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Newsletter of the
WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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A Warm Welcome to New Members:

Mrs Karolyn Brookes, Inkberrow
Mr Kevin James, Stourbridge
Mr & Mrs Powell, Cutnall Green, Droitwich
Mr & Mrs Preedy, Worcester
Garth Raymer, Pershore
Mr Malcolm Robinson, Malvern
Mr and Mrs Simmonds, Upper Sapey
Dr Robert Vernon, Bredon

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 misericord S15. 'Female Figure Writing. A seated female is writing at a desk or lectern. With her left hand she appears to be feeding a large bird by her feet. Another bird is being seized by a small dog concealed beneath her headdress. The left supporter is a boy climbing a tree to pick fruit; the right is a gamekeeper hunting rabbits.' (see p12) photo Chris Guy © The Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral.

Chairman's Letter

Despite the vagaries of this year's weather, the summer excursions programme organised by Ernie Kay and Muriel Tinsley has been very well attended. Our itineraries have taken us all over the Midlands, looking at many sites and buildings that are often inaccessible to the ordinary visitor. We have enjoyed being guided by our own members and local experts, while being impressed by the generous hospitality of owners. There have been many highlights and members have enthused to me about what they have seen and learnt, ranging from the opportunities to study the historic town of Ludlow with Joe Hillaby, church architecture with Tim Bridges and journeying with Ernie Kay on historic railways. In June we had a memorable day studying the work of the Bromsgrove Guild with Christopher Pancheri, grandson of Celestini Pancheri who came to the UK at the beginning of the 20th century to join the Guild; in September John Harcup's expertise on the water cure came to the fore when the Society explored the Welsh spa towns round Llandrindod Wells. To get a flavour of our 2012 excursions take a look at our website and go to 'Photos' where our webmaster, Brian Browne, has created a full record of our activities. To help Ernie and Muriel plan future excursions, it has also been very encouraging to hear members' suggestions, especially when they have a contact and are able to help with the organisation.

By the time this newsletter is distributed the week's study trip to Sussex organised by Jenny and Michael Goode will have happened (see p19). After our AGM on Monday December 10 at 7.30 pm there will be an illustrated account of our week in Sussex. Michael and Jenny are already well advanced with planning next year's itinerary based in Stowmarket, an excellent centre for exploring Suffolk and north Essex. As usual, our counterparts in the county archaeological societies are offering advice and help to ensure we do not miss 'must-see' sites.

In my August letter I referred to the ongoing discussions with the University of Worcester about the Society's library. There is very good news to report because the University is making space available for our journals in The Hive. They will be accessible to everyone in the Quiet Study Area on Floor 4. Before we can move them our first task is to security tag every journal and we hope that this work will be complete by the end of October. We look forward to many more people making use of this resource as well as helping to raise the profile of the Society. Our books and ephemera will remain at the St John's Campus in Woodbury 23. For access contact Rachel Johnson or Janet Davidson at researchcollections@worc.ac.uk or ring 01905 542093 if you have a query or are unsure about the location.

As my final year as your Chairman draws to a close may I take this opportunity to thank the Officers and Committee for their support, as well as the numerous 'ordinary' members who perform sterling work on the Society's behalf. I hope to be able to continue to serve the Society in any way I can and also support my successor.

Stephen Price

As well as thanks for his good offices as Chairman, hearty congratulations are due to Stephen who has recently been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in London. For details of other Society members similarly honoured, see Robin Whittaker's report in *Recorder* 80, Autumn 2009. For the benefit of new members, it is noted that Stephen's chairmanship has come to an end after one year because he had already served the first two years, 2006-8.

Society Publications. Postage Costs

No one needs to be told that postage costs have risen sharply, and are likely to continue to increase. The cost of posting the *Worcestershire Recorder* is now 69p, that is £1.38 a year, and the *Transactions*, which will be distributed at the AGM on 10 December, will cost nearly £2 each. Thus over 10% of your annual subscription could be spent on postage. The Society has much better uses for the money, such as speakers' fees, the Library, care and development of our Society collections etc; and the Committee is anxious not to increase subscriptions, particularly in these hard times.

It is therefore in everyone's interests to minimise postage. The obvious way is for as many people as possible to collect *Recorders* and the *Transactions* for friends and neighbours, so think whether you can do so; if you are unable to attend the meeting, ask someone to collect yours.

Another idea that could be considered is to reduce the number of *Recorders* being printed, if some members are happy to receive only digital copies. This is a matter than can be discussed at the AGM, where your thoughts and suggestions will be welcome.

Society Correspondence

As email is increasingly becoming the most practical means of communication – and avoids unnecessary expenditure on postage – it can be useful to have members email addresses. Many who go on the Society's excursions have already given theirs. Other members who are happy to receive correspondence by email are asked to send their addresses to Janet Dunleavy at secretary@worcestershirearchaeologicalsociety.org.uk.

News from the County: Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service at The Hive

As most members know, Worcestershire Record Office and Worcestershire Archaeology Service have merged to become a joint service called Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, located at The Hive. The staff and resources from Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service and the Worcestershire Record Office have combined to make one large service.

The Hive is open seven days a week, 8.30am to 10pm, during which time all self-service resources are freely available: the Local Studies and Archaeology Library, catalogues and indexes. An excellent café is open 8.30am to 9.30pm daily.

The **Original Archive Area** houses the archive collection, including records of Worcestershire County Council; an extensive collection of Worcester City records; school and hospital records; business records and the private records of local families and estates. Documents from the original archive collections can be accessed during staffed opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.30 am to 5.30m

Wednesday: 9.30 am to 9 pm

Saturday: 9.30 am to 4 pm

The **Historic Environment Record** contains over 26,000 records relating to archaeological sites, historic buildings, and historic environment features, from early prehistoric finds to medieval agricultural landscapes and recent industrial structures, and from large-scale excavations to building records and individual stray finds. It holds the records for both the County and the City of Worcester, and is staffed on an appointment basis (call 01905 765560 or email archaeology@worcestershire.gov.uk) during the following hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 11.30 am to 4 pm
Wednesday: 9.30 am to 9 pm
Saturday (2nd & 4th of each month): 9.30 am to 12 noon

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service boasts an extensive collections of books relating to Worcestershire, its history and archaeology. The **Local Studies** library is available for reference only. The **Archaeology** library holds a wide range of books of both local and national interest, and a large selection of volumes relating to World War II defences. These are also for reference only.

Thus The Hive offers a range of resources for researchers to use, including:

- Local studies and archaeology library, including journals, trade and clerical directories
- Photographs including Worcestershire Photographic Survey and an aerial photographic collection, most of which are now available digitally
- Maps and plans, including historic Ordnance Survey, tithe and inclosure plans (including some digital, searchable versions) and estate plans. Many of these are available not only in original copies but in a variety of digital formats for map comparison purposes
- The Historic Environment Record; a searchable database with digital mapping of all known archaeological sites, historic buildings and landscapes in the county
- Records of local families, groups, societies and businesses, including the archive of the Earls of Coventry of Croome
- Quarter Sessions and County and District Council records including Worcester City Archive
- Sources for researching life stories and social history such as census returns, the International Genealogical Index, General Register Office indexes of births, marriages and deaths, local newspapers, wills and other probate records
- Records of the Diocese of Worcester, Church of England parishes and Non-conformist

For more information visit www.Worcestershire.gov.uk/was and The Hive website at www.thehiveworcerster.org.uk

News from the City

Archaeological work has resumed at the site of King's School's new sports hall in Severn Street, now known as The SPACE. Earlier work was reported in *The Recorder* in 2009. The site includes part of Worcester's medieval castle: the massive bailey ditch and also part of the rampart.

