available online and preparing guidance for using self-service resources (including online and microform resources as well as local studies books) in The Hive.

The History Centre, Trinity Street, Worcester, will remain open until April when it will close to move to the Hive.

Information about the Record Office move, along with important dates to remember, is available at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/community-and-living/records/the-hive.aspx>. For information about our exciting new home and the facilities that will be available please visit www.TheHiveWorcester.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Hive in July 2012.

Lisa Snooks
Archive Manager & Diocesan Archivist

News from the City

Work has continued at the two large developments on the edge of the city centre (the Worcester Library and History Centre, now called the Hive, and the former Lowesmoor Trading Estate, now St Martin's Quarter). Although the most extensive work at both sites is now complete, watching briefs continue to record important evidence.

At the Worcester Library and History Centre, works have revealed part of a Roman road (this was postulated during the excavation here, but is beyond the limits of the excavation, close to the railway viaduct), deeply buried iron slag dumps on the riverside, and what appears to be further evidence of refortification of the city walls during the Civil War. Stratified within the backfill of the 1985-86 Blackfriars excavations, just inside the city wall, were a number of 1980s soft drink cans.

Work at the Lowesmoor Trading Estate has concentrated on drainage, services and other infrastructure. Archaeologically the watching briefs have been extremely productive, with detailed records being made of cellars and foundations of buildings along Silver Street, and a Roman road. Several kilns have been found, including a medieval tile kiln (decorated floor tile wasters were found here in an evaluation in 1990) and a clay pipe kiln. A large number of very large blocks of worked stone were reused in the foundations of a building on Lowesmoor and are thought most likely to have come from the demolished St Martin's Gate.

106 High Street is a large house dating to the end of the 17th century. Assessments and ground investigations have been carried out, associated with a scheme of extensions and alterations to create a new restaurant. Although the building has seen substantial alteration (for instance, nearly all of the windows have been replaced), many internal features survive, including a fine staircase. To the rear of the building, medieval stone foundations were found in one of the test pits.

An assessment of 2 Mealcheapen Street revealed many details of this very interesting building. This is an early-17th-century brick-built house with a partly stone-built cellar. Surviving internal features include a large number of doors of 17th-century and later date, many with original hinges and some constructed of reused panelling, and a 17th-century staircase. Most recently, the ground floor preserves decorative tiling from the conversion of the former pub to a butcher's shop in 1928.

A housing development on London Road (Whittington Gate) includes the traditional site of the Red Hill gallows and gibbet, the scene of numerous executions. Father Edward Oldcorne is said to have been executed here in 1606, along with John Wintour, Humphrey Littleton and Ralph Ashley. Father John Wall was executed in 1679. Although historical research has cast doubt on the location of the execution site itself, which may now be under a roundabout, and has also suggested that these executions may have taken place at another site closer to the city, perhaps Barbourne, this is still a place of pilgrimage and is marked by a memorial to Father John Wall. During building works on the site, the memorial was damaged and the small mound (surmounted by a pear tree), which marks the supposed site of the gallows, was partly buried. The memorial has now been restored and the dumped material removed from the mound, under archaeological supervision.

James Dinn

Note: Father John Wall was canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1970 as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, who were martyred between 1535 and 1679. Their feast day is 25 October. For further information see *Oxford Dictionary of Saints* ed D.Farmer (5th ed, 2003).

Dr John Marshall Wilson, 1931-2011

Marshall Wilson joined the Society in 1963 after returning to the area to join his father's medical practice in Pershore. Educated at St Michael's College Tenbury and St Edward's School, Oxford, he went up to Trinity College in Oxford, and was a rowing blue in the Oxford eights of 1953 and 1955.

His historical interests lasted his whole life, and his position as a family doctor enabled him to be allowed to see various deeds and papers relating to the history of the area. I remember him showing me stacks of shirt boxes containing copious notes. His publications included joint authorship of *Pershore – A Short History*, first published as part of the Pershore Millennium celebrations in 1972, and a collaboration with Philip Barrett in *The Book of Pershore* for the Barracuda Press in 1980. He had a wide knowledge of the area which was shown by his lecture analysing the landscape history of Pershore given to our Society, and when the Town Council was looking for names for a new housing estate in the town it was Marshall who did the research to come up with a range of names with local significance.

He had a lifelong dedication to Pershore Abbey, singing in its choir (his musical talents went back to his childhood), and was a very well-known figure in the town.

Robin Whittaker

Recent Addition to the Society's Library

1) The two volumes of T. Nash *Collections for the History of Worcestershire* (1799) has been donated to the Society. This item is currently located in Bredon 29 with the main Research Collections and is available for consultation. Please contact Rachel Johnson on r.johnson@worc.ac.uk, tel. 01905 542093 for access.

2) A donation of over 30 items relating to Worcestershire has been deposited by Professor David Dilks, whose publications include the two-volume biographies on *Curzon in India* (1969-70) and *Neville Chamberlain* (1984). These items (see below) will be integrated into the WAS Library.

Rachel Johnson

Books donated to the Society by Professor David Dilks

Archer, Fred *Farmers, Craftsmen and Music Makers: Life in a Worcestershire Village Between the Wars* (1994)

Armstrong, C.B. *Millenary Ode for St Oswald of Worcester 962-1962* (1962)

Berrow's *Worcester Journal Tercentenary 1690-1990* (1990)

Bollen, Derrick *Life and Times in the Shadow of the Cathedral* (n.d.)

Carpenter, Jeff *Wartime Worcestershire* (1995)

City of Worcester's souvenir programme for the celebration of the Coronation, 1953
 Craze, Michael *College Hall Worcester: A Brief History* (1984; signed); also
Whittington, Worcester: the History of the Village (1977)
 Doggett, R.E. *Ridley Duppuuy: Friend and Bishop* (c1945)
 (Canon Duppuuy was Archdeacon of Worcester and a Canon of the Cathedral)
 Domesday Book *Worcestershire* ed F. & C. Thorn (1982)
 Gould, A.E. *The Recollections of Nell* (1990)
 (Miss Gould was well-known in Worcester, and a celebrated philatelist)
 Greenwood, Mary & Morford, Frances *A Children's History of Worcestershire* (1955)
 Grierson, Janet *Frances Ridley Havergal: Worcestershire Hymn Writer* (1979)
 Grundy, Michael *Worcester's Memory Lane* vols 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (various dates;
 these volumes consist of articles reprinted from the Worcester Evening News)
 Jones, Lavender M. *Customs and Folklore of Worcestershire* (1970)
 Jones, Mary Munslow *The Lookers-Out of Worcestershire: a Memoir of Edwin Lees,
 Worcester Naturalist, and the History of the First 100 Years of the Worcestershire
 Naturalists' Club* (1980)
 Lawrence-Smith, Kathleen *Laugh with me: from the Severn to the Golden Horn* (1986)
 Leicester, Hubert A. *Forgotten Worcester* (1930) with foreword by Sir Edward Elgar
 Macdonald, Alec *Worcestershire in English History* (1943)
 Noake, John *The Monastery and Cathedral of Worcester* (1866)
Poetry from Worcester Cathedral ed W. Young & M. Craze (after 1981)
 The Homeland Association Ltd *The Beauty of Worcestershire: Camera Pictures* (1929)
The Story of Royal Worcester (1973)
The Story of St. Martin's Church and Parish 1911-1986 (1986)
 Vockins, M.D. *Worcestershire County Cricket Club: a Pictorial History* (1980)
 Warren, Glyn *The Endless Sky: Pershore and Defford* (1988)
 Whitehead, David *The Book of Worcester: The Story of the City's Past* (1976)
 Wiltshire, Les (ed) *Whittington, Worcestershire: a History of the Village* (2001)
 Worcester Cathedral Choir Association *Memories of Worcester Cathedral Choir* (1997)
 Foreword by Sir David Willcocks

The following are publications about and by Studdert Kennedy, known as 'Woodbine Willie', who was appointed vicar of St Paul's, Worcester, in 1914. The following year he became a chaplain to the armed forces.

Kennedy, G.A. Studdert *The Word and the Work* (1925)
G.A. Studdert Kennedy by his Friends (1930; chapters by W. Moore Ede, Dean of Worcester;
 D.F. Carey, Dean of Guernsey; H.R.L. Sheppard, Dean of
 Canterbury; William Temple, Archbishop of York; J.K.
 Mozley, Warden of St. Augustine's House, Reading).
 Grundy, Michael *Woodbine Willie: Fiery Glow in the Darkness*
 (c1997)
The Shield Magazine of the Friends of Worcester Cathedral, No17
 (August 2005) for articles on Studdert Kennedy.



*Portrait of Studdart Kennedy in Chapter Parlour.
 Photograph by Christopher Guy, courtesy of the
 Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral*



Bronze plaque in the St George Chapel. Photograph by Christopher Guy, courtesy of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral

The ODNB records that Studdert Kennedy once described his chaplain's ministry as taking 'a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart' and laughing and joking with those he was called to serve. 'You can pray with them sometimes; but pray for them always'. A number of volumes of his collected poems were published after the war, including *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918), *Peace Rhymes of a Padre* (1920), *Songs of Faith and Doubt* (1922) and *The Unutterable Beauty* (1927). An unsigned portrait of him was donated by his family to the cathedral, which also boasts a bronze plaque made by the Bromsgrove Guild.

The Society's Collections

As you may remember from previous editions of the *Recorder*, committee members have been working towards a project to widen access to the Society's collections and *Transactions*. This has been made possible through a very generous donation, namely the Kay Bequest. In early planning stages of the project we had identified the need to take stock, to catalogue, to conserve and finally to digitise our collections.

Cataloguing work has continued throughout the summer with the help of our invaluable volunteer, Grace Campbell, who has been surveying the Parker-Hore archive. The catalogue Grace is compiling details aspects such as the size, quality and condition of each piece of paper. The process is painstaking, but will allow us to assess the scale of the work that needs to be carried out and will also be a valuable tool in obtaining more precise quotes to carry out that work. Grace's work isn't yet finished, and she will come back to us during the Christmas holidays to continue the condition surveying; she has recently left to go to university in Bournemouth to study archaeology, after achieving impressive and well-deserved A level results in August. She has recorded some of her thoughts in a blog that has been published on the Research Worcestershire wordpress blogsite and is reproduced for you to read below.

Jane Thompson Webb, a conservator at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, has visited us again to complete her collection care report on the Society's collections. She visited Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum to see the Parker-Hore collection; Worcestershire Record Office to look at the Severn Walker Collection; Museums Worcestershire Collection Centre to assess the Habington chest and medieval floor tiles from Halesowen Abbey; and the Elgar Birthplace Museum to view the Society's table that was once owned by Sir Edward Elgar. Louise Vaile, a freelance conservator, accompanied Jane and has kindly given us some ideas regarding the likely conservation needs and costs that our collections warrant.

It was always hoped that the value of the Kay bequest could be increased by matched funding from another body like the Heritage Lottery Fund. In June the society was fortunate to receive a grant for a representative to attend the Open Culture conference in Birmingham which covered all sorts of digital issues in collection management. The best news from the conference was the changing policies of HLF and other funding bodies in relation to the funding of digital projects, particularly HLF who have not funded digital projects in the past but will do from April 2012.

Deborah Fox

Revisiting the Parker-Hore Collection

For the past few months I have been making an inventory to assess the condition of the Parker-Hore collection. The archive of the Parker-Hore collection is a family story covering the period from the 1840s to the onset of World War II in 1939. It is a portrait of a granddaughter's dedicated completion of a task started by a grandmother whom she never met. These two women inspired many contemporaries in their quest for tracings of decorative medieval paving tiles in England, Wales, Ireland and northern France. Also included in the collection are notes, drawings and examples of traders' tokens, mainly from the local area.