Previous work on the site included evaluation trenching, recording of buildings, including the former Salmon's Leap pub, now demolished, and excavation of the area of rampart which fell within the basement of the new development. The rampart was unexpectedly well preserved, and showed evidence of a number of phases and of internal structure in the form of palisade lines. On the basis of the lack of either Roman or medieval finds from within the rampart material, it has been suggested that it was originally a prehistoric feature, which continued in use. This remains to be substantiated through radiocarbon dating.

Work on the rampart area was completed in Spring 2012 with the excavation of buried prehistoric soil layers below the rampart itself. A number of flint implements and burnt stones were recovered, as well as a small quantity of pottery.

Two further evaluation trenches were excavated within the ditch area. One of these established the outer edge of the ditch, and showed that some medieval ditch fills survived to a high level. Though closer to the centre of the ditch (which was well over 20m across) the fills were later in date, suggesting that the ditch had become infilled and had been re-cut, perhaps in the Civil War. The other was designed to check for remains of the documented late medieval watermill known as the Frog Mill. No trace of this was found, but boreholes which were sunk in the same area also appeared to show evidence of medieval ditch fills and a possible Civil War re-cut.

Two repair projects have been carried out on the medieval city wall along City Walls Road, in the largest programme of repairs since the early 1970s. The city walls have been on the Heritage at Risk register for many years, but these and future projects will help to secure its future for many years to come.

The landscape history report for Fort Royal has now been completed and will shortly be available on the project page of Worcester City Council's website <http://www.worcester.gov.uk/index.php?id=2635>. The very detailed report throws much new light on the personalities, forces and decisions which have shaped the park over the last century.

Another Civil War site has also been the focus of attention recently. A planning application has been submitted for a very large development at Sherriff Street, which is immediately next to a ditched earthwork at Tamar Close. This site has always been interpreted as part of the Parliamentary siegeworks. During the two months duration of the 1646 siege of Worcester, extensive earthworks were created around the city, in particular on the hills to the east, with a number of small forts linked by linear earthworks. The Tamar Close earthwork is the only visible survivor.

The identification of this site has been supported by references in Nathaniel Nye's *The art of gunnery*, published in 1647. Nye was a mathematician, and in charge of the Parliamentary artillery at the 1646 siege. He had a special interest in surveying as an aid to successful targeting, and used Worcester as an illustration of the use of his surveying instrument, essentially a plane table, which he called a Circumferenter, or Geometricall Square. He set this up at two stations and measured the angles and distances to church towers and other features in the city centre. Comparing these it is clear that one of his stations was the Tamar Close earthwork, while the other was in the Wyld's Lane area, quite close to Fort Royal. As well as identifying the Tamar Close site, this work has helped to set it in its contemporary setting, emphasising its links with other sites.

James Dinn

News from Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust

The Trust is most grateful for all the help, advice and support it has received from WAS over the past six years, which has made a huge difference and has greatly helped us in getting where we are today. The latest news is as follows:

The Church Commissioners and the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust (HPCT) are pleased to announce that the HPCT's purchase of the freehold of the Castle and its gardens and parkland

from the Church Commissioners has progressed, after agreement on outline terms and a mutually acceptable purchase price. A price of £2.45m has been agreed, with Heads of Terms finalised. This involves long-term loan of important pictures and furniture, including the historic books in the Hurd Library.

Alison Brimelow, HCPT Chair, has said: ‘We are absolutely delighted to have reached an agreement with the Commissioners. It is a very important milestone on our road to acquisition of the Castle. With the backing of the Commissioners and the support of Worcestershire County Council, we can concentrate on revising our bid and securing the additional funds.’

The HCPT is now preparing a revised bid which it will submit to the Heritage Lottery Fund in December 2012. Rosemarie Jones, Deputy Surveyor, Church Commissioners, has said: ‘Hartlebury Castle is a valuable resource for Worcester and the Heart of England and the Church is committed to working with the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust to preserve the Castle and ensuring that it remains a public facility. The Church Commissioners wish the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust every success in their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.’

The Church Commissioners are kindly continuing to allow HCPT to use the Castle for fund raising events in 2013. In addition, HCPT volunteers will be stewarding the Castle’s splendid state rooms: the magnificent medieval Great Hall and the wonderfully elegant 18th-century Saloon, when these are open to the public from March to September next year. The Friends of Hartlebury Castle and the Hurd Library (FHCHL) will be continuing to run guided tours of the Castle and the nationally important Hurd Library.

If you would like to help with any of these activities – events, stewarding or guided tours – we should love to hear from you. You would be joining a well established and friendly group of volunteers who receive training and support. All these activities will help HCPT to acquire the Castle, so this very important historic Worcestershire building can be used and enjoyed by the public in the future, and so that the Hurd Library can remain at the Castle, where it has been since its foundation by Bishop Richard Hurd in 1782.

For more information about volunteering at Hartlebury Castle please contact Ginny Wagstaff (WAS committee member, HCPT trustee and FHCHL secretary) 01299 250883 v_wagstaff@yahoo.co.uk

For more general information about HCPT see the website www.hartleburycastletrust.org

Ginny Wagstaff

Richard Hurd’s Debt to Cambridge

On 3 October 1733 a 13 year-old Staffordshire schoolboy was admitted to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, though he did not go up until two years later, when he was 15. The boy was Richard Hurd, the son of a farmer near Penkridge who had lavished education on him – education which, if his schoolmaster is to be believed, was not then as delightful to him as it became in later life. ‘Young Mr Hurd’, Mr Budworth, his schoolmaster at Brewood, is said to have remarked, ‘did not much apply to his book when he came to his school and continued in an unpromising state till the last year before he went to the University, when he began to study in earnest’. Founded in 1584 by Sir Walter Mildmay, Emmanuel College was to be a ‘school of prophets’, to train

learned and devoted ministers of the Church of England. Hurd was probably sent there because he was destined for a clerical career, a suitable profession for a lad without private means. It is no exaggeration to say that he was to owe everything he had to Emmanuel, a debt he never forgot.



Emmanuel College, engraved by David Loggan for his Cantabrigia illustrata 1690. The library where Hurd worked for ten years is on the left of the chapel. His rooms were in the building on the right, now the Westmoreland Building.

Hurd entered as a sizar but won the Thorpe exhibition in 1738. His tutor was Henry Hubbard, a modest but highly respected theological scholar, whose only publication appears to be a sermon preached in Ipswich in 1750. Hurd had begun to collect books by the time he was 17 and two of them, both printed in Cambridge, are in the Hurd Library, the flyleaves elegantly inscribed by the young student: a Cicero of 1730 and the *Eight sermons* of the great librarian and scholar, Richard Bentley, printed in 1735. The latter provides a peep into the future, for Bentley had been Bishop Stillingfleet's chaplain and was Rector of Hartlebury for three years – keeping the living warm until Stillingfleet's son James was old enough to take it in 1698.

Hurd's early letters, edited by Sarah Brewer for the Church of England Record Society in 1995, give vivid details of the pleasant life of a Cambridge student. 'After sitting up pretty late last night, I find myself much indispos'd for Study this morning', he wrote on 15 February 1741. He went to concerts in taverns and other colleges, and on 29 May 1741 recorded a moment of sheer happiness: 'The rains, that fell this afternoon, & the lovely harmony of St Mary's Bells, yt. are now ringing, conspire to raise my Spirits, if they needed such assistance'. On a hot day in September he rambled in the college garden: 'The walk I had got into was dark & shady; occasion'd by some old Apple Trees, & a Chessnut or two, which so spread their Branches on either side, as to give it a lovely gloom, which was the more delightful from the heat of the day, & the glare of the Sun all around it. The Scene insensibly led to seriousness & reflexion...' 'Tis in these intervals of stillness & tranquillity the Fancy is most at work...'

Hurd graduated BA in 1739 and MA in 1742, in which year he was ordained deacon and took a curacy in Reymerston, Norfolk. But in December he was offered a fellowship back at Emmanuel, where he remained for the next 14 years which, judging by his letters, were exceptionally happy. The master-pupil relationship he had enjoyed with Henry Hubbard now became a lifelong friendship and in 1743 Hubbard gave him a book – a New Testament concordance, printed in 1600, still in the Hurd Library. Hurd made other good friends – Thomas Gray at Peterhouse, William Mason at Pembroke and Thomas Balguy at St John's – did some lecturing and tutoring, wrote a bit, played the fiddle a bit, spent idyllic summers with his brother

John, who farmed near Shifnal, and had quite a lot of fun. On 27 August 1743 he describes with relish an uncomfortable journey from Norfolk back to Cambridge, on a lame horse. Eagerly anticipating his supper, he commented to his companion, ‘the fatigue we have undergone will give uncommon softness to an Arm’d-chair, and a glass of wine’; but he was violently sick after eating late on a cold stomach and his friend had to administer a remedy called Miss Cancellor’s Drops, which soon put him right.

In 1746 Hurd was appointed college librarian, a post he held for ten years, on the princely salary of £6 13s 4d per year – with an extra £5 for cleaning the library. We know where his rooms were, and we also know what he had on the walls. In 1747 he wrote to William Mason, who was doing him a drawing of Alexander Pope’s head ‘which I want very much to preside over the little band of worthies, which I am collecting for the ornament of my Study’, asking him to make a sketch of a vignette by Francis Hayman, which had been engraved for the title page of Mason’s poem *Musaeus*. Mason responded by sending him Hayman’s original drawing and both sketches; thus we have a perfect provenance – from Emmanuel, to Hurd’s Leicestershire Rectory, to Lichfield and finally to Hartlebury, where they still hang on the library walls.

Hurd bought plenty of books for the college, and the library accounts for 1747 record the purchase of ‘Warburton’s Shakespear’ for £2 5s 0d – just over a third of the librarian’s annual salary. It is still in the college library, inscribed in Hurd’s neat hand. He had not yet met William Warburton but he knew him by repute – ‘a Gentleman, You know, in whose company one does not usually pick up much civility’, he wrote to Mason. But two years later he did meet him and began the most influential friendship of his life. In his 1749 edition of Horace’s *Ars Poetica* he modelled his editorial style on Warburton’s, referring to him in the preface as ‘the illustrious friend and commentator of Mr Pope’. Warburton, delighted to find a man who actually appreciated his widely ridiculed scholarship, immediately offered ‘a very unprofitable friendship’ – a remarkable understatement by a man not noted for his modesty.

Warburton encouraged Hurd to pursue a clerical career, telling him as early as December 1749, when he was negotiating a Whitehall preachship for him, ‘It is time you should think of being a little more known’. In 1756 Hurd’s next great debt to Emmanuel occurred, with the presentation of the living of Thurcaston in Leicestershire, one of the richest in the college’s gift. It had been offered first to Henry Hubbard, who declined it and remained at Emmanuel until his death in 1778. Hurd was not too keen to leave Cambridge at first. He declared Leicestershire was ‘no paradise’ and thought it would be awful in the winter. But he did admit his rectory was ‘good enough for a bishop’ and – another of the striking glimpses into the future which distinguish his life – Thurcaston had been the birthplace of a former bishop of Worcester, Hugh Latimer.

Hurd stayed at Thurcaston for nearly 20 years, reading and writing and occasionally entertaining the convivial Warburton, who used to make his reluctant host invite all his neighbours to dinner. He wrote two of his most important books here: *Moral and political dialogues* in 1759 and *Letters on chivalry and romance* in 1762. His affection for Cambridge never diminished. In 1770 he wrote to Mason: ‘Let us come together sometimes, and renew the image of those enchanting days (enchanting to me, at least) which rolled over us at Cambridge’. The following year he had a chance to show his affection in a practical way. An appeal for funds to help with new buildings at Emmanuel was sent to all the alumni (just as so often happens today) and Hurd sent £50 at once, as a token of ‘my great obligations to your worthy society’. The Master’s thank you letter arrived only two days later, a target which is not now generally reached.

In 1774 came Hurd's first bishopric. George III had heard him preach in London, greatly admired him and promoted him to the see of Lichfield. He also made him tutor to the Prince of Wales and Clerk to the Closet. In 1779 Warburton died and Hurd purchased his library. Two years later the King promoted him again, to Worcester, and there the Hurd Library was founded, in the magnificent room which had to be built above the long gallery. In 1793 Hurd gave the college a studio copy of the portrait Gainsborough had painted of him in 1781, and the Master, Dr Farmer, sent him a most appropriate present: *Certaine godly learned and comfortable conferences between Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, 1556*. One must hope he did not remove it from the college library.

Hurd died in 1808. He left the college £2000 'in 4% consols the one half for the augmentation of the Mastership of the said college and the other half to augment the stipends of the four senior fellows'. His nephew and companion, young Richard, who evidently appreciated his uncle's huge obligation, left the college the same amount in 1827. Most alumni recognise what they owe to their universities, but we are all in Emmanuel's debt, for if that Staffordshire schoolboy had not been offered a place there in 1733 the Hurd Library would not exist.

Christine Penney

Hurd Librarian

Recent Publications:

Royalist, But ... Herefordshire in the English civil War, 1640-51 David Ross (Logaston, 2012)
194pp, £12.95

Having recently been involved in research on Herefordshire I was interested to be offered this book to review. It is a tribute to the author that I immediately began to delve for items that reflected my own preoccupations and found some valuable background material.

The first three chapters set the scene, providing a resumé of the economic and social state of the county in the early years of the 17th century. Chapter 1 describes the sometimes turbulent city, its surrounding and its people. Chapter 2 introduces us to the county families who would play such an important part in the later wars, while Chapter 3 concerns the local industry and agriculture which ruled the lives of the participants.

Part 2 of the book deals with the years of actual conflict, and here reading becomes more difficult. The events of the civil war and the way the Parliamentary and Royalist forces dart about the country are baffling even to those well acquainted with the period. This book attempts to make sense of the war for one small county. Even so the sheer volume of information is daunting and it needs to be read at leisure, a chapter at a time, to allow the reader to assimilate it and the confusion to make sense. As an aid to understanding the table of events in the front of the book is of invaluable assistance.

It is hardly surprising that I found the chapters on the sieges of Hereford the most interesting because I already knew some of the background. Those who know the county better than I will doubtless find the information about their own areas equally gripping.

The book contains an interesting chapter on the Clubmen, indicating their ambivalence about both Royalist and Parliamentary sides, but this was the nearest I came to discovering exactly what the author meant by his title ‘Royalist But ...’

The variety of sources consulted is impressive and the references and footnotes useful. The index is adequate for its purpose, but I should have preferred to have more maps at strategic points in the book.

Pat Hughes

Holyoake’s Journey of 1842 Catherine Howe (Brewin Books, 2012) vi+154pp, £14.95

The Malvern-based folk singer Catherine Howe included on her most recent album a beautiful song* inspired by the Victorian novelist Thomas Hardy. But Hardy is not the only Victorian with whom Howe has struck up a relationship: she also nurtures a deep admiration for the ultra-radical journalist George Jacob Holyoake (1817-1906). Her respect for this interesting man has led not to a song – though one might still come – but to an entire book. *Holyoake’s Journey of 1842* tells the story of Holyoake’s first 25 years. It centres on his arrest at the end of a lecture in Cheltenham in 1842 and subsequent trial and imprisonment.