The collection spans three generations, from Mrs John Henry Parker to her son James Parker, through to his daughter, Mrs Irene Hore. On her death in the 1940s at Malvern Link the archive (some 20,000 items in total) was presented to the Worcester Archaeological Society. It is currently stored in the basement of Worcester Library, and City Museum and Art Gallery. The plan is to put in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for conservation work and proper storage of the collection, and to make the collection more accessible to the public and to the churches where she undertook her research, who may be oblivious to the collection.

The collection encompasses the work and dedication of a whole family, but one thing I have discovered through my work so far is that, although Irene was obviously very interested and passionate about her work, this is an academic collection, not a personal one. From the collection you get very little sense of what she was like, although occasionally you get snapshots from the odd photo of her home life and family, a reminder that she was a real living, breathing person. The detail in the notes and drawings are incredible, and from her letters you can tell that Irene was an intriguing woman; it is important to remember that it was unusual for a woman of this period to be so immersed in such an academic hobby, which makes her ability to get information on such a wide range of objects from all over the country all the more remarkable.



*Harpole, near Northampton,
showing 13th-century tower*

Irene Hore's lecture notes and her record slips of individual tiles and locations demonstrate a considerable knowledge of the subject, and her collected extracts from books and journals, along with her archaeological books, are evidence of much scholarly research into the subject. She was interested in the processes of manufacture as well as the interpretation of the designs. Her reference-keeping was meticulous and her enthusiasm almost boundless. Not only were the tiles traced and references researched, but the watercolours she then produced were photographed to produce her index, and she used lantern slides to illustrate her lectures. A notebook containing a miscellaneous collection of jottings in Irene Hore's handwriting includes details of appropriate lenses and plates for photography, as well as an account for a camera, plates and chemicals for development, suggesting that Irene Hore undertook her own photography. See also <http://tileweb.ashmolean.org/>

Grace Campbell, collections volunteer with Worcestershire Archaeological Society

Thornton Abbey, between Barton-on-Humber and Immingham

Pevsner (1995) devotes two pages to this, the largest and one of the finest of all English monastic gatehouses. In 2011 the University of Sheffield's Dept of Archaeology, in collaboration with English Heritage, started a five-year research programme on the abbey precinct, to complete the topographical and geophysical survey started by English Heritage in 2007-9. It also includes targeted excavation of the identified medieval and



Thornton Abbey, Lincs: Gateway with Barbican

post-dissolution features. This year they located and excavated part of the medieval monastic great barn which, despite being in an area of ploughing, had huge mortared walls surviving up to a height of 1.2m. A geophysical survey also took place, which identified the well-preserved monastic infirmary for the first time. For their interim report see www.sheffield.ac.uk/content/1/c6/11/70/43/Thor11%20Interim%20Report.pdf

Dodderhill Parish Survey Project

Project members are to be congratulated on the successful completion of a ten-year venture that emerged from a WEA class in 2002. The team included researchers Kate Allan, Lyn Blewitt, Chris Bowers, Cas Morris, Helen Peberdy, Cheryl Stewart and Jenny Townshend; Derek Hurst acted as Archaeological and Historical Advisor, and as Editor of *Dodderhill through the Ages*, to which Della Hooke, Colin Jones, Stephen Price and Mick Wilks also contributed their specialist knowledge. Steven Bassett and Mick Aston were also involved. The culmination of the project, the book was launched on 1 September 2011. Many Society members have already purchased their copy of this handsome volume, which will be reviewed in the next edition of the *Recorder*.

Over the years three grants were secured:

1. 'Discovering Dodderhill's Past': a Heritage Initiative Grant of £3,625 enabled the group to research and produce 'Dodderhill Parish Notes';

2. 'Delving Deeper into Wychbold's Past', May 2003 – May 2006: a Heritage Lottery Grant of £24,992 funded continued research into the parish and resulted in the publication of 'Dodderhill Parish Notes 2';
3. 'Sharing Wychbold's Past': a Heritage Lottery Grant of £42,200 was awarded for the group to continue with their research, but more especially to share their knowledge and interest in the history of the local parish.

As Lyn Blewitt, Chairperson of the Project, outlined at the packed launch, this final stage included:

- working with Wychbold Nursery and First School, bringing history specialists and archaeologists to the site with Saxon days, Roman soldiers, and archaeological test pits being dug in the school grounds; Worcestershire Young Archaeologists and members of the public were also involved;
- bringing a 'living history display' of Roman life to a village fete;
- producing two Historical Footpath Trails; the Dodderhill parish map, on display locally and available as a leaflet; and a 2010 History of Dodderhill Calendar, distributed free those living in Dodderhill;
- creating the website www.dodderhillhistory.org.uk

A new and extended List of Parish Priests at Martley

As you enter St Peter's Church, Martley, you will find, as in many churches, to the right of the door, a list of vicars and rectors who are known to have served in the church.

It begins in 1290 with Robert de Lech... (the name is actually spelt in its source with an apostrophe, possibly indicating an abbreviation). It contains 13 names between 1290 and 1415, when the advowson was confiscated from the Abbé de Cormeilles, with whom it had rested since the Conquest, and transferred to the Abbot of the Collegiate Church of St Mary and All Saints, Fotheringhay. Between 1415 and the Reformation are another seven names. To these can now be added eight more names before 1415 and one after, as well as further detail about length of tenure and causes of change.

The following table shows the new names and new information **in bold** and in the column to the right the reference of the source. All sources prefaced MS are from the Zachary Lloyd collection at Birmingham City Archives. Names are accompanied by the appellation of job title as given in the source: sometimes 'priest', 'rector' or 'parson'. The job description 'vicar' is found only once, in a document dated 1253. It is interesting to note that the chaplains of St Mary's Chantry, Martley are always thus designated – chaplain. But of those serving the church sometimes the same person is given different titles in different sources e.g. Peter Fillol is given as both parson (1325: 1325: 1326: 1328) and rector (1299: 1326: 1326: 1328: 1335).

	St Peter's	Source
c1100	'presbiter' (priest)	mentioned in document by Fritheric Worcester Cartulary: no 53 p33
1232	William parson of Martley	Birmingham CA MS 3688/ 165
1253	William de Somicun rector R..... vicar	Birmingham CA: MS 3688/166
1279	William de Fromyssoun	WHS Register of Bishop Giffard p114

- 1291 Robert de Lech... **He was murdered in 1299**
WHS Register of Bishop Giffard p 382/3
- 1299 **Peter called Fillol rector**
1315 Hugh
WHS Register of Bishop Giffard p511
- 1325 **Peter Fillol parson**
1326 **Peter Fillol rector**
Birmingham CA: MS 3688/187 dated 1325
HMSO Calendar of Memoranda Rolls p272,
1986 xix also Birmingham CA: MS 3688/188:
- 1328 **Peter Fillol rector**
1335 **reference to ‘Peter Fillol sometime rector of Martley’**
Birmingham CA: MS 3688/190
Birmingham CA: MS 3688/193
- 1335 **John de Northwode rector**
3 years licence to study
WHS Register of Simon de Montacute
no. 284 p38
- 1341 David Maynard rector
- 1354 John Sancey
- 1355 Nicholas Nyweton
- 1357 William Cusance
- 1360 Thomas de Keynes
- 1361 William de Hull
- 1362 **Dom. William Gatebregg**
Birmingham CA: MS 3688/199; **witnesses deed: possible the same as Wm Brugge**
- 1368 William Brugge
- 1388 **William Wynterton rector**
- 1389 William Rede rector
WHS Register of Henry Wakefield no.523
p77 exchange between William Wynterton
and William Rede
- 1392 **(Re)institution of William Rede**
WHS Register of Henry Wakefield
no 719 p121
- 1411 John Wytard
- 1411 Hugh Pontysbury
- c1415 Transfer of advowson from Cormeilles to Fotheringhay
- 1430 Roger Boule
- 1445 John Greene alias Holder
- 1472 William Feld
- 1479 John Paul
- 1484 Ralph Barton
- 1489 Edward Haseleye
- 1492 **Roger Roule rector**
Birmingham CA: MS 3688/211
- 1505 Walter Baker
- 1534 Reformation: Act of Supremacy

Clearly the most important single piece of information is the mention of a priest at Martley among the churches under the control of Fritheric c1100 AD. This is evidence for a church just post Conquest, if not pre-Conquest, as Fritheric had been given charge of those churches and parishes connected with St Helen’s Worcester, a known early mother parish church. ‘... *et similiter de Mertlega (Martley) sed presbiter habet inde terciam partem decime et virgam terre ad victum suum ad servicium ecclesie*’.

Among the Zachary Lloyd collection in Birmingham City Archives are a number of documents dealing with Peter Fillol, including a 1325 grant by John de Pyriton, clerk, to Master Peter

Fillol, parson of Martley, of 96 selions of land in various fields at Martley, an extensively detailed document which our palaeography group has in part transcribed and translated.

In the HMSO Calendar of Memoranda Rolls under Writs addressed to Barons of 1327 we find 'Quittance to Peter Fillol, parson of Martley church, of 100s a year (with arrears) granted to him for the fruits and obventions of the church: being by origin a French subject, he had been imprisoned on the occasion of the dissension between Edward II and the king of France. Westminster 8 Feb'.

Once again in the Zachary Lloyd collection a 'grant by Peter Fillol, parson of Martleye, to Master Richard Fillol rector of Arleye and Richard Fillol, the latter's brother, of all the messuages, etc., which the said Peter purchased in the manor of Martley. Witn. Stephen de la Warne, Adam de la Staple, Henry de Prikeleye, Dated 1328'. Arley Kings was counted part of Martley church and obviously nepotism reigned even then! The last known reference to Peter Fillol occurs some seven years later: 'Grant by Richard Filol, parson of Arley Kings and Richard Filol his brother to John de Lyngayn and Sibilla his wife, for their lives, of all their lands, meadows, etc. which they had by feoffment from Master Peter Filol, sometime rector of Martley, in the manor of Martley'. Interestingly, a farm called Lingens still exists in Martley. One wonders whether its land is that referred to here or whether it was named for a different member of the same family in later years.

The research continues; as we are able to locate more and more documents and references, so we are able to build up a more accurate and sometimes more detailed picture of the early vicars of Martley. It is just a matter of noting and recording each reference as we find it and logging it chronologically into the existing list – not an arduous task. And then a fresh picture builds itself out of the new pattern created.

Heather Rendall

Reopening of the Droitwich Canals

1 July 2011 saw the completion of a 38-year campaign to reopen Droitwich's two canals. The Barge Canal, one of the oldest in the country, was built by James Brindley and opened in 1771. It enabled broad-beamed 'Wych' barges with large, square sails to travel the 6 miles from the Severn at Hawford to the centre of Droitwich, for the export of salt and import of coal for heating the salt pans. The Junction Canal, one of the last to be completed, was built by James Boddington and opened in 1854. Linking with the Worcester & Birmingham Canal, it provided a more direct route to the growing urban centres of the midlands and the north.

To avoid the need for expensive bridges and deep cuttings, the Barge Canal took a winding route following the contour lines above the river Salwarpe. To save money, Brindley built shallow-arched bridges, grouped the locks together, and joined the canal to the river at Droitwich to provide a cheap water supply. By contrast, the Junction Canal followed the straightest, and cheapest, route between Droitwich and Hanbury. The latest inventions were employed, including innovative side ponds to save water at Hanbury Locks, and an ingenious lock at the junction with the River Salwarpe allowing for fluctuations in the level of the river. Narrowboats were pulled by horses along this canal, then followed the river Salwarpe for 600m before joining the Barge Canal. Both canals declined due to competition from the railways, the last boats using

the Barge Canal in 1918 and the Junction Canal in the mid 1920s. An Act of Abandonment was passed in 1939.