What was a young Birmingham engineer doing in Cheltenham in 1842 that got him into so much trouble with the authorities, you might well ask? GJH in fact was an enthusiastic advocate of the ideas of the pioneering socialist Robert Owen (1771-1858). He embarked on lecture tours to promote Owen’s ideas on political reform and religion. It was whilst on a journey from Birmingham to Bristol to visit the imprisoned atheist journalist Charles Southwell (1814-60) that GJH made an attack on religion that ended with his conviction by a jury – in ten minutes! – of blasphemy. It is difficult now not to believe that GJH deliberately engineered his arrest by making very provocative remarks. As well as six months in a prison cell, his lecture made his name as a radical: he was able to deliver a long address at his trial on freedom of speech and went on to edit the leading secularist journal *Reasoner* (1846-61).

The history shelves of Waterstones groan under the weight of biographies of Victorian establishment politicians such as Peel and Gladstone. But the stories of working class politicians who didn’t go to Eton or Oxford but educated themselves and used the knowledge and confidence they gained to challenge accepted ideas are just as interesting – if not more so! Howe tells the early part of GJH’s career sympathetically, and has certainly done him a service by drawing attention to the event with which it all began. If you enjoy reading this book, then go on to read GJH’s own *Sixty Years of an Agitator’s Life* (1892; later reprints).

* ‘English Tale’ (2010), a collaboration with Vo Fletcher and featuring Ric Sanders of Fairport Convention. My favourites songs on the cd are ‘Thoughts On Thomas Hardy’, ‘All The Love You Need’ and ‘In Return For What I Bring’. An ideal companion as you read Catherine’s book!

Stephen Roberts

University of Birmingham.

Worcester Cathedral ‘Pocket Tours’

Two booklets with excellent illustrations have been produced to draw attention to some of the Cathedral’s treasures. £2.99 each, available from the Cathedral shop

The Misericords in Worcester Cathedral

Originally in the monks' choir under the crossing, the seats have had a surprisingly peripatetic history, finding their present positions in the choir in the late 19th century following restoration by Messrs Farmer and Brindley. Slight traces of whitewash remain on some carvings that in the early 19th century were fixed on a screen separating the choir from the Nave, on which the organ was placed.

The booklet presents a catalogue of the carvings, most of which date from c1379. As the cover illustration shows, great skill was employed in the detailed carving of embroidery and folds of material, ornaments and accoutrements, and musical instruments. The less skilful representations of animals show that more than one craftsman was employed. On some misericords the figures are standing on carved brackets, reminiscent of stone statues. Many of the scenes depicted occur widely, both here and on the continent, but only in Britain and Ireland are misericords found with supporters, the small, often round, carvings flanking the main image.

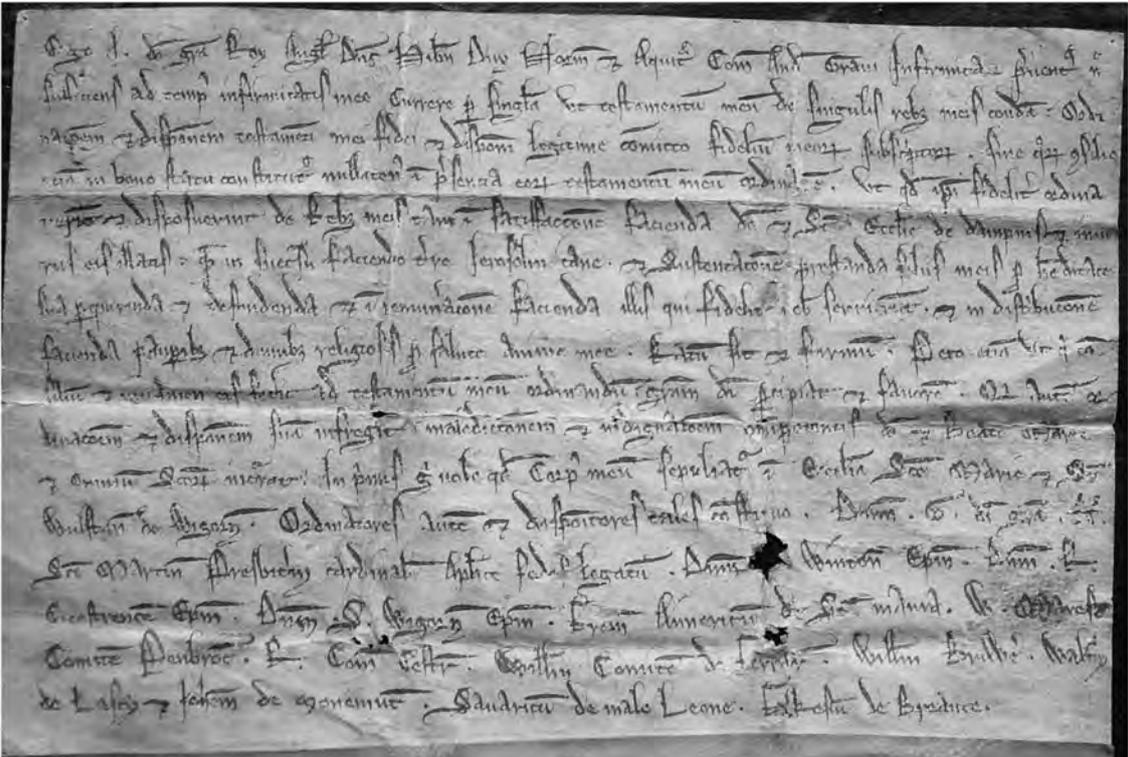
Worcester boasts the first almost complete cycle of the labours of the months, which was used as a model at Great Malvern. The full set at Ripple is dated to the early 16th century. It is suggested that Old Testament scenes in the Worcester misericords look back to the now lost 12th-century paintings on the vault of the Chapter House, similar to the Old Testament scenes in the 13th-century Eton College manuscript and the Peterborough Psalter of c.1300. Members may be reminded of the Berkeley Lecture given by Prof Sandy Heslop in April 2009, 'From Earthly Paradise to Heavenly Jerusalem: Worcester Chapter House and its painted decoration in the early twelfth century'. His article, 'Worcester Cathedral Chapter House and the Harmony of the Testaments', is in *New Offerings, Ancient Treasures: Essays in Medieval Art for George Henderson* ed P.Binski & W.Noel (2001), and his 'virtual tour' of the chapter house can be seen at <http://www.uea.ac.uk/~t042/>.

As well as the excellent photographs and full descriptions, both by Cathedral Archaeologist and WAS member Chris Guy, the booklet gives details of the clothing, headdress and armour depicted, indicating on which misericords examples can be seen. A bibliography is also included. See cover illustration.

Worcester Cathedral Medieval Library and Archive invites the reader to explore the remarkable range of material in 'one of the most important libraries and archives of any English Cathedral' which, along with some 19,000 archive documents, 5,600 post-medieval books, 34 incunabula, contains 298 medieval manuscripts. Amongst these are Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, a 12th-century copy of Bede's commentary on the *Song of Songs*, and 'perhaps the most important of the cathedral's manuscripts', the Worcester Antiphoner, a collection of music and liturgical instructions completed in 1230. Illuminated books of hours include decoration in gold and crushed precious stones.