The Droitwich Canals Trust was formed in 1973, concentrating on the restoration of the Barge Canal, for which it held the lease. Much was achieved through the efforts of volunteer workers, with the support of local authorities, the Inland Waterways Association, government grants, contributions from companies and private individuals together with fund-raising and membership subscriptions. From 1998 restoration work concentrated on the Junction Canal at Hanbury Wharf; the first three locks that lead off the Worcester Birmingham Canal were restored with the aid of a grant from the Inland Waterways Association and completed in 2001. The Droitwich Canals Trust joined British Waterways, the Waterways Trust, Wychavon District Council and Worcestershire County Council to form the Droitwich Canals Restoration Partnership, which was able to raise sufficient funding from Advantage West Midlands and the Heritage Lottery Funding to complete the restoration.

It is hoped that, by completing a 21-mile cruising ring, linking the River Severn and the Worcester & Birmingham Canal, the reopened canals will attract visitors to the area and bring a major long-term boost to the local economy. As part of the restoration, a linear park has been created providing picnic sites, fishing pegs, and new stop-off points for boaters, walkers and cyclists, and 26 new visitor moorings.

Spot the Church

The identity of the mystery church in the last edition of the *Recorder* has been revealed by WAS member, Roger Leake. 'It is far, far, from Worcestershire, being St Mary the Virgin, Leake, North Yorkshire (on the right of the A19, travelling north)', a few miles north of Thirsk.

Roger explains, 'I visited the church quite a few years ago while researching my genealogy (no connections were discovered). As soon as I saw the drawing on the cover of the *Worcestershire Recorder*, I recognised the church, but couldn't put a name or location to it. By sheer coincidence, the same evening I made a Google search for my surname and, amongst all the others, there was a reference to Leake church! So my memory was restored. Uncanny!'

The photographs on the website, www.thirsk.org.uk/knayton/st-mary-leake.php, clearly confirm Roger's identification. The website also notes a Saxon cross built into the west face of the Norman tower. This can be seen at www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/4116504675/, and was possibly the original churchyard cross.

Our thanks and congratulations to Roger, who also has a theory about the mystery church in edition 82 of the *Recorder*, which he is working on.

Recent work on Historic Buildings

As a result of my appeal for information about timber chimneys and smoke bays in *Recorder* no. 82 (Autumn 2010), a number of members contacted me. Peter Walker told me about the smoke bay at Ankerdine Farm, Knightwick, into which space a large stone stack was inserted in the 17th century; Tom Pagett of Hagley enlightened me about a smoke bay at a farm in Lutley in Halesowen; while the owner of Bell End Farm, Belbroughton (NGR SO 0382677292) invited

me to inspect a possible candidate there. An early-17th-century example apparently exists, according to English Heritage's Images of England website, at Japonica Cottage in the main street of Cleeve Prior, embedded within much later brick and stone walls. Thank you to all these correspondents who have helped extend knowledge of these precursors of the traditional brick and stone chimney.

Bell End Farm, Belbroughton: south elevation showing the shaped gables. The medieval wing is in the left hand bay. Photo by Peter Walker



Interior of Bell End Farm showing the crown-post roof. Photo by Peter Walker

While the putative smoke bay at Bell End could not be substantiated, the house had other elements of very considerable interest. The farm's shaped brick gables are its most distinctive feature externally, but the two-bay wing of a medieval house is of particular interest because the central truss is a crown-post roof. The crown-post is so named from the upright timber standing on the tie-beam and once supported a collar purlin. There are downward braces from the crown-post to the tie-beam and arch braces below the tie to the wall posts. Interestingly, Tom Pagett had already looked at Bell End Farm some years ago, when he was investigating malt-houses in this area of the county, and was very much aware of the earlier house embedded within part of the 17th-century brick structure. Only a few examples of this form of construction are known in the county, including a house at Wribbenhall dated to the early 14th century and Rectory Farm at Grafton Flyford, a fact which makes the Bell End example a welcome addition. The medieval section of Bell End Farm was most likely part of a wing associated with a long-demolished open hall, which appears to have been cleared away entirely in the late 17th century when the present brick structure was erected.

Pat Hughes and I have been invited to contribute to a projected publication on the Worcestershire Hearth Tax of the 1660s, to be published by the Centre for Hearth Tax Research in collaboration with the British Record Society. In her introduction Pat will be concentrating on the houses of the city, while my remit is the rest of the county! Anyone using the Hearth Tax knows the challenge of trying to equate the number of hearths assessed in the returns with those surviving in standing buildings – were the current chimneys there then, have we lost any, or has the whole house been rebuilt since the 1660s? We have been tracking down a number of dated stacks and fireplaces across the city and county, but are always glad to hear of more examples of such structures which are securely dated either by stones, inscriptions or documentary evidence.

Stephen Price

stephen@priceworcester.co.uk

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Stephen Ballard, 1804-1890: 'One of Nature's Gentlemen'. An Interpretation Pamela Hurle (2010) 93pp, £7.50 Available at local bookshops or post free from the author at Scotsraig House, Storridge, Malvern, WR13 5EY

Stephen Ballard needs no introduction to members, who are aware of his work on the Hereford-Gloucester Canal and the railway through the Malvern Hills, and his horticultural interests. Pamela Hurle's talk on 10 October also highlighted his passionate concern about the establishment of the Malvern Hills Conservators, and the building of the controversial but scenic Jubilee Drive, seen by many as betraying the commoners, depriving farmers and pandering to pleasure-seekers. These aspects of his life, including his conflict with Lady Emily Foley over enclosure and encroachment, are well covered in this highly readable book.

Pamela Hurle ascribes the lifelong desire of 'one of nature's gentleman' to foster thrift and temperance in all with whom he dealt to his youthful experiences. His interest in botany also started early, and we read that he was given a flock of sheep that he tended on Link Common. Earning 12s a week as a young man in 1823, he was left wondering how a man with a family 'contrived to live on such wages'. Fourteen years later he commanded 1½ guineas a day.