The booklet ends with a note on the repair and conservation of the Library's valuable and sometimes fragile books and manuscripts, for which donations are most welcome. Text and photographs are by Worcester Cathedral Librarian, David Morrison, who lectured to the Society on 29 October (see p23). In addition, the Cathedral website <http://worcestercathedral.co.uk/> has a link to a pictorial slideshow of medieval manuscripts in its Library. *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Medieval Manuscripts in Worcester Cathedral Library* by R.M.Thomson & M.Gullick, published in 2001, can be consulted in the Local Studies area at The Hive.

Amongst the documents in the cathedral archive is King John's Will, 'the earliest English royal single-sheet original testament or will surviving to modern times' as Prof Stephen Church, who gave this year's Berkeley Lecture on 'The effigy of King John at Worcester', points out in his article, 'King John's Testament and the Last Days of his Reign'; this can be downloaded from the cathedral website. Translation and note are kindly provided by Stephen Church. This image is nearly full size (158mm wide).



King John's Will © The Dean and Chapter, Worcester Cathedral

I, John, by the grace of God king of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, count of Anjou, hindered by grave infirmity and not being able at this time of my infirmity to run through all the items so that I may make a testament of all my things, commit the arranging and disposition of my testament to the faith and to the legitimate disposition of my faithful men whose names are written below, without whose counsel, even if I were in good health, I would have by no means arranged my testament in their presence, so that what they will faithfully arrange and determine concerning my things as much as in making satisfaction to God and to holy church for damages and injuries done to them as in sending succour to the land of Jerusalem and in providing support to my sons towards obtaining and defending their inheritance and in making reward to those who have served us faithfully and in making distribution to the poor and to religious houses for the salvation of my soul, be right and sure. I ask, furthermore, that whoever shall give them counsel and assistance in the arranging of my testament shall receive the grace and favour of God. Whoever shall infringe their arrangement and disposition, may he incur the curse and indignation of almighty God and the blessed Mary and all the saints. In the first place, therefore, I desire that my body be buried in the church of St Mary and St Wulfstan at Worcester. I appoint, moreover, the following arrangers and disposers: the lord G(uala), by the grace of God, cardinal-priest of the title of St Martin and legate of the apostolic see; the lord <Peter> bishop of Winchester; the lord R(ichard) bishop of Chichester; the lord S(ilvester) bishop of Worcester; Brother Aimery de St-Maur; W(illiam) Marshal earl of Pembroke; R(anulf) earl of Chester; W(illiam) earl Ferrers; William Brewer; Walter de Lacy and John of Monmouth; Savaric de Mauléon; Falkes de Bréauté.

The testament looked to the future. Stephen Church notes that, ‘In an unusual clause for testaments of this period, John urged his arbiters to use his resources to help his sons “obtain and defend their inheritance” ... And indeed these men did prove to be the backbone of the new regime that was to emerge around his son and heir, the nine-year-old Henry III.’ Apart from Brother Aimery de St-Maur, all John’s appointees were witnesses to Magna Carta 1216, granted by Henry III on 12 November at Bristol, where Savaric de Mauléon was castellan.

Another recent publication by David Morrison is *Monastic Charity and the office of Almoner at Worcester Cathedral Priory c.1240-1540*, Worcestershire Historical Society Occasional Publications 12. This will be discussed in the next edition of the *Recorder*.

The Battle of Worcester 1651. A Collection of Essays, published by the Battle of Worcester Society on behalf of its 2012 Dinner Committee. 179 pp; £15 available at meetings from Robin Whittaker, or plus £2.50 p&p from Vaughan Wiltshire 01905 775919, wiltshireford@btconnect.com

Launched on the eve of the Battle’s 361st anniversary, this collection brings together nine essays based on talks given at Battle of Worcester Society dinners between 1994 and 2012 by eminent academics such as Professors Ronald Hutton and Ann Hughes, and the late Richard Holmes. Each illuminates an aspect of the Battle, its impact on 17th-century Worcester, and its continuing relevance. Some of the lectures have appeared in the Society’s *Transactions*, but collectively these essays, with supporting articles, provide a unique reference for students of the 17th century, and for all interested in local history. Colour illustrations include photographs, maps, portraiture and additional material from local archives and local authors. A review of the volume is planned for a future issue of the *Recorder*.

Hot off the Press!

Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture X. The Western Midlands. Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire ed Richard Bryant, published for the British Academy by OUP (2012)

Members will recall Richard Bryant spoke to the Society on this subject in February 2012. The book, which includes an examination of eleven sites in the county, will be reviewed in the spring edition of the *Recorder*.



The Society and King John

At the Berkeley Lecture last April, members were enlightened about some of the history of the King John image in the cathedral by Professor Stephen Church. He gave a comprehensive talk about the origin of the figure and much of its chequered history up to 1997. As fashions changed and as research into the tomb continued, it seems that the colour varied enormously; also the meaning, or an interpretation, of the details of the figure was given; and a request that the story of John be reassessed as a king in very troubled times rather than as a ‘bad’ king.

At the end, an opportunity was given to question or comment on the lecture which was an opportune time to insert a connection that this Society had with the image. When Irene and I were custodians of the Greyfriars, we had ample opportunity to look at the story of the house, its restorers and how this Society had rescued the 15th-century building. There are many new members now who will not know the amount of work the Society and the Moores did. (*Transactions* 3S 17, 303). Matley and Elsie Moore, known collectively as the Matley Moores, were major members of WAS and served on the committee for many years. They were also active in other areas and this is very obvious at the Cathedral. Matley was instrumental in saving some 18th-century leather and flock wallpaper from the house next to the cathedral where the bishop now lives. It can be seen at the V & A in London.

It is, however, the sister – Elsie Moore – who had a much greater effect on the Cathedral and its appearance. In these modern times, now we are far more sensitive to the importance of the past and the preservation of its remains, it would be unthinkable to allow someone without academic and technical qualifications to do as much artistic or conservation work in a building such as the Cathedral as Elsie Matley Moore was allowed to do in the '30s and '50s. Much of her achievement both in the Cathedral and in Greyfriars has been lost over time, to the extent that today's volunteers are unfamiliar with the story. However, from her own writings and records the following story can be seen. ('The Restoration of Church Monuments in Worcestershire' *Transactions* NS 34 (1958) 49-53)

Our monuments and memorials are centuries old and, within the scope of the history of Worcester, are also very precious. But EMM had achieved such a reputation in the field of investigation and restoration that she had several 'contracts' with the Friends and the Dean and Chapter to do such work. She had become a recognised authority on medieval wall paintings and was awarded the honour of F.S.A. for that expertise. She was the first to be called to the Commandery when the wall paintings there were discovered. Her records/paintings of them are now in the V & A also. The same happened at Harvington Hall, and her original drawings of the Nine Worthies Passage for example, are kept in the Birmingham Library. There are many more places where she worked, such as Owlpen Manor and Yew Tree House, Ombersley. Medieval, and indeed later, memorials were noted for their colour and it was upon this that EMM based her restoration work in the Cathedral. There are some outstanding examples of the work she did, but perhaps the most interesting and best known is the King John effigy. Quite perversely, this apparently had been completely gilded in the 19th century and people, whilst EMM was working in the Cathedral, would have been able to remember 'King John shining in gold'. But she knew that colour – much colour – had been used invariably on monuments, and the challenge was to find what these colours were. Firstly, evidence was forthcoming from the work of Canon J.M.Wilson (*Transactions* 32, part 2/1914, p485), and various deductions and assertions during the 19th century (Stothard 1817; Brassington 1848; and Wild's description 1823). EMM's own investigations added to these and finally produced the watercolour drawing which used to hang in the south choir aisle close to the monument.