Ballard's intellectual curiosity and keen observation pepper the book. His many inventions included a 2-wheeled machine to scorch weeds, burn the stubble and kill off seeds, insects and their eggs; an ice-breaking boat, for which he was awarded the Telford Medal in 1838; and a tree transplanter; the last two are illustrated in the book. Pamela cites David Bick's description of Ballard's Skew Bridge at Monkhide, 'indulging in a display of technical virtuosity'; this and his other engineering achievements despite a dismal education.

In 1844 Ballard was guest of honour at a dinner in Hereford, following a celebration at Withington attended by some 3,000 people. The 200 dinner guests heard tribute paid to his 'great professional skill ... zeal ... exemplary patience, aided by kindness of manner', and how his 'strict integrity, has conciliated the many conflicting interests ... triumphing over every obstacle'. Hence his successful negotiations with 54 landowners between Canon Frome and Hereford. The internationally renowned engineering contractor, Thomas Brassey, became an important person in Ballard's life, seeking to give him 'an interest in the works by letting me have a percentage of the profits'. This was probably the turning point in Ballard's financial status.

Pamela reports that Ballard confided to his journal views with a 'surprisingly modern ring'; he was, for example, against capital punishment. A good employer, he commanded the respect and affection of his workers. The final chapter concerns his marriage and family life. Ballard's wife Maria shared his social conscience. Over 5,800 basins of soup a year were given to the hungry poor at their back door. In 1867 Mary received a letter from the banker, James Martin, that 'indiscriminate liberality encourages much imposition, and does much mischief', and that she should not 'allow yourself to be imposed on by this wicked world or let them pick your pockets while they are melting your timorous heart'.

The author's access to the diaries and notes of Stephen Ballard, his wife and children, and the involvement of his late grandson Stephen and his wife, Rosemary, have helped her produce a moving portrait of this remarkable man. Her quotations from Ballard's diaries etc, and the family pictures that the current generation has permitted her to use bring him to life in these pages.

The Quiet Hero. The Story of C.W.Dyson Perrins, 1864-1958 John L. Handley (2010) 57 pp; £5.95 available from bookshops, Malvern Tourist Information Centre and on amazon.co.uk. Foreword by Henry Sandon.

Apart from Rowena Pelik's 'brief account of his life, his achievements, his collections and benefactions', published by the Dyson Perrins Museum Trust in 1983, and an article in the ODNB, little has been written about Dyson Perrins. John Handley has gathered information from a wide range of sources, including the reminiscences of the late Mary Dixey, a member of the Dyson Perrins family who spent her early life at Davenham, the family residence.

Dyson Perrins will be a familiar name to all members, but how many of us more than that he saved the Royal Worcester Porcelain factory from closure, that a school (now academy) is named after him, and that he donated the land and buildings for Malvern's former community hospital in Lansdowne Crescent? He was also a major benefactor of Worcester's Royal Grammar School, and a collector of rare manuscripts, paintings and porcelain who made generous gifts to the nation's museums and art galleries. Whilst Dyson's 'practical philanthropy' is its central theme, the book also provides a moving account, with headings that include 'Dyson's Parents', his 'Early Life', 'Illness and Tragedy' and 'Tragedy and Happiness', and some wonderful photographs.

Dodderhill Through the Ages, 'some good corne, meatly woodyd, and well pasturyd' Derek Hurst et al (September, 2011, to be reviewed in the next issue) (see page12)

The Story of Worcester Pat Hughes & Annette Leech (Logaston Press, 2011 forthcoming, to be reviewed in the next issue)

The result of years of research by Pat Hughes and Annette Leech, a new book has been written on the history of Worcester, to complement the earlier histories, now mostly out of print. The story tells of rich and poor, the ebb and flow of trade and the impact of wars, of city officials and felons condemned to transportation, the idle and industrious. The book discusses the lives and homes of Worcester's citizens and is illustrated with a wealth of photographs, paintings, drawings and plans.

This is history brought to life through the words and deeds of those long gone. It provides an inspiration to look for the past in Worcester's ancient street names, its medieval and later buildings and even in its parks and open spaces.

From The Library. In The Beginning, The Word Was – Architectural

We have all noted from previous articles and events that our Society began life in 1854. We had our 150th Anniversary in 2004 and we saw in *Transactions* 2010 the collection of objects and artefacts which belongs to us. We can, therefore, be pleased, proud, with our Society and its history. A few of the details of that history, some events, excursions and, perhaps, one or two lecture titles have been revealed from time to time when connected with present-day activities. Perhaps some detail of our foundation would be interesting.

It was called Worcester Diocesan Architectural Society. For publication purposes, it joined the Associated Architectural Societies together with the Northampton Archdeaconry, the Counties of York and Bedford and the Diocese of Lincoln. As now, the Patron, (now President), was the Bishop of Worcester and the President (now Chairman) was the Rt Hon Lord Lyttleton with two Hon. Secretaries in E.A.H. Lechmere of Rhydd Court and the Hon Frederick Lygon of Madresfield. If that were not enough elite representation, Earl Beauchamp, Sir Edward Lechmere, Bart, Sir John Pakington, Bart, Sir Thomas Winnington, Bart, and The Dean and Archdeacon of Worcester all joined the committee as Vice-Presidents.

Inaugurated in January 1854, there was an 'entrance' (i.e. joining) fee of 10s and an annual subscription of 10s due on 1st January, but the member 'may compound for all future subscriptions by one payment of £5'; that is a life membership. Also no-one shall be entitled to his privileges as a member 'whose subscription is in arrears'; nevertheless £12 10s remained unpaid at the end of the year. Interestingly, all churchwardens could be members without payment if their clergyman was a member.

This emphasises the Anglican, Diocesan, character of the foundation, as also do the 14 reverend gentlemen on a rather large committee. About 38 to 40 men had the right to attend. In the membership there were 33 reverends plus four Rural Deans listed as Ordinary Members and six more as Honorary Members; this out of a total listing of 112. None were women and all had to be Anglicans.