During the 1930s, the effigy was stripped of its gold by those of little experience (using paint stripper as Prof Church said), and most evidence of its original appearance was lost. With some perseverance, EMM found some small scrapings which, together with Canon Wilson's evidence, meant she could write on her drawing:

'The effigy to King John as originally gilded and coloured
reconstructed from reliable evidence by Elsie Matley Moore. 1954'

Buried in a monk's habit or cowl, it has usually been said but corrected now by Prof Church, between the two saints of Worcester, John's effigy shows a bright red over-garment, or dalmatic, with others of gold and green and jewelled trimmings. This is a much richer caparison than the modern appearance. I understand a recent (1997), more scientific, investigation came up with little difference. If so, it testifies to the historical investigations and supports the value of the other work EMM did in the Cathedral and in Worcestershire churches.

On the north wall of the nave is a series of memorials from Bright, Dobbin and Luddington to Goldisburghe and Warmstry. These all showed problems with gilding or paint deterioration, the quality of stone or marble, previous attempts at restoration or just sheer dirt. The Bright Monument, although straightforward, took much time because of the monotony of re-gilding behind every letter of the inscription and then repainting of every letter. The Luddington monument was even more difficult with its large colourful display of arms. The stone had faults and even some missing. EMM recorded that she 'painted them in trick' to avoid obvious faults being seen. An interesting side comment was:-

'This monument gets so shockingly covered in coal dust from the nearby stove, I varnished the heraldry so that it could more easily be cleaned.'

Towards the rear of the north nave wall are the monuments to Cecilia Warmstry and Mrs Goldisburgh. They are almost totally marble of different types enlightened by gold to increase the effect. EMM cleaned and then re-painted and re-gilded them, the Goldisburgh memorial being particularly outstanding in its cream and gold tones with individual roses carved out of the solid – a most expensive process.

At the rear of the nave is the better-known, but heavily mutilated, monument to Bishop Thornborough. The damage here seems to be intentional, although three pillars may have been broken during its removal from its original position in the Lady Chapel. The remaining damage appears to originate during the Civil War period and, although not provable, it could be an excellent example of that notorious occupation by the Roundheads. The figure is painted black, even the face, but sufficient clues existed for EMM to be able once more to produce a painting of its original appearance, and it can still be seen at the monument. In February 1953 the Chapter was critical of 'Miss Moore' as having implied that the damage was due to neglect by previous chapters, and had to be pacified by a fuller explanation from her. (in Chapter Minutes)

The other canopied monument at the rear of the nave which EMM describes as 'the great ugly monument to Dean Eedes, after its removal from the Lady Chapel ...' was also in a poor condition. It apparently had not been repaired or repainted, and there were 'missing patches of paint and that which did show was so dirty that it was only in inaccessible crevices that the true colour could be seen'. There were, however, sufficient fragments to allow her to reconstruct the whole and, in 1948, she was able to repaint and re-gild the monument. This monument is worthy of preservation as Eedes had been appointed to the team of clergy to prepare the King James version of the Bible, but he died a little way into the project.

These are the principal monuments treated by EMM in the cathedral. By 1958 she had also worked on fifteen other restorations in county churches, including Kempsey and Cropthorne. There is also no doubt that EMM relished the work she had become expert at and well-known for. She notes in her writings: 'Only those who have sat on marble effigies in awkward positions to reach almost inaccessible places where a steady hand is needed, can have any idea how hard and cold a woman can be.' But also: 'The effect is worth the odd bumps and bruises caused by

becoming too concentrated on the job and forgetting to balance properly. The work of repainting was so enjoyable that the hardships were forgotten.’

Vince Hemingway

Bewdley Medieval Buildings

The origins of Bewdley as a town and river port have proved tantalisingly difficult to establish with any certainty. It has been regularly described as ‘late’ in its urban development and has even been claimed as the last planted new town of the middle ages. The most recent attempt to make sense of the rather slim documentary evidence, by Fenella Flack in *Bewdley: The early years* (2010), is the best yet. She convincingly places the town’s origins and growth to the second half of the 13th century rather than later in the middle ages. She also challenges another favourite assumption in the story of Bewdley’s early history, that the town first grew on Wyre Hill, on high ground above the present town, and only later acquired its present position and shape by the riverside. She argues that the town has always been focused on where it is now.

However, parts of the story still remain hazy. As long ago as the 1970s, Stephen Price was identifying (and reporting in this Newsletter) the survival of a distinctive roof truss type – the ‘clasped purlin’ – in a number of small cottages within the manor of Bewdley. He studied those that he could get access to and, largely by comparison with similar but dated roof trusses elsewhere, suggested that this might well belong to a type associated with the period c.1450-c.1550. If this were the case then they might hold clues to the chronology of Bewdley’s development. Most of the examples identified by Price seemed to be on Wyre Hill or the area between there and the main riverside streets, Welsh Gate, possibly adding weight to the idea that this has always been the older part of the town. Until recently that is where his investigations have rested. (See for example, the Worcestershire Archaeology Newsletter [WAN] 13 (December 1973) and 14 (June 1974). Price (WAN 12, June 1973) also recorded other features and finds, such as the medieval shoe sole recovered from a building trench in Welch Gate and attributed to the 1460s.)



Dendrochronologist Ian Tyers taking a core sample from the tie-beam of a late medieval house in Sandy Bank, Bewdley, May 2012

This summer, however, with generous sponsorship of a private donor, the Society, together with the Bewdley Historical Research Group, commissioned Ian Tyers, dendrochronologist of Sheffield, to examine twenty buildings, and carry out tests on as many trusses as possible, in an attempt to establish whether or not the clasped purlin buildings form a distinct chronological group. This was preceded by further fieldwork by Price which identified additional examples of the clasped purlin type roof.

Householders were approached and the overwhelming majority were very happy for the research team to examine and core surviving timbers. A shortlist of candidates suitable for

dendrochronology was drawn up and sampling work undertaken. Most have yielded secure dates. At the time of writing the report on the findings has yet to be finalised but it is clear that our understanding of the early history of Bewdley is about to take another step forward.

Stuart Davies

The Old Town Hall, Wyre Hill, Bewdley

This is a three bay timber-framed house, originally with a central open hall behind the much later brick stack. The fourth bay on the right with the garage is a brick extension. Tradition, first recorded at the end of the 18th century, claims that the area immediately in front of the building was the site of Bewdley's original market. It is one of a large group of late medieval buildings in the town built with clasped purlin roofs. Dendrochronology is defining a chronology of their construction and at the same time throwing light on the physical development of the town.



King John Ink-Well

Members may remember an excited cry when Stephen Church mentioned an ink-well during his lecture this spring. The ink-well was made by Chamberlain and Co and depicts King John's tomb at Worcester Cathedral. Stephen Church mentioned that Worcester Porcelain Museum have an example and we too, at the City Museum have one in our collection (CER 63). We took it to our archives and records to try and discover the provenance of our own example. We know that we have had the ink-well in the collection since at least the 1960s but have no other information about it at all. The lack of provenance is frustrating but not entirely surprising. Many of the records from that period do not include the information that we would routinely capture now. Our ink-well is currently on display at Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum for anyone who would like to see it. By way of comparison with ours (for those who are interested in seeing more), The British Museum (1987,0609.1), Warwickshire Museum Service (LEAMG : M3134.1965), Norfolk Museum Service (NWHCM : 1985.223) and Tees Valley Museums (HAPMG.2003.352) all have examples on their websites.