Among the Honorary Members were G.E. Street, the architect famous for his church work, although his most famous building is the Royal Courts of Justice in London; Giles Gilbert Scott, even more famous for his church and cathedral restorations, having worked on Malvern Priory and Worcester Cathedral, who was present at the Society's meeting in Malvern in 1855; and John Ruskin, who in 1853 had completed his best known work, *The Stones of Venice*, but was concerned in solving his marriage troubles; after a trial, it was annulled on 15th July 1854.

The Society had 'rooms' at 51, Foregate Street where the Committee would meet quarterly. Those wishing to 'consult the committee are requested to forward their plans to the Secretaries a week before the meeting in order that they may be examined and reported on'.

The Society's main objective was 'to promote the study of ecclesiastical architecture, antiquities and design'. That, together with the title of 'Architectural Society' seems to exclude archaeology. Only the county of Bedford Society within these Associated Societies used the word 'Archaeological' – a comment on the thinking, outlook and skills of the time, or the meaning of the word 'archaeological'.

The first general meeting was held in St Mary's Hall in Coventry on 20th June 1854, which again emphasises the 'diocesan' character of the Society because this was to show the inclusion of Warwickshire in the organisation. It was held jointly with the Oxford Architectural Society, as was also a meeting in 1855 held in Warwick. The emphasis continued with meetings at Stratford-on-Avon, Evesham and Kidderminster. These away talks were usually accompanied by visits, with dinner, on the same day; the Beauchamp Chapel, Lord Leicester's Hospital, Warwick Castle, Kenilworth Castle, as well as nearer churches such as Bredon, Overbury and Tewkesbury Abbey, all appear in the first year. Another general lecture meeting of that first year held in September was on Ecclesiastical Architecture; interestingly, in July 1855 the talk was on 'Photography'.

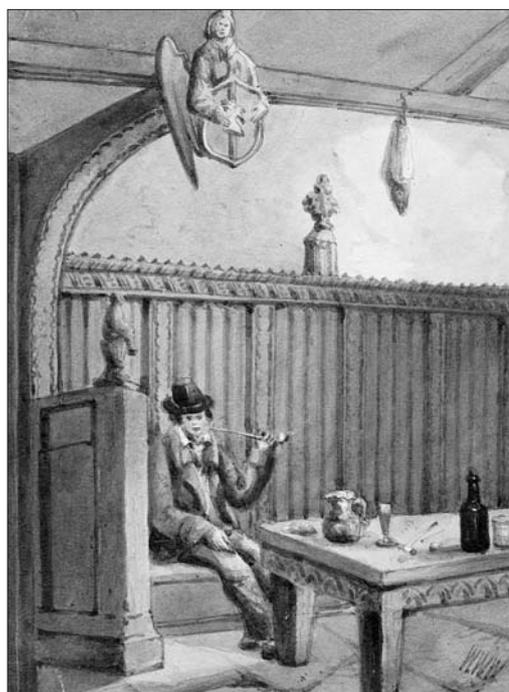
At the same time, a very active sub-committee was reporting on the state of the Guesten Hall. They had hopes that 'some arrangements may be effected ... by which this interesting and beautiful structure may be preserved to future ages'. The Guesten was 'more glorious' than the recently demolished Hall at Malvern Priory, and better than 'any hall of which any other cathedral city can boast'. They believed about £1,000 would be required to preserve it and one 'vigorous effort' was required.

An echo of the High Street Gate and a portent of the Lych Gate?

Vince Hemingway

Another Mystery to Solve

This water-colour of c1845 by W.W.Wheatley, from the Society's Parker-Hore collection, shows the interior of an inn at Combe St Nicholas, Somerset. The man smoking a clay pipe is sitting on a bench which appears to be part of an elaborate late medieval screen. The painting shows the wealth of detail contained by the drawings in the Parker-Hore collection (see *Transactions* 3S 22 (2010) 201-5, and page 10 above) and also the potential to identify and locate many of the subjects depicted. Does any member know whether this screen survives?



Stephen Price

Worcestershire Archaeological Society Excursions Programme Report, 2010-11

Once again the Programme – 6 full day and 4 part-day trips, and one 6-day visit to West Wales – has been well supported, with nearly 80 different people coming on an excursion and over 300 participants in total. Again several new members have joined because of their specific interest in the excursion programme. The support has shown that the programme is being pitched at an appropriate level to meet demand. A welcome addition was made to the Lichfield trip, which was rescheduled so that the fortunate participants could view the remarkable Staffordshire Hoard while it was on exhibition at the cathedral.

The financial results have been satisfactory, with the target of 'breaking even +' being achieved, and a modest overall surplus to be ring-fenced for Society Library use etc. The programme again has contributed to the Society's aims of promoting understanding of the archaeology and history of Worcestershire and other areas where relevant remains and monuments can be studied.

I again pay tribute to all Leaders for their willing support of the programme – this time I must specially mention Muriel Tinsley, who has handled the detailed administration of all but the ‘away’ week. This has helped to ‘prolong my life’ as co-ordinator and planner of the overall programme. We are indebted to Aston Coaches, who have again provided an efficient and friendly service for our more distant trips, as well as welcome car parking at their depot.

Ernie Kay

Worcestershire Archaeology Dayschool, organised by WHEAS

Saturday 12 November 2011, 9.45 to 5.30 at St John’s Campus, University of Worcester
Tickets £15 incl tea and biscuits (bring own packed lunch)

Booking forms from Mo Bogaard, 01905 855455 or email: mbogaard@worcestershire.gov.uk

The Dayschool programme will consist of a series of presentations on recent archaeological discoveries, recent research, and new ways of looking at the evidence of the past.

- The Bredon Hill Roman Coin Hoard
- The late Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Kempsey
- The Civil War defences of Worcester at Lowesmoor
- Archaeology and history of Teme Bridge, Tenbury Wells
- The archaeology of Winnall Mill
- Local groups and professionals working in partnership
- Archaeology and memory at The Hive, Worcester
- The rebuilding of Worcester 1550-1660
- New developments with the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record
- Mapping the historic landscape of Worcestershire

There will be a range of displays by different organisations, and bookstalls selling new and second-hand books.