Debbie Fox

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

The British Museum's description of one of the 'more elaborate of the popular novelty inkstands produced' by Worcester Porcelain in the mid 19th century reads:

Inkstand; bone china, enamelled and gilded, in the form of the tomb of King John; on the lid the figure of the king is flanked by two bishops; the base in the form of the tomb chest, contains three cavities for inkwells, and a pen tray; the base is gold, the shields red and gold on a green ground; the lid is black, with the relief in several colours, the king's robes in red, green and gold, the bishops' robes in blue lined with white; inside the lid is a transfer-printed inscription.

Further information is available on the British Museum's website. The ink-well was in production by 1841, but the reason is unclear; there is no obvious commemorative association. It is very accurately modelled, and depicts the effigy with its original colours, traces of which were still visible until 1873 when the monument was gilded. Stothard describes a 'dalmatic of crimson lined with green, the neck and cuffs edged with a gold and jewelled border; his tunic is yellow, or cloth of gold; he is girt with a belt; on his hands are jewelled gloves, a ring on the middle finger of his right hand ... He wears red hose, golden spurs, his feet have on them black shoes, and rest upon a lion.' The colours are accurately represented on the ink-well, although the green folds actually represent the lining of a gold mantle worn over the red dalmatic.

Worcester Porcelain Museum retains a drawing for the ink-well, which was made in plain white as well as richly decorated. A decorated version cost 4 guineas in 1841. Few other examples are known. The ink-well continued to be produced by Worcester Royal Porcelain after 1862, with an alternative version as a casket. According to the British Museum Catalogue it was produced as late as 1876.

Excursion Programme 2012

Christopher Pancheri in Dodford Church, 7 June 2012, when he was one of the leaders of the Society's study day examining the work of the Bromsgrove Guild of Applied Arts. He is holding a plaster cast of a repousse medallion made c.1909-10 by Louis Weingartner, principal modeller to the Guild. The pulpit bracket (behind left) was carved by Christopher's grandfather, Celestino Pancheri, who came to England from the Austrian Tyrol in the early 1900s and eventually settled in Bromsgrove.



WAS in Sussex, 1-6 October 2012: a personal view

The study visit was led by Michael and Jenny Goode with administrative support from Ernie Kay and Muriel Tinsley. Breaking the journey at Avebury enabled us to visit the henge and other great prehistoric monuments, the archaeological museum, village, and parish church, as well as the newly displayed Avebury Manor. The first day thus gave us plenty to think about in terms of the sometimes conflicting issues of conservation, access, interpretation, public involvement and education.

On the south coast defence of the realm became a key component. Around Portsmouth Harbour we visited the Roman fort at Porchester, with its impressive medieval castle occupying one corner,

the rest becoming the castle's outer bailey and the site of a priory. Later we studied the historic ships of the Navy and the built landscape of the 18th- and 19th-century dockyard at Portsmouth.

Ecclesiastical architecture was well represented by guided tours of the contrasting cathedrals of Chichester and Winchester, with further visits to outstanding churches like Bosham, where archaeological and architectural research has led to a revised dating of the Saxon work. The Society has purchased a copy of the published results for the library.

The vernacular traditions of the region have been wonderfully brought together by the rescue and carefully researched reconstruction of over 50 buildings at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum. Eighteenth-century Tindall's Cottage from Ticehurst had been erected only the weekend before.



Early-15th-century Bayleaf Farmhouse, rescued from Chiddingstone Kent prior to the construction of the Bough Beech Reservoir, is a 'Wealden' house with its characteristic recessed front wall of the hall. The two end chambers are jettied but the hall has no upper floor and no jetty. 'Wealden' houses have been recorded in Warwickshire and Herefordshire but so far, despite extensive fieldwork, not in Worcestershire.

By contrast, Uppark is a splendid late-17th-century mansion meticulously rebuilt after the devastating fire of August 1989. Some 95% of the contents of the State Rooms were salvaged. Amongst others, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) was against reconstruction, but archaeological recording of the fire-damaged interior combined with the salvage and sieving of the debris provided sufficient evidence for the most careful rebuilding, funded by insurance, to reinstate the house to its state before the fire; a tribute to the craftspeople involved. It is a fascinating story that gives a unique character to Uppark.

At the Roman palace at Fishbourne, a site and museum run by the Sussex Archaeological Society, our guide brilliantly pointed out the unique and distinguishing features of the mosaics, and reminded us that about half of the palace still lies beneath nearby houses.

Our visiting lecturer, the extremely knowledgeable and enthusiastic James Kenny, Archaeology Officer with Chichester District Council, addressed the party on our second night. One of the highlights of the visit to Chichester the following day was the guided tour of St Mary's Hospital and Chapel, a remarkable survival of a 13th-century hospital, where the architect, bailiff and custos greeted delegates.

Our hosts, always welcoming and keen to share their sites and buildings, were also most interested to learn of our collections of drawings and watercolours, especially those commissioned by

John Henry Parker of Oxford in the mid 19th century. Some of our holdings may contain unique views, plans and other records of particular sites we visited, and I shall alert our hosts and local experts to what our Society has that may be useful to their studies.

Delegates paid warm tributes to our organisers and hosts for a most instructive and enjoyable study week, made possible by careful planning, efficient budgeting and excellent map work. Other members also shared their knowledge. Brian Ferris told us about the structural challenges faced by Chichester and Winchester cathedrals in the late 19th and early 20th century when they experienced collapse or ongoing subsidence. We were fortunate in having the expert driving skills of Jeff Copson from Aston's Coaches. The week also gave the opportunity to get to know other members, and to debate some of the issues raised at or following site visits. For more details of what we saw come along to the talk after the AGM on 10 December.

Stephen Price

NB People who enjoyed Chichester may be interested to take up a pre-publication offer by Spire Books: until 31 October *Chichester. A Walk in the City* by Sue Finnis & John Elliott can be obtained for £18, free p&p within UK, instead of £22.95. Spire Books tel 0118 947 1525

Meanwhile in Wales ...

Following Stephen Roberts' talk on the Chartist leaders of Birmingham and the Black Country, 1838-1842 (see below), members may be interested to learn something about Chartist events in another industrial area not far away, but across the border. At Newport in Monmouthshire, during the Chartist 'Rising' of November 1839, some 5,000 Chartists, led by former mayor John Frost, Zephaniah Williams and William Jones marched on the Westgate Hotel, where the mayor had stationed 30 soldiers. A fusillade killed 20. Frost, Williams and Jones were arrested and dispatched to Monmouth gaol, where they received their sentence, unanimously supported by Queen and cabinet: the full medieval penalty, less disembowelling whilst alive. They were to be 'drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution ... hanged by the neck until dead, afterwards the head of each severed from its body and the body, divided into four quarters, disposed of as her majesty thinks fit'. Their sentences were reduced to transportation, and John Frost returned to Newport after many years of exile.

Outside the former Westgate Hotel, rebuilt 1884-6, a three-part bronze sculpture by Christopher Kelly, Energy, Prudence and Unity, 'apotheosis', 'still life' and 'ideal city', was unveiled in 1991 to mark the sesquicentennial. Near John Frost Square are Kenneth Budd's wonderfully lively and colourful Chartist Mosaics, portraying the soldiers' murderous fire on the Chartists with their motley collection of weapons and banners proclaiming their aims: 'secret ballot'; 'a vote for all men over 21'; 'a wage for members of parliament'; '300 constituencies of equal numbers of electors'; 'elections to parliament every year'; 'abolish property qualification for membership of parliament'. Newport also boasts its Chartists' Tower, a 12-storey 1970s block dominating the skyline from Upper Dock Street.

Worcestershire Archaeological Society Lecture Programme 2012

Stephen Roberts, Honorary Senior Research Fellow in Victorian History, University of Birmingham, opened the season on 17 September with a lecture on '**The Chartist Leaders of**

Birmingham and the Black Country, 1838-1842. The following is based on his handouts. The People's Charter of May 1838, demanding a say in law-making for working people, gave rise to a mass national protest campaign that has left an indelible mark on British history. At its height, Chartism conscripted the support of three million people. In 1839, 1842 and 1848 the Chartists followed the accepted practice of presenting petitions to the House of Commons in support of manhood suffrage and other democratic reforms. These petitions were, of course, ignored; the political changes the Chartists were asking for were utterly unacceptable to the ruling class. In 1839 an attempted insurrection took place in Newport; in 1842 strikes and riots convulsed the manufacturing districts in the north and the midlands; and in 1845 the Land Plan was launched.

Chartism was a national movement. Its newspaper, the famous *Northern Star*, was read across the country – often aloud in pubs, coffee houses, workshops and the open air. In Lancashire and the West Riding it was a force to be reckoned with; in centres where there was less support – such as Worcester – there were still active, committed Chartists. The national leaders of the movement were venerated by the rank and file – none more so than Feargus O'Connor, the 'Lion of Freedom'. In the towns and workshops of Britain, local leaders took the chair at meetings, decided on venues, posted placards, organised the collection of signatures and planned the disruptions of opponents' meetings. These men were the lifeblood of Chartism, and Stephen Roberts' talk was focused on four of them:

George White (1812-68), an Irishman, was active from the beginning, speaking fiercely at meetings in the West Riding. He was imprisoned in Wakefield House of Correction in 1840, where he endured the silent system and, briefly, the tread wheel. In January 1841 this very militant Chartist arrived in Birmingham as the paid correspondent for the *Star*.

Arthur O'Neill (1819-96) was born in Essex, of Irish descent, and spent his early years in Malta where his step-father's regiment was stationed. Returning to Glasgow to train as an army surgeon, he experienced a religious conversion and became a Christian Chartist, addressing meetings which included prayers and hymns. A very different sort of Chartist to White, he arrived in Birmingham as pastor of the newly opened Chartist Church in December 1840.

Samuel Cook (1786-1861), a draper from Dudley and champion of trade unions, was arrested when he spoke on behalf of striking nailers. His shop windows were smashed when he put up radical posters. Undeterred, he became a key Chartist organizer in the Black Country.

George Holloway (1818-1904) was a carpet weaver from Kidderminster. Deeply loyal to O'Connor, he became the champion of the Land Plan across Worcestershire.



Newport Chartist Mosaic (see p21)

The subject on 8 October was ‘**The Bredon Hill Coin Hoard: Discovery, Excavation and Future**’. Tom Vaughan of Worcestershire Archaeology recounted the discovery and excavation of the hoard (see also *Recorder* 85, pp5-7); Philippa Tinsley, Museums Worcestershire, talked about the museum’s funding bid to acquire the hoard to keep it in the county and undertake the necessary conservation, as well as the requirements to make the hoard accessible and display it, what the appeal fund will go towards, and how the fundraising was going. To help boost the funds, WAS arranged a second-hand book sale, raffle and collecting bucket which between them raised some £500. The Society has also agreed to a donation of £500, so a total of £1,000 has been reached. Thanks are due to the donors, and congratulations to the organisers.

The programme continues:

29 October Medieval Manuscripts in Worcester Cathedral Library

Dr David Morrison, Worcester Cathedral Librarian, will give an illustrated talk about the broad range of manuscripts represented in the collections. Looking at pictures of Anglo-Saxon and Norman era manuscripts from Worcester, he will discuss their differences and similarities. He will go on to talk about music manuscripts and fragments, and those texts that were copied for the monks when they went to university, including books of philosophy, medicine, law, history etc; and then turn to the illustrated manuscripts of the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, in particular books of hours. Finally, he will mention the work programme involved in conserving the manuscripts and their long-term protection.

19 November Artists, Antiquaries, and Archaeologists: the exploration of West Midland heritage in the 19th and early 20th century

In this lecture our Chairman, **Stephen Price**, will trace the spread of interest during the 19th and early 20th century in the archaeology and architecture of the West Midland counties through diaries, letters, drawings, paintings and photographs produced by local artists and antiquarians. Their records provide a rich and invaluable resource giving unique detail of the state of our churches, domestic architecture and archaeological monuments at specific points in time. Their letters and diaries provide a fascinating insight into the social history of these researchers and their families, and how they divided their time between life at home and in the field. The Victorian discovery of the region’s history and archaeology relied on the development of an efficient railway network which allowed these travellers to reach even the remotest parts of the West Midland counties and Wales.



Himbleton Church, photographed by Oliver Baker, Birmingham artist and antiquarian, c.1890 (private collection).

10 December AGM followed by ‘WAS in Sussex’

Members will share their experiences through an illustrated account of what has evidently been a most interesting week. See also p19

14 January The Worcestershire Record Office: from the basement to The Hive
Robin Whittaker's career with the Worcestershire Record Office covered the years 1975- 2011. These years saw great changes in the archival world, covering accommodation, collections, searchroom services, data protection and freedom of information issues and educational and publicity activities. All this played out to a background of the inexorable change from a pen and paper world to an electronic on-line world. Robin's talk will try to illustrate some of these changes with examples from his working life.

4 February 2000 Years of Worcester's Defences

The centre of Worcester, as **James Dinn** will show, has been defended for some 2000 years by a succession of ramparts, ditches, walls and gates. As well as the visible remains of the medieval walls, buried archaeological remains of the defences are widespread. Recording of these over the last 50 years has been central in understanding the development of the city, and more recent archaeological work has thrown much new light on how the defences were built, and how they were used to protect the city and its inhabitants.

25 February Worcester Cathedral. The Forgotten Centuries 1540-1860

A great deal has been said about the medieval history of Worcester Cathedral, its architectural styles and construction, as well as the monastic aspects. Likewise, much has been done for the Victorian restoration and the present appearance of the building and its furnishings. But what of the intervening 300 years, the birth of the Church of England, changes in worship, the installation of new furnishings, and attempts at restoration and repair? Much was altered, only to be entirely swept away in the drastic restorations of 1850-75 when the interior was completely gutted and refurbished to Victorian standards. This talk by **Brian Ferris** will describe this period, with illustrations of some of the vanished treasures, taken from contemporary drawings and paintings.

**18 March A New Light on an Old Industry:
the industrial archaeology of the Worcestershire potter**

The story of the Worcester pottery industry, and in particular its spectacular wares, is well known; what is less clearly understood is the often surprising way in which the county found itself so closely tied into a potting tradition based some 70 miles to the north in Stoke-on-Trent. These two communities were linked by skills, traditions, business links and architects, and even found common refuge from disaster and catastrophe! Using a wide range of industrial archaeology research fields, **Dr Malcolm Nixon** will paint an emerging and very different picture of the Worcestershire potter; one, it is hoped, that will fascinate and intrigue.

**15 April Worcestershire Parliament-men
and the Parliamentary Cause, 1640-1660 (Berkeley Lecture)**

How and what did the MPs of the county and boroughs of Worcestershire contribute to the cause of Parliament during the civil wars and the commonwealth and protectorate? **Dr Stephen K. Roberts** of the History of Parliament will consider not only their achievements and failures, but also the backgrounds and motivation of both the major and minor figures who represented the people of this county in two turbulent decades.

Items for the next issue should be sent to the Editor, Caroline Hillaby, at The Roughts, Hollybush, Ledbury, HR8 1EU, tel 01531 650618, email recorder@worcestershirearchaeologicalsociety.co.uk by **1 March 2013**.



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