Worcestershire Archaeological Society Lecture Programme, 2011-12

The season got off to a lively start on 19 September, when Frank Bentley gave a lecture entitled ‘Worcester. The Bishop’s Palace: some possibilities, probabilities and people’, an illustrated description of the palace, with his personal view of its episcopal and building history, and archaeology. Much was learned about past bishops. The palace, the site of which has been an episcopal residence since the 11th century, is a complex structure, with major work of the 13th century and further extensions from the 17th and 18th century. As parts are not normally open to public view, Frank’s lecture gave an opportunity to explore one of the city’s most important buildings. Debate ensued as to who had the greater advantage: those who had the benefit of Frank’s tour in May ahead of the lecture, or those who intend to participate in his next tour armed with insight from it.

On 10 October Pamela Hurlle spoke on ‘Stephen Ballard: the Man and his Malvern Legacy’, placing him in the political and social context of the time. Born in 1804, Ballard was a versatile but modest man with a social conscience. A horticulturist and engineer, he was recognised for his work on the Hereford-Gloucester Canal and the railway through the Malvern Hills. In the 1880s he was passionate about the establishment of the Malvern Hills Conservators and the building of the controversial but scenic Jubilee Drive. (see page 18)

The programme continues:

31 October **‘Worcester Cathedral Crypt’**

Chris Guy’s talk will look at the origins of crypts, their function and their development in the Romanesque period. The crypt at Worcester Cathedral will then be studied in more depth, to show the range of detail that is often overlooked. His talk will conclude with evidence indicating how the crypt has been altered from the Romanesque period to the present day. This will include comparative material from other sites.

28 November **‘Industry in East Worcs (Feckenham Forest) before the Railway Age’**

Dr Richard Churchley will give an illustrated talk on the many rural industries in the Feckenham Forest area before the Railway Age: food processing, extractive industries, transport, the textile and leather trades, woodworking and metalworking (including the growth of the needle industry). The talk summarises some of the findings from many years’ research for a doctorate at the University of Birmingham. The rise and fall of many trades will be highlighted, and unusual or extinct occupations will be discussed.

12 December **AGM followed by Peter Walker et al**
‘The Society’s 2011 Isle of Man Trip’

We look forward to learning about what has evidently been a highly successful week in a most interesting island.

9 January 2012 **‘New light on the development of Worcester: recent excavations at Lowesmoor’**

Lowesmoor Trading Estate, on the edge of the historic city, contains the sites of the Grainger Porcelain Works and the Hill, Evans and Co Vinegar Works. WHEAS has been investigating the site as part of a major redevelopment project, and this lecture by **Hal Dalwood** is an overview of the results of the archaeological project to date. Highlights of the fieldwork include the Roman road to Droitwich and other evidence for Roman occupation, fragments of the fortified medieval East Gate (or St Martin’s Gate), medieval and early post-medieval roof tile and floor tile production, part of the Civil War defences of Worcester, 18th-century clay pipe making, and 19th-century porcelain kilns.

30 January **‘Tithe maps in the 21st Century’**

Tithe maps are a valuable tool in interpreting the landscape. This talk by **Peter Walker** and **Victoria Bryant** of WHEAS will look at projects undertaken by local groups and individuals alongside Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, and show how these have enabled this important historical data to be made more accessible. In the process they hope to inspire other groups and societies to seek funding to carry this work forward.

27 February **‘Anglo-Saxon Sculpture in Worcestershire and the Western Midlands’**

The Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture of Western Mercia has, with a few notable exceptions, received little attention from art historians. **Richard Bryant**’s survey for the British Academy Corpus will help to rectify this omission. The lecture will present all of the Anglo-Saxon sculpture from Worcestershire and will also explore links with the wider region, particularly Gloucestershire, which was part of the Diocese of Worcester throughout this period.

26 March **‘Some medieval women religious: Aethelburga to Juliana, c750-1538’**

After a look at some local Anglo-Saxon abbesses, this talk by **Margaret Goodrich** will focus on alternatives to monastic life for medieval religious women. It will include women remaining at home and Worcester’s anchoresses, who were called to a life forever enclosed and solitary.

18 April (Wed) **‘The effigy of King John at Worcester’ (Berkeley Lecture)**
Professor Stephen Church

The medieval history of the celebrated tomb of King John at Worcester is now well known. The works of Charles Alfred Stothard at the beginning of the nineteenth century, of William St John Hope in the early years of the twentieth century, and of Jane Martindale at the end of that century, are highlights along the road of our understanding of the royal effigy in its medieval context. But all the while this work of comprehension was going on, those who had a duty of care over the tomb were engaged in a battle to offload that responsibility. The authorities at Worcester were not alone in wondering who should carry the burden of caring for royal monuments in English cathedrals. As early as 1841, the question of the care of royal tombs in Westminster Abbey had come under Parliamentary scrutiny. The deans and chapters at Canterbury and at Gloucester also sought government subvention for the care of the royal tombs in their cathedrals.

The history of this debate about the care of royal sepulchral monuments forms the wider framework for the main theme of this lecture, which is an examination in detail of the ways in which King John’s tomb at Worcester was treated between 1872 and 1930. It reveals a remarkable story in which a catalogue of disastrous decisions came to give us the tomb and effigy as we have them today.

All meetings take place at 7.30pm at St George’s Church Hall, Sansome Place, Worcester WR1 1UG. Apart from the Berkeley lecture, all are on a Monday evening. As in previous years, our thanks are due to Peter Walker for providing the powerpoint equipment, and for his help and reassurance to speakers.

Items for the next issue should be sent to the Editor, Caroline Hillaby, at The Roughs, Hollybush, Ledbury, HR8 1EU, tel 01531 650618, email recorder@worcestershirearchaeologicalsociety.co.uk by **1 March 2012**.



